

## COURSE SYLLABUS



# HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA

Argentine Universities Program, Buenos Aires

**US semester credit hours:** 3

**Contact Hours:** 45

**Course Code:** SO301-09

**Course Length:** Semester

**Delivery Method:** Face to face

**Language of Instruction:** Spanish

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is divided into three units and comprises theoretical contents of genocide studies. The first unit covers racist thought and its modern articulation, historization of genocidal social practices, analysis of juridical and sociological human rights and genocide definitions. The second unit is focused on the historical experience of Argentina and the genealogy of the Argentine genocide experience, the 1976 military coup, the transition to democracy, the military junta trials, impunity laws, amnesty and the fight against impunity. Finally, the current human rights situation in Argentina is analyzed in the last unit by looking at the heritage of the fight against impunity, economic and social rights, police violence, the situation in prisons and the anti-discriminatory fight. During the extension of the course students use different materials to reach the whole comprehensive topics such as the analysis of bibliography, the view of films, reading newspapers or magazines, analyzing advertising and others. We also visit with the students in one of Argentina's concentration camps during the last dictatorship, EX ESMA: <http://www.espaciomemoria.ar/>

## STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Build a conceptual framework to analyze genocide social practices as a specific way of configuring social relations;
- Problematize alterity construction modern forms, as social control, negativization, and symbolical and material elimination of the other's figure
- Attempt a critical revision on the 20th century genocide experiences, with particular focus on Latin American experiences and the Argentine case, the repressive process during the 70's and its genocide effects
- Understand and critically analyze the "symbolic performance" ways of genocide social practices, as a way of perceiving memory as a social construction and a space for confrontation, with both material and symbolic effects, in the constitution of collective identities
- Analyze the current situation as regards Human Rights in Argentina
- Become familiar with resources available for further research on human rights in Argentina.

- Make cognitive connections between learning in this course and other learning experiences in the IFSA Argentine Universities Program.

## COURSE OUTLINE

Classes 1 through 5: Unit 1: "Genocide as a social practice: Towards a sociological analysis of human rights violations."

- The contractualist thought and its crisis. Modern racism as a possibility to resolve the contractualism crisis. The racist thought and its modern articulation: bio-political solution and technology of power. Towards the historization of genocide social practices. Towards an analysis of juridical and sociological definitions of human rights and genocide.

Class 1: Introduction to the Seminar and brief exercise: What is genocide?

Class 2: Defining genocide, theoretical class. In class exercise and definitions.

Mandatory bibliography:

Eric Markusen; "What is the genocide? Looking for a common framework for legal and sociological definitions" ("¿Qué es el genocidio? Hacia una búsqueda de un terreno común para las definiciones legales y sociológicas"), in Daniel Feierstein (editor); *Genocide, Death Administration in Modern Times (Genocidio, la administración de la muerte en la modernidad)*, EDUNTREF, Buenos Aires, 2005.

Daniel Feierstein; "An open discussion: Political violence in Latin America and its genocide peculiarity" ("Una discusión abierta: la violencia política en América Latina y su peculiaridad genocida") in Daniel Feierstein and Guillermo Levy (editors), "Till death do us part. Power and Genocide Social Practices in Latin America" ("Hasta que la muerte nos separe. Poder y prácticas sociales genocidas en América Latina"), "Al Margen" Publishing House, La Plata, 2004.

Class 3: Theoretical and practice class: contradictions of modernity.

Mandatory bibliography:

Daniel Feierstein; "Modernity contradictions and their resolution: equality, sovereignty, autonomy and genocide social practices" ("Las contradicciones de la modernidad y su resolución: igualdad, soberanía, autonomía y prácticas sociales genocidas"), in Daniel Feierstein (editor); "Genocide, death administration in Modern Times" ("Genocidio, la administración de la muerte en la modernidad"), EDUNTREF, Buenos Aires, 2005.

Daniel Feierstein; "Towards a typology of genocide social practices" ("Hacia una tipología de las prácticas sociales genocidas"), in Daniel Feierstein; "Genocide as a social practice (between Nazism and the Argentine genocide)" ("Genocidio como práctica social (entre el nazismo y el genocidio argentino)"), provisional title, FCE, Buenos Aires, in the press.

Class 4: Introducing Foucault and "Anatomopolítica/Biopolítica".

Mandatory bibliography:

Michel Foucault; "From the power of sovereignty to the power over life" ("Del poder de soberanía al poder sobre la vida"), in *Racism Genealogy ("Genealogía del racismo")*, Altamira Editors, Buenos Aires-Montevideo, 1983.

Class 5: Theoretical class: Latin America and Argentina in terms of genocide.

