



CIEE Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course title:	History and Literature: A Reading of 20th Century Argentina through Literature from the Centennial to the Cacerolazo
Course code:	HIST 3001 AFLA
Programs offering course:	Liberal Arts
Language of instruction:	Spanish
U.S. semester credits:	3.00
Contact hours:	45.00
Term:	Fall 2023

Course Description

There exist many ways to tell stories -- the literary narrative is a meaningful way to do this because every story is also political. Literature, whether it is veiled or not, is always connected to the historical context in which it arises. We will study the literary narrative as a meaning laden document that counts and says things about history. In a certain sense, it is an interesting way to unravel history.

This course will cover the period from the first anniversary of the May Revolution (1910) to the crisis in December 2001. All readings will tell part of the storyline, which have been produced in a specific historical context, and for that reason, will be addressed as a symbol of time. Among others, we will focus on the work of Lugones, Borges, Cortázar, Walsh and new narratives that reflect the crisis of 2001.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Construct a sociological viewpoint of twentieth-century Argentina from literature.
- Create a critical viewpoint of the reality of twentieth century Argentina.
- Analyse the literary text as a site of struggle, a battle of ideas and as a political narrative text.
- Distinguish, in literary text marks, the historical context in which the literature is produced: the text as a symbol of time.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

Classes will be held weekly for three hours. Each class will have a theoretical and practical aspect, with activities to be performed in groups or individually. For each class there will be a required literature reading as well as an alternative bibliography that may be considered for the fulfilment of the final monography/paper. Prominent personalities from the cultural and literary scene such as critics and writers will be invited.

Assessment and Final Grade

1.	Question Guides (3)	10%
2.	Midterm Exam	30%
3.	Written Reports (2)	10%
4.	Final Paper	30%
5.	Participation	20%
	TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

Question Guides (3)

Students have to complete guide questions about the texts worked in class.

Midterm Exam

Students will sit an in-class exam with questions to develop the concepts worked on in the course. They will be given several questions and choose two to develop. They should compare, make relations and refer to the readings, texts and discussions done during the course.

Written Reports (2)

During the course, two written reports will be expected. One will be a report of readings about the texts worked in class. The other will be a creative writing piece of chronicles about the city of Buenos Aires.

Final Paper

The final work is a monograph on how political violence in Argentina is represented in literature. Specific guideline will be delivered for students to complete. The expected length of this piece is 4000-4200 words.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Each student is expected to actively participate in class, and this is absolutely necessary for the effective functioning of the course as well as for individual progress. Participation and the investment of an appropriate amount of time in the preparation of each session will be taken into account in the determination of final grades.

Attendance

To encourage engaged learning, regular class attendance is required throughout the program. This includes any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as internship, service-learning, or other required field placement.

An excused absence in a CIEE course will only be considered if approved by a CIEE Center Director/Academic Director (not the Instructor), and:

- it is a self-certified absence for illness (only once per course, requires formal request before or within 24 hours, cannot miss assessment worth more than 5% of final course grade)
- a doctor's note from a local medical professional is provided
- evidence of a family emergency is provided
- it is a pre-approved observance of religious holiday

Unexcused absences include personal travel and/or travel delays, as well as missing more than 25% of a single class period (including tardiness and early departure). Assessments missed due to unexcused absences will be marked as zero. Students with over 10% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff. Students with over 20% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff, receive a formal warning letter (shared with their home institution) and lose 10% of the final course point total (e.g., a final A grade of 93% will be lowered to a B grade of 83%).

For more detail, please consult your CIEE Academic Manual.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive and inclusive teaching and learning environment. All students are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness, respect, and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in grade penalties or disciplinary action. See the CIEE Student Academic Manual for further information on academic integrity.

N.B. Course schedule and co-curriculars are subject to change. The final duration and distribution of content and assignments will be determined and presented to students at the onset of the course.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class: History, truth and fiction

Introduction to the class. The relationship between history, truth and writing: the influence of the process of writing history. The political relationship between writing and interpretation of history.

Video: The Simpsons episode, "Lisa the Iconoclast"

Week 2

Class: Theme of the Traitor and the Hero

The issue of national identity.

Required Reading:

1. Tema del traidor y del héroe, Jorge Luis Borges, Ficciones, Emece.

Week 3

Class: The construction of national identity: Leopoldo Lugones

The figure of the gaucho. The construction of the hero.

Required Reading:

1. El dilema argentino. Civilización o barbarie: "La mistificación del gaucho". Maristella Svampa. Taurus, 2010.
2. Breve historia de la Argentina, José Luis Romero: Capítulo X. Tierra Firme Editores.

