

## **(PALAS 345) Argentine History and Literature**

Dr. Liria Evangelista

Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies

Universidad de Belgrano

Course Syllabus 20151

---

### **Course Information**

MW 4:00-5:30 PM

Instruction in: English

### **Contact Information**

[liriaevangelista@gmail.com](mailto:liriaevangelista@gmail.com)

### **Course Description**

"All stories are fictions", wrote Hayden White, insisting in the fact that history is as much about how these stories are told as what is the material ground in which they are produced. Following this trend, this course seeks to problematize the complex relationship --be it sometimes a dialogue, some other times contested debates that could go well beyond rhetoric into bloodshed--between history and literature. If literary texts could be considered cultural artifacts inscribed in and produced by a given socio historical horizon, we will aim at analyzing in depth the ways in which they represent, contest, silence or resist the fundamental political, social and cultural issues of their times. From the foundational moments of nation building to state terrorism and its painful aftermath; from the founding fathers to the newest narratives, we will revisit major works by Sarmiento, Echeverría, Arlt, Borges, Walsh, etc. as well as films and documentaries that address the key moments of our historical conflicts and cultural imagination.

### **Course Requirements**

Following the UB policies, students need a minimum of 75% of attendance to be in good standing for the final exam. No excuse will be granted to students for traveling. Students are expected to do close readings, participate in class, and do one oral presentations in groups. The requirements also include amidterm and a final exam. In addition to this, each student will be expected to make a significant contribution to the classroom dialogue.

## Grading Policy

Participation	20 %
Oral Presentation	20 %
Midterm Exam	30 %
Final Exam	30 %

For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading: check table online [http://www.ub.edu.ar/studies/conversion\\_table.htm](http://www.ub.edu.ar/studies/conversion_table.htm)

### Required textbook:

Liria Evangelista, Ed. *Course Reader*

**NOTE: required readings are excerpts and selected chapters of major literary and political works**

## Academic Calendar

### Week 1- 3/9-11

Course introduction

History and Fiction: the Narrative Space (Historical Novel, Autobiography, Essays, Testimony, documentary films, Nation Building, Nation and Narration, Imagined Communities)

The Body Politics of Language

Required reading: Esteban Echeverría, "The Slaughter House"

Felix Luna, Chapter V: "Towards a national design"

### Week 2 - 3/16-18

#### Founding a Nation

Barbarism and Civilization

Required readings: Domingo F. Sarmiento, *Facundo* (Intro, chapter 1 and 2)

<http://archive.org/stream/lifeinargentiner00sarmrich>

Felix Luna, Chapter IV: "The search for a political formula"

Ricardo Piglia: "Sarmiento the writer"

This Country is not for Everyone

Required reading: Juan Bautista Alberdi, "Immigration as a means of progress"

José Hernández, "Gauchos in an out of the state"

Lucio V. Mansilla, *An expedition to the Ranquel Indians* (excerpts)

Felix Luna, Chapter VI: "The shaping of institutions"

### **Week 3- 3/25**

#### **An Unequal Modernity**

Splendid Inequality

Required reading: David Viñas, "The foundation of the national state"

James Scobie, "The Paris of South America"

José Ingenieros, "Bourgeois snakes"

Felix Luna, Chapter VII: "The shaping of modern Argentina"

### **Week 4-3/30 and 4/1**

#### **Modernization and Cosmopolitanism**

New Subjectivities: The making of the New Barbarian

Required reading: Oreste Sola, "Making it in America"

José María Ramos Mejía, "The Modern Crowd"

Simon Collier, "The birth of Tango"

Felix Luna, Chapter VII: "The shaping of modern Argentina"

The language of the Argentineans Dispute on National Identity

Required reading: Jorge Luis Borges: "The South"

Beatriz Sarlo: "The adventure of Martín Fierro: Avant-Garde and *criollismo*"

Beatriz Sarlo: "Fantastic invention and cultural nationality, the case of Xul Solar"

<http://www.borges.pitt.edu/bsol/bsfi.php>

Paintings by Xul Solar

Felix Luna, Chapter VIII: "Radical Democracy," and Chapter IX: "The nineteen thirties"

### **Week 5-4/6-8**

City Lights, City Trouble

Required reading: Oliverio Girondo, *Poems to be read on a trolley car*

Alfonsina Storni: "Modern Women"

Ezequiel Martínez Estrada: *X-Ray of the Pampas*

Felix Luna, Chapter IX: "The nineteen thirties"

Delusional Modernity

Required reading: Roberto Arlt, *The Seven Madmen* (Chapters 1-3)

Enrique Santos Discépolo, *Cambalache* (tango lyrics)

### **Week 6-4/13-15**

#### **Populism and the Subaltern Subject**

When the Subaltern speaks?: Peronismo

Documentary Film: Felipe Pigna, *Argentine History 1943-1955*

Required reading: Daniel James, "Perón and the People"

Required reading: Tomás Eloy Martínez, *Santa Evita*

### **Week 7-4/20-22**

Santa Evita (cont)

Representing the dead body: several documentary accounts of Evita.