Mandatory bibliography:

Daniel Feierstein; "Genocide and reformulation of social relations" ("Genocidio y reformulación de relaciones sociales"), in Daniel Feierstein; "Genocide as a social practice (between nazism and the Argentine genocide)" ("Genocidio como práctica social (entre el nazismo y genocidio argentino)"), provisional title, FCE, Buenos Aires, in the press

Classes 6 through 11: Unit 2: "Human rights violations experience in Argentina, 1974-1983, and its categorization forms."

- Genealogy of the Argentine genocide experience: The Triple A ("AAA") actions and the "Independencia" Operations. The 1976 military coup. Perspective analysis of the Argentine experience. Genealogies, convergences and divergences with the previous military experiences. The democratic transition. The Trial of the Military Juntas. Amnesty. The fight against impunity.

Class 6: Theoretical class: Genealogy of the Argentine genocide and topics for submitting MID TERM PAPER.

Mandatory bibliography:

Mirta Mántaras; "Genocide in Argentina" ("Genocidio en Argentina"), edited by the author, Buenos Aires, 2005 (Chilavert Printing House).

Ariel Armony; "Argentina, the United States and the Anti-Communist Crusade in Central America, 1977-1984" ("La Argentina, los Estados Unidos y la cruzada anticomunista en América Central, 1977- 1984"), National University of Quilmes, Buenos Aires, 1999.

Class 7: Film "Escuadrones de la Muerte" and discussion on topics covered in the movie.

Mandatory bibliography:

Interview to Graciela Daleo in Norma Fernández, "Twenty years after the 1976 coup" ("A 20 años del golpe de 1976"), CTA, Buenos Aires.

Class 8: Theoretical class: Concentration camps, its logic, similar experiences around the globe, Nazism.

Mandatory bibliography:

Pilar Calveiro; "Power and Disappearance: Concentration Camps in Argentina" ("Poder y desaparición: los campos de concentración en Argentina"), Colihue, Buenos Aires, 1998.  
Eduardo Luis Duhalde; "The Argentine Terrorist State. Fifteen Years Later" ("El Estado Terrorista argentino. Quince años después"), EUDEBA, Buenos Aires, 1999. (Selected fragments).

Class 9: VISIT to OLIMPO (Concentration camp).

Class 10: Theoretical class on dictatorships and human rights in Argentina, The democratic transition. The Trial of the Military Juntas. Amnesty.

Mandatory bibliography:

Guillermo O'Donnell; "Counterpoints. Selected essays on authoritarianism and democratization" ("Contrapuntos. Ensayos escogidos sobre autoritarismo y democratización"), Paidós, Buenos Aires, 1997. (Selected articles).

Daniel Feierstein; "The causality issue in the explanation of the genocide developed in Argentina": ("La cuestión de la causalidad en la explicación del genocidio desarrollado en la Argentina", in Daniel Feierstein; Genocide as a social practice (between Nazism and the Argentine genocide)

("Genocidio como práctica social (entre el nazismo y genocidio argentino)", provisional title, FCE, Buenos Aires, in the press.

Class 11: The fight against impunity with an exercise in class. We analyze topics for the FINAL PAPER.

Mandatory bibliography:

Horacio Verbitsky; "Civilians and Military Men. Secret memory of the transition" ("Civiles y militares. Memoria secreta de la transición"), Sudamericana, Buenos Aires, 2003.

Classes 12 through 14: Unit 3: "Main human rights problems in contemporary Argentina"

- The inheritance of the fight against impunity. Economic and Social Rights. Police violence and situation in prisons. The anti-discrimination struggle.

Class 12: Theoretical class: symbolic manifestation. Also we answer questions on the final paper.

Mandatory bibliography:

Annual Human Rights Reports in Argentina, by the Legal and Social Studies Center (CELS - Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales), year 2002 to date.

Waldo Villalpando, Daniel Feierstein, Norma Fernández, Ana González, Horacio Ravenna and María Sonderéguer; "Discrimination in Argentina. Diagnoses and Proposals" ("La discriminación en Argentina. Diagnósticos y propuestas"), Eudeba Publishing House, Buenos Aires, 2006.

Class 13: Theoretical class on the juridical aspects and foundations during a dictatorship and the violation of human rights.

Mandatory bibliography:

Baltasar Garzón; "Juridical Foundations" ("Fundamentos Jurídicos"), of the "Resolution on the Trial of Argentine Military Men accused of genocide and terrorism" (Resolución sobre el Juicio a los militares argentinos por genocidio y terrorismo), Hearing at Room V, Madrid, November, 1999.

Class 14: Submission of final paper. Brief presentation of the paper by each student, closing speech by the professors.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Unit 1: "Genocide as a social practice: Towards a sociological analysis of human rights violations."**

Eric Markusen; "What is the genocide? Looking for a common framework for legal and sociological definitions" ("¿Qué es el genocidio? Hacia una búsqueda de un terreno común para las definiciones legales y sociológicas"), in Daniel Feierstein (editor); Genocide, Death Administration in Modern Times (Genocidio, la administración de la muerte en la modernidad), EDUNTREF, Buenos Aires, 2005.

