

**ARGENTINE HISTORICAL NARRATIVE OF THE 20TH CENTURY:
BORDERS BETWEEN REALITY AND FICTION
IFSA Mendoza Universities Program**

US semester credit hours: 3 credits

IFSA course code: SP302-06

Contact Hours: 45

Course length: Semester

Delivery method: Face to face

Language of Instruction: Spanish

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to present in a comprehensive way the issues that govern literary study in Argentina in recent decades. The proliferation of the historical narrative has been steadily growing, deepening a phenomenon that began in the mid-twentieth century and which seems endless. The inventiveness of writers—with their curiosity and their explorations of the past—multiplies and diversifies, inviting readers to dismantle pre-established schemes of access to the texts.

Facing a reality so rich and changing, and taking into account the peculiar reading pact that establishes such stories, it is reasonable to ask whether it would be possible to require limits on authors of fiction. Furthermore, if the answer to this question is affirmative, would it not be appropriate to determine what those terms should hypothetically be. These ideas are explored in this course.

When considering the plausible approaches to finding answers to these sensitive issues, it is important to investigate the relationship of the historical narrative with its counterpart, the historiography. From the perspective of literature, the questioning of history was traditionally understood as an "ethical" science. This included a share of faith in the document and the "objective" historian subject's ability to interpret it. We will analyze the production of associated works and writers through this course.

At the same time, if we approach the problem from the field of history, we must consider the personal activities of the chosen writers, as well as the problematic actions of the institutions responsible for literary canonization. These are sources of discussions about construction of representations from the document, and they will inform our analyses of the production of associated works and writers. Furthermore, this issue has generated a large number of theoretical developments in recent decades both in the fields of historiography and in literary theory, and awareness of this fact therefore provides a strong connection between the units of study that will be undertaken in this course.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the issues that govern literary study in Argentina in recent decades
- Awareness and facility with theoretical tools to approach Argentine literary texts
- Explore and analyze the relationships established between historical narratives and contemporary historiographies
- Understand some of the most important productions of the historical narrative of South America in the light of the socio-political changes of the twentieth century
- Become familiar with resources available for further research on Argentine literature
- Strengthen critical reading skills
- Strengthen academic writing skills
- Make cognitive connections between learning in this course and other learning experiences in the IFSA-Butler Mendoza Universities Program

UNITS OF STUDY

Introduction: Basics concepts of literature, short stories and historical narrative. Exploration of problems regarding the delimitation of the basics questions:

- What is literature? What is Argentine literature?
- Why read the classics?
- Discussion of the value of the narrative representation of reality
- Discussion of secret history and the return of the historical novel
- Examination of narrative transculturation in Latin America

Main texts:

- Thesis on the story *Ricardo Piglia*
- Some portions of the story *Julio Cortazar*
- *Italo Calvino*
- *Hyden White*
- *Maria Cristina Pons*
- *Angel Rama*

Unit 1: Manuel Mujica Lainez, from the foundation to the decline of the oligarchy

Main texts:

- *Hunger (1536)*
- *The Golden Hall (1904)*

Unit 2: Jorge Luis Borges and the reinterpretation of the Argentine past, and the "continuity" between the "tyranny" of Rosas and Peronism

Main texts:

- *Dialogue Dead*
- The conjectural poem *Monster Party*

Additional texts:

- *The Slaughterhouse* E. Echeverria

- Short stories of Osvaldo Soriano (selected texts)

Unit 3: Julio Cortazar, from anti-Peronism during the 50s to the configuration of the intellectual left in the 70s

Main texts:

- *The Gates of Heaven*
- *Apocalypse of Solentiname*

Additional texts:

- Selected chapters of *The Novel of Peron* (Tomas Eloy Martinez)

Unit 4: Ricardo Piglia and state terrorism

Main texts:

- *The Invisible Gaucho*
- *The Proceedings of the Trial*

Additional texts:

- *That Woman* (Rodolfo Walsh)
- Selection of micro-stories

COURSE DELIVERY

The methodology for this course is based on a theory-to-practice approach. Topics will be initially overviewed through lecture, followed by the application of induction-deduction techniques and participatory classes. Students will be encouraged to participate in group discussions about literary texts selected by the instructors. The practical classes will consist of analysis for each course topic texts. An instrument for this purpose is the anthology of texts recommended by instructors. This course is team-taught, with two instructors focusing on personal areas of expertise and connections being made between all course topics throughout the semester.

Students are expected to read or view resources in advance and be prepared to actively discuss them in class. In each meeting, the instructor will overview the topic and then facilitate a group discussion, drawing out relevant themes, following up on specific lines of inquiry, and prompting students' thoughtful engagement with the topic. Students are encouraged to bring their prior learning experiences into class discussions and to make connections between this course and others in the IFSA-Butler Mendoza Universities Program whenever possible. Theories of experiential learning and integrative learning therefore undergird the dynamic learning environment of this course.

EVALUATION METHODS

Your performance in this course will be assessed through the following, and your final grade will be determined by the percentages indicated:

Participation (attendance, preparation, engagement in discussion, civility, and respect) – 20%

Reports on individual course units – 50% (total)

Final essay on a selected course topic – 30%

Assignment instructions and individual grading rubrics for the reports on course units and the final essay on a selected course topic will be provided by the instructors.

Your grade will be determined by the following scale and conversion:

Grading Scale:	Argentine/U.S.
95%-100% = 10	10=A
94% - 85%= 9	9=A
84%-75%= 8	8=A-
74%-65%= 7	7=B+
64%-55%= 6	6=B
54%-45%= 5	5=B-
44%-35%=4	4=C
34%-25%= 3	3=D
24%-15%=2	2=F
14%-0%=1	1=F

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

Attendance: Seventy-five percent (75%) attendance to class will be required to pass the course.

Timely Submissions: Acceptance of assignments after the deadline will only be considered in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

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.

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 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.