Contesting fictions

Required reading: Witold Gombrowicz, "The foreign gaze"

Julio Cortázar, "House taken over"

### **Week 8-4/27-29**

#### **Revolution is an Endless Dream**

Required reading: Ernesto Guevara "The Latin American Revolution according to "Che"

Documentary: *Che, el hombre nuevo (Che, the New Man)* Tristán Bauer: 2010

### **Week 9-5/4-6**

Revision for Mid-Term Exam

Mid Term Exam

### **Week 10- 5/11-13**

Juan L. Ortiz. "Village on a River" (Argentina reader p. 324)

Atahualpa Yupanqui: The Muleteer (song)

Montoneros: Soldiers of Perón (Argentina reader, p.377)

Documentary: *Cazadores de Utopias (Hunters of Utopias)*. David Blaustein: 1996

### **Week 11- 5/18-20**

#### **No Shelter**

State Terrorism and War

Documentary: Felipe Pigna, *History of the Argentineans* (fragments 1976-1978, 1978-1983)

Required reading: *Never Again, National Commission for the Disappearance of Persons* (Argentina Reader p.440)

Required reading: Alicia Partnoy, "The Little School, tales of disappearances and survival" (excerpts, pdf)

### **Week 12-5/27**

Required reading: Hebe de Bonafini and Matilde Sánchez, "The madwomen of the Plaza de Mayo" (Argentina Reader- p.429)

Graciela Speranza and Fernando Cittadini, "War in the South Atlantic" (Argentina Reader-p.465)

Documentary: Felipe Pigna, *History of the Argentineans* (fragments 1978-1983)

### **Week 13-6/1-3**

Required reading:

[http://thewip.net/contributors/2009/06/argentinas\\_collective\\_memory\\_c.html](http://thewip.net/contributors/2009/06/argentinas_collective_memory_c.html)

Photography: Marcelo Brodsky, *Good Memory*

Alicia Ulanovsky, *Photos of you*

HIJOS (Sons and Daughters of the Disappeared)

Required reading: Laura Alcoba. *The rabbit's house* (pdf)

Required reading: María Moreno and Marta Dillon, *The children of death*

### **Week 14-6/8-10**

HIJOS in film:

Film: *Clandestine Childhood*, by Benjamín Avila (fragment)

Nicolás Prividera "M" (fragments)

María Inés Roqué "Papá Iván"

Class debate

Perspectives on the relationship (dialogue) between literature and history.

### **Week 15-6/15-17**

Final exam

Final conclusions

Final Grade Sheet and signature of "Hoja de situación" (**attendance is mandatory**)

## Bibliography

- Botana, Natalio. "Sarmiento and Political Order." *Sarmiento: Author of a Nation*. 101-113.
- Diaz, Gwendolyn. "Making the Myth of Evita Perón: Saint, Martyr, Prostitute." *Studies in Latin American Popular Culture*.
- Davies, Lloyd Hughes. "Portraits of a Lady: Postmodern Readings of Tomás Eloy Martínez's "Santa Evita". (JSTOR)
- Dongui Halperin, Tulio et al. *Sarmiento: Author of a Nation*. Berkeley: U of California Press, 1994.
- Fraser, Nicholas and Navarro, Maryssa. *Evita. The real life of Eva Perón*. New York: Norton Company 1980 (1996)
- Kerr, Lucille. "Interview: Julio Cortazar." *Diacritics* 4.4 1974 35-40. 16 Oct 2008 <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/465122>>.
- Jitrik, Noé. "Facundo: The Riches of Poverty." *Sarmiento: Author of a Nation*. 169-192.
- Luna, Félix. *A Short History of the Argentinians*. Buenos Aires: Planeta, 2000.
- Nouzeilles, Gabriela and Graciela Montaldo, ed. *The Argentina Reader*. Durham: Duke UP, 2002.
- Piglia, Ricardo. "Sarmiento The Writer." *Author of a Nation*. Berkeley. U of California p: 1994. 127-144.
- Romero, Luis Alberto. *A History of Argentina in the Twentieth Century*. Buenos Aires: Fondo, 2006.
- Salinas, Alejandro. "Culture, politics and literature in Jorge Luis Borges." Paper prepared for delivery at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 28th - August 31st, Boston. Copyright by the American Political Science Association
- Sarlo, Beatriz. *Borges, a Writer on the Edge*. *Borges Studies Online*. On line. J. L. Borges Center for Studies & Documentation. Internet: 14/04/01 (<http://www.borges.pitt.edu/bsol/bsi0.php>)
- Shumway, Nicolas. *The Invention of Argentina*. Berkeley: U of California P, 1991.
- Viñas, David. "Sarmiento: Madness or Accumulation." *Sarmiento: Author of a Nation*. 113-119.