Optional Program Course:
Society and State in Contemporary Argentina
Argentine Universities Program

Class Term: Semester 1, 2015
Instructors: Prof. Cristina Lucchini, PhD.
            Prof. Ana Pfeiffer
            Prof. Hernán Muñoz
Email: clucchini@fibertel.com.ar
Class Time: Wednesdays, 12:00 am – 2:30 pm
Location: IFSA-Butler Resident Office
Credits: 3 U.S. semester credit hours

Course Description:
The course will address the study of the social, economic and political history of contemporary Argentina, analyzing the most outstanding events that took place from the beginning of the 20th century until present. The course will also present a critical discussion of the main problems affecting Argentina in each period with an emphasis on experiences that are unique to the country: Peronism, the different military coups, the military process and the “disappeared,” the return to democracy, and the challenges faced by subsequent administrations regarding economic crises and governability. Students are expected to understand the different economic, social and political stages that Argentina has experienced, and the makeup and impact of the different social players within the prevailing local and international context.

Course Objectives:
Present a vision of the Argentine state and society and their integration into a global framework based on an analysis of the key concepts of social, economic and political structure, examining specific historical cases in a Latin American and global context.

Selection of Bibliography:

Several authors, Dos siglos en la Argentina. Una interpretación sociohistórica. Bs.As, Biblos, 2002.

Lucchini, Cristina, Apoyo empresarial en los orígenes del peronismo, Bs. As., CEDAL, 1990.


Berrotrán, Patricia (comp.), Sueños de Bienestar en la nueva Argentina. Estado y Políticas Públicas durante el peronismo (1946-1955), Bs.As, Imago Mundi, 2005

Muñoz, Hernán, El Gobierno de la Alianza y el Gobierno de Duhalde, Publicación Interna, Fundación Simón Rodríguez, 2008.

Amadeo, Eduardo, La salida del abismo. Memoria política de la negociación entre Duhalde y el FMI, Bs.As., Planeta, 2003

Pfeiffer, Ana, Gobierno de Nestor Kirchner, Publicación Interna, Fundación Simón Rodríguez, 2008.

Lectures delivered by a special guest (Ministers, politicians, political scientists, government officials, sociologists, etc.).

**Films and videos for home viewing and discussion in class:**
- La república perdida. Part I. Director Miguel Pérez.
- Miss Mary. Director María Luisa Bemberg.
- Eva Perón. Director Juan Carlos Desanzo.
- La República Perdida, Part II. Director Miguel Pérez.
- Plata dulce. Director Adolfo Arıstarain.
- La Historia Oficial. Director Luis Puenzo.
- Mundo Grúa. Director Pablo Trapero.
- “El fin de los principios” Director Felipe Pigna, Editorial Carlos Pellegrini, Universidad de Buenos Aires.

**Specialized, additional or supporting bibliography:**


Torre, Juan Carlos, Nueva Historia Argentina, Buenos Aires, Sudamericana, 2003.

Tenenbaum, Ernesto, Qué les pasó, Buenos Aires, Sudamericana, 2010.


**Course Information:**
Preparation: Students are required to have read beforehand the readings listed for each class in order to be prepared to participate in class discussions and answer questions posed by the professor.
Examinations: Students are required to sit for two major exams. If a student misses an exam, he/she must justify the absence and will be assigned a new date to retake the exam.

Attendance: Students are allowed to miss two classes, but absences must be duly justified and documented.

Course Assessment Methods:
Students are required to take two exams designed to assess their knowledge of class content, the second of which will cover all class content. The exams will cover all the mandatory reading assignments for each unit as well as the reading guide and the material addressed in the theoretical classes.

Course Assessment:
Attendance and participation (and other class work): 30%
Mid-term paper: 30%
Final paper: 40%

Grading Scale:

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Argentine/U.S.</th>
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<td>94% - 85%</td>
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*Note: Grades that end in .5 or higher will be rounded up. Grades that are .49 and lower are rounded down.

Academic Honesty:
IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your professor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a fail for the course and disciplinary action may occur. The incident will be reported to the resident director as well as your home university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic misconduct, as definitions vary by culture.

The student’s final grade is based on an average of the examination grades plus the student’s participation in class. A student failing any of the course exams will be given the chance to take a similar make-up exam.

Schedule of Activities:

- Objectives: Analyze the characteristics of the agro-export model and its effects on the structure of society, on politics and the economy. Understand the meaning of the electoral law of 1912. Analysis by students of the economic, political and social consequences of the 1929 crisis. Alternatives to the agro-export model: the model of import-substitution industrialization.
Class 2 - Economic, political and social transformations in Argentina between 1943 and 1955. Fraudulent democracy. Peronism. The model of import-substitution industrialization.

- Objectives: Understand the phenomenon of Peronism in the context of World War II and the modifications that took place at State level. Explain the new relationship that built up between the government, the workers, the trade unions, business management, corporations and the Armed Forces.


- Objectives: Understand the Argentine social and political situation after the ousting of Perón in the context of the Cold War. Peronist resistance and the role of the trade unions. Become acquainted with the political atmosphere prevailing in the country upon the return of Perón to power and the factors that led to the military coup in 1976.


- Objectives: Become acquainted with the atmosphere of violence and political turmoil surrounding the return of Peronism to power. Analyze the factors that led to the 1976 coup.

Class 5 - First written assessment/mid-term exam. The examination will consist of three essay questions.


- Objectives: Explain the political and economic transformations that occurred during this period in Argentina within a globalized context. Period marked by unlawful political and social repression, foreign debt and international conflicts.


- Objectives: Analyze the return to democracy after over seven years of dictatorship and military repression. Underline the importance of the political and economic issues to be solved - the disappeared, the military, and the foreign debt – within the context of globalization.


- Objectives: Compare the policies of Alfonsin and Menem. Identify the change in the foreign and economic policies of both administrations. Grasp the changes in voter behavior and democratic stability. Analyze the changes in the social pyramid.

Class 9 - Rise of the “Alianza”. De la Rúa’s administration. Domestic limitations and foreign restrictions. Economic and political crisis: government collapse. Duhalde’s administration: the end of convertibility, the new rules of the game.

- Objectives: Enable students to identify the different components of the crisis: internal recession, high poverty rates and fiscal restrictions imposed by international organizations. Political and institutional crisis; Duhalde’s administration, the end of convertibility.

Class 10 - Kirchner’s administration: the way out of the crisis, growth and economic reorganization. New forms of politics.

- Objectives: Analyze the measures implemented by the new administration to overcome the economic and political crisis. New presidential style regarding different social players (the Church, the media, the picketers, corporate leaders, and other politicians). Favorable international context for economic growth.
Class 11 – Current problems of Argentine society.
  • Objectives: Enable students to analyze the behavior of the social players based on an adequate understanding of the current political, economic and social situation in Argentina. Enable students to establish a relationship between the domestic situation and the global context.

Final Class - Lecture delivered by a special guest (Ministers, politicians, political scientists, government officials, sociologists, etc.).

Class 13 – Final exam. The examination will consist of three essay questions.


Class 15 – Make-up exam.