Daniel Feierstein; "An open discussion: Political violence in Latin America and its genocide peculiarity" ("Una discusión abierta: la violencia política en América Latina y su peculiaridad genocida") in Daniel Feierstein and Guillermo Levy (editors), "Till death do us part. Power and

Genocide Social Practices in Latin America" ("Hasta que la muerte nos separe. Poder y prácticas sociales genocidas en América Latina"), "Al Margen" Publishing House, La Plata, 2004.

Michel Foucault: "From the power of sovereignty to the power over life" ("Del poder de soberanía al poder sobre la vida"), in Racism Genealogy ("Genealogía del racismo"), Altamira Editors, Buenos Aires-Montevideo, 1983.

Daniel Feierstein: "Modernity contradictions and their resolution: equality, sovereignty, autonomy and genocide social practices" ("Las contradicciones de la modernidad y su resolución: igualdad, soberanía, autonomía y prácticas sociales genocidas"), in Daniel Feierstein (editor); "Genocide, death administration in Modern Times" ("Genocidio, la administración de la muerte en la modernidad"), EDUNTREF, Buenos Aires, 2005.

Daniel Feierstein; "Towards a typology of genocide social practices" ("Hacia una tipología de las prácticas sociales genocidas"), in Daniel Feierstein; "Genocide as a social practice (between Nazism and the Argentine genocide)" ("Genocidio como práctica social (entre el nazismo y el genocidio argentino)"), provisional title, FCE, Buenos Aires, in the press.

Daniel Feierstein; "Genocide and reformulation of social relations" ("Genocidio y reformulación de relaciones sociales"), in Daniel Feierstein; "Genocide as a social practice (between nazism and the Argentine genocide)" ("Genocidio como práctica social (entre el nazismo y genocidio argentino)"), provisional title, FCE, Buenos Aires, in the press.

## **Unit 2: "Human rights violations experience in Argentina, 1974-1983, and its categorization forms."**

Mirta Mántaras; "Genocide in Argentina" ("Genocidio en Argentina"), edited by the author, Buenos Aires, 2005 (Chilavert Printing House).

Ariel Armony; "Argentina, the United States and the Anti-Communist Crusade in Central America, 1977-1984" ("La Argentina, los Estados Unidos y la cruzada anticomunista en América Central, 1977- 1984"), National University of Quilmes, Buenos Aires, 1999.

Baltasar Garzón; "Juridical Foundations" ("Fundamentos Jurídicos"), of the "Resolution on the Trial of Argentine Military Men accused of genocide and terrorismo" (Resolución sobre el Juicio a los militares argentinos por genocidio y terrorismo), Hearing at Room V, Madrid, November, 1999.

Pilar Calveiro; "Power and Disappearance: Concentration Camps in Argentina" ("Poder y desaparición: los campos de concentración en Argentina"), Colihue, Buenos Aires, 1998.

Interview to Graciela Daleo in Norma Fernández, "Twenty years after the 1976 coup" ("A 20 años del golpe de 1976"), CTA, Buenos Aires.

Daniel Feierstein; "The causality issue in the explanation of the genocide developed in Argentina": ("La cuestión de la causalidad en la explicación del genocidio desarrollado en la Argentina", in Daniel Feierstein; Genocide as a social practice (between Nazism and the Argentine genocide) ("Genocidio como práctica social (entre el nazismo y genocidio argentino)"), provisional title, FCE, Buenos Aires, in the press.

Eduardo Luis Duhalde; "The Argentine Terrorist State. Fifteen Years Later" ("El Estado Terrorista argentino. Quince años después"), EUDEBA, Buenos Aires, 1999. (Selected fragments).

Guillermo O'Donnell; "Counterpoints. Selected essays on authoritarianism and democratization" ("Contrapuntos. Ensayos escogidos sobre autoritarismo y democratización"), Paidós, Buenos Aires, 1997. (Selected articles).

Horacio Verbitsky; "Civilians and Military Men. Secret memory of the transition" ("Civiles y militares. Memoria secreta de la transición"), Sudamericana, Buenos Aires, 2003.

### **Unit 3: "Main human rights problems in contemporary Argentina"**

Annual Human Rights Reports in Argentina, by the Legal and Social Studies Center (CELS - Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales), year 2002 to date.

Waldo Villalpando, Daniel Feierstein, Norma Fernández, Ana González, Horacio Ravenna and María Sonderéguer; "Discrimination in Argentina. Diagnoses and Proposals" ("La discriminación en Argentina. Diagnósticos y propuestas"), Eudeba Publishing House, Buenos Aires, 2006.