Week 4

Class: The time of the sword: Roberto Arlt and Lugones.

Lugones and the 1930 Coup. Immigrants of the beginning of the century. Politics and lack of representation. The voice on the other side. Literature as a form of representation. Violence and political paranoia.

Required Reading:

1. Breve historia de la Argentina. José Luis Romero. Cap. XI. Tierra Firme Editores.
2. Los siete locos. Roberto Arlt. Capítulo "La farsa". Editorial Losada 1995.

Due: Question Guide #1.

Guides of questions about the texts worked in class.

Week 5

Class: Peronism: origins and socialization

The infamous decade after the coup of 1930. The origins of Peronism. Socialization under the Peronist system.

Required Reading:

1. Breve historia de la Argentina, José Luis Romero: Capítulo XII. Tierra Firme Editores.
2. La cabeza de Goliath, Ezequiel Martínez Estrada. Cap. Regreso.
3. Mañana es San Perón. Capítulo 6: La politización de la educación: Los libros de texto "peronistas" para escuelas primarias. Mariano Plotkin. Editorial Eduntref.

Due: Question Guide #2

Guides of questions about the texts worked in class.

Week 6

Class: Peronism: the representation of the other

Peronism and the labor movement. The emergence of the "black head" seen by small and high

frightened bourgeoisie Cortázar, Rozenmacher.

Required Reading:

1. Breve historia de la argentina. Jose Luis Romero. Cap. XIII. Tierra Firme Editores.
2. Cabecita Negra. Germán Rozenmacher.
3. Las puertas del cielo, Cortázar, Bestiario. Editorial Sudamericana.

Week 7

Class: Midterm Exam

Week 8

Class: Travelers

Sarmiento and his travels, Che and his journals. The eye of the traveler and the construction of a political project. Travel and Utopia. The look abroad: Gombrowicz in Argentina.

Required Reading:

1. Viajes y viajeros en la literatura del Río de la Plata, José Luis Vitorri.
2. Viajes, Estados Unidos, Domingo F. Sarmiento.
3. Diario de motocicleta, Ernesto Che Guevara.
4. Diario argentino. Gombrowicz.

Due: Written Report #1

Creative writing about the city of Buenos Aires.

Week 9

Class: The Peronist resistance

The fall of Perón. The Peronist resistance. The spiral of violence. Operating Slaughter.

Required Reading:

1. Breve historia de la Argentina, José Luis Romero: Capítulo XIV. Tierra Firme. Editores.
2. Operación Masacre. Rodolfo Walsh. Ediciones de la Flor.
3. Esa mujer. Rodolfo Walsh.

Due: Question Guide #3

Guides of questions about the texts worked in class.

Week 10

Class: Political violence

Chess war. Walsh's death and the disappearance of intellectual critique and engagement. Lamborghini and perverse violence that intercepts the dictatorship.

Required Readings:

1. Un oscuro día de justicia. Rodolfo Walsh.
2. El niño proletario. Osvaldo Lamborghini.
3. Dolor país. Silvia Bleichmar. "Creencia y prejuicio". Libros del Zorzal. 2002.

Week 11

Class: The dictatorship of 76: Genocide

The dictatorship as national project. Violence and terror.

Required Reading

1. Modernidad y Holocausto. Cap. 4. Zygmund Bauman.
2. Carta abierta a la Junta Militar. Rodolfo Walsh.
3. Nombrar lo innombrable. Fernando Reato.

Due: Written Report #2

Reading Report about the texts worked in class.

Week 12

Class: The Falklands War

Guest Speaker: Sebastian Basualdo, author of the novel *When I Saw You Fall*, whose protagonist is a veteran of the Falklands War.

Required Reading:

1. Capítulos de la novela *Cuando te vi caer*, Sebastian Basualdo, Editorial Bajo la Luna, 2008.
2. Breve historia de la Argentina. Jose Luis Romero. Tierra Firme Editores. Cap. XV.

Week 13

Class: Menemismo

Argentina's new social structure in the global context. Socialization in a media era. The consequences of the neoliberal model.

Instructions for Final Monograph/Paper will be delivered.

Required Readings:

1. Puerto Apache. Capítulo 1. Juan Martini. Sudamericana, 2002.
2. Cuestión de Principios, Roberto Fontarrosa, Ediciones de la Flor, 1998.

Week 14

Class: The crisis

The social collapse of December 2001. The other is us. The new political subjects.

Video: Projection fragments of the documentary "Memories of looting", Pino Solanas.