Insert weekly outline of course units, topics, activities

### **Unit 1: Optional Bibliography:**

Hannah Arendt; "Racial Thought before Racism" ("El pensamiento racial antes del racismo"), in "The Origins of Totalitarianism" ("Los orígenes del totalitarismo"), Taurus, Madrid, 1998.

Zygmunt Bauman; "Holocaust and Modernity" ("Holocausto y Modernidad"), Sequitur, Toledo, 1997, Introduction.

Giorgio Agamben; "Sovereign power and nude life" ("El poder soberano y la nuda vida"); Pre-Textos, Valencia, 1998.

Daniel Feierstein; "Equality, autonomy identity: 'the others' construction modern forms" ("Igualdad, autonomía, identidad: las formas sociales de construcción de 'los otros'") in Noufour, Feierstein, Rivas y Prado; "Darkness in the meeting point: Essays on symbolic and spatial representations of 'the other' notion in Argentina" ("Tinieblas del crisol de razas: ensayos sobre las representaciones simbólicas y espaciales de la noción del 'otro' en Argentina"), Cálamo, Buenos Aires, 1999.

Leo Kuper; Genocide. Its political use in the Twentieth Century, Yale University Press, USA, 1982, Chapters 2 and 3.

Alan Rosenbaum (ed.); "Is the Holocaust Unique? Perspectives on Comparative Genocide", Westview Press, Colorado, 1998.

Tzvetan Todorov; "We and the others" ("Nosotros y los otros"), Siglo XXI, México, 1991.

Jean Piaget; "Cooperation and the development of the Justice notion" ("La cooperación y el desarrollo de la noción de justicia"), in "The moral criterion in children" ("El criterio moral en el niño"), Martínez Roca, Barcelona, 1984.

Yves Ternon; "The Criminal State. Genocides in the 20th Century" ("El Estado criminal. Los genocidios en el siglo XX"), Península, Barcelona, 1995.

Oded Balaban and Amos Megged; "Impunity and Human Rights in Latin America" ("Impunidad y Derechos Humanos en América Latina", "al Margen" Publishing House, La Plata, 2003.

## **Unit 2: Optional Bibliography:**

Héctor Germán Oesterheld; "The Eternaut" ("El Eternauta"), I and II.

Stella Maris Ageitos; "History of Impunity. From Videla's Resolutions to Menem's Amnesty" ("Historia de la impunidad. De las Actas de Videla a los indultos de Menem"), Adriana Hidalgo, Buenos Aires, 2002.

## **EVALUATION METHODS**

Class evaluation will be made as follows: Mid-term practical paper 25%  
Lecture in Spanish Presentation 25%  
Final paper 50%

The course instructor will determine specific assignments (including paper topics), projects, and exams for the course. Your work on individual assignments and projects will be guided by grading rubrics provided by the course instructor. Your final grade in the course will be arrived at through assessment methods determined by the course instructor and according to the percentages attached to each assignment and exam by the course instructor. Participation will constitute a determined percentage of your grade. Participation includes attendance, preparation, engagement in discussion, civility, and respect.

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	<b>Argentine/ U.S.</b>
95%-100% = 10	10= A
	9= A
94% - 85%= 9	8= A-
	7= B+
	6= B
84%-75%= 8	5= B-
	4= C
74%-65%= 7	3= D
	2= F

64%-55%= 6

54%-45%= 5

44%-35%=4

34%-25%= 3

24%-15%=2

14%-0%=1

\*Note: Grades that end in .5 or higher will be rounded up. Grades that are .49 and lower are rounded down.

Attendance: Student's minimum attendance required is 75%.

**Grading rubrics:**

A: It needs to manage correctly all the concepts developed during the seminar and their correct application to analyze a historical situation chosen by the student in the mid-term and final paper. It includes also a correct presentation of the lecture in Spanish.

B: It needs to manage correctly all the concepts developed during the seminar. The application to analyze a historical situation chosen by the student in the mid-term and final paper should at least shows a good knowledge of the case. It includes also an acceptable presentation of the lecture in Spanish.

C: It needs to manage at least half of the concepts developed during the seminar and the possibility to apply a couple of them to analyze a historical situation chosen by the student in the mid-term and final paper. The lecture in Spanish should at least demonstrate the text was read.

D: It needs to demonstrate the bibliography was read, even if the concepts are not clear neither the possibility to apply them to the analysis of the historical situation chosen by the student. The lecture in Spanish was not satisfactory.

F: The bibliography was not read. The concepts were not incorporated and the analysis of the historical situation is incorrect or it was not done. The lecture in Spanish was not done.



## **Timely Submissions**

Timely Submissions: Papers or assignments delivered after the deadline will only be accepted in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic Integrity: Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

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 instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.