Required Reading:

1. El grito, Florencia Abbate, Editorial Emecé, Buenos Aires, 2004.
2. Qué son las asambleas populares. Cuando las cacerolas sonaron contra el neoliberalismo. Perez Esquivel. Varios autores. Ediciones Continente. 2002.

Week 15

Class: 2010

A look of the bicentennial. The Kirchner years: recovery after the crisis.

Required Reading:

1. "Unimog", Felix Bruzzone en 76, editorial Tamarisco, 2008.
2. Los otros desde el relato, Hernán Ronsino, en *Crisis, transformación y crecimiento: América latina y Argentina*, EUDEBA, 2010.

Due: Final Monograph/Paper

Course Materials

Readings

- Abbate, Florencia. *El grito*, Editorial Emecé, Buenos Aires, 2004.
- Alonso Piñeiro. *La dictadura peronista*. Editorial Prestigio, 1955.
- Art, Roberto. *Los siete locos*. Capítulo "La farsa". Editorial Losada 1995.
- Bauman, Zygmund. *Modernidad y Holocausto*. Cap. 4. Ediciones Sequitur, 1988.
- Basualdo, Sebastián. *Cuando te vi caer*. Editorial Bajo la Luna, 2008.
- Borges, Jorge Luis. *Tema del traidor y del héroe*. Ficciones, Emece, 1994.
- Bleichmar, Silvia. *Dolor país y después*. "Creencia y prejuicio". Libros del Zorzal. 2002.
- Bruzzone, Felix. "Unimog", 76, Editorial Tamarisco, Buenos Aires, 2008.
- Cortázar, Julio. *Las puertas del cielo*. Bestiario. Editorial Sudamericana.
- Fontarrosa, Roberto. *Cuestión de principios*. Ediciones de la Flor, 1998.
- Foucault, Michel. *Microfísica del poder*. Editorial Último recurso. Fragmento capítulo 12 "Verdad y Poder".

- Gombrowicz, Witold. Adriana Hidalgo Editora, 2003.
- Guevara, Ernesto. Diario de motocicleta. Editorial Planeta, 2010.
- Lamborghini, Osvaldo. El niño proletario. Obra completa, Editorial Sudamericana, 2012.
- Lugones, Leopoldo. Fragmentos. La Grande Argentina. Editorial Biblioteca Ayacucho. 1930.
- Martínez Estrada, Ezequiel. La cabeza de Goliath. Cap. Regreso. EUDEBA, 1983.
- Martini, Juan. Puerto apache, Capítulo 1. Sudamericana, 2002.
- Pérez Esquivel. Varios autores. Qué son las asambleas populares. Cuando las cacerolas sonaron contra el neoliberalismo. Ediciones Continente. 2002.
- Plotkin, Mariano. Mañana es San Perón. Capítulo 6: La politización de la educación: Los libros de texto "peronistas" para escuelas primarias. Editorial Eduntref, 1997.
- Reati, Fernando. Nombrar lo innombrable. EUDEBA, 1987.
- Romero, José Luis. Breve historia de la Argentina. Tierra Firme Editores, 2011.
- Ronsino, Hernán. Los otros desde el relato, en Crisis, transformación y crecimiento: América latina y Argentina, EUDEBA, 2010.
- Rozenmacher, Germán. Cabecita Negra. Jorge Alvarez Editor, 1966.
- Sarmiento, Domingo F. Viajes, Estados Unidos. Obras completas. Universidad de la Matanza.
- Svampa, Maristella. El dilema argentino. Civilización o barbarie: "La mistificación del gaucho". Taurus, 2010.
- Vitori, José Luis. Viajes y viajeros en la literatura del Río de la Plata. Editorial Vinciguerra.
- Rodolfo Walsh. Operación Masacre. Ediciones de la Flor, 2006.
- Esa mujer, Un oscuro día de justicia, Carta abierta a la Junta Militar en Cuentos Completos Ediciones de la Flor, 2003.

Alternative Bibliography:

- Bauman, Zygmunt. Vidas desperdiciadas. Fondo de cultura económica. 2004.
- López, María Pía. Lugones: entre la aventura y la espada. Colihue. 2004.
- Murmis y Portantiero. Estudio sobre los orígenes del peronismo. Siglo XXI editores. 1997.
- Piglia, Ricardo. Crítica y ficción. Anagrama, 2006.
- Rock, David. El radicalismo argentino. Editorial Amorrortu, 1995.
- Saer, Juan José. El concepto de ficción. Seix Barral, 2004.
- Sarlo, Beatriz. Escritos sobre literatura argentina, Siglo XXI editores, 2007.
- Viñas, David. Literatura política y realidad argentina. Santiago Arcos editor, 2006