

(PEAL 261) ARGENTINE POPULAR CULTURE
PROGRAM OF ARGENTINE AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
UNIVERSIDAD DE BELGRANO

Course Syllabus

Course Information

Contact Hours: 60
Semester

Course Description

The aim of the course is for students to study Argentine popular culture through those material, spiritual and ideological manifestations that “stand out” to the traveler since they represent Argentines and identify them as such. The city (the center and its margins), food, music, football and myths are manifestations created and/or consumed especially by the popular classes that we will study. In addition to accompanying the immersion in Argentine culture, the course also tries to be a transition with the 300 courses, hence the place given to brief and continuous participation, both written and oral. Using television, literary and culinary fragments, photography and film, videos and music, students will discuss the topics in order to improve their linguistic skills in terms of comprehension and production (written and oral). During classes, grammatical corrections will be made, while students will be assisted with support exercises to improve their expressive production in Spanish.

Course Requirements

Students must have active participation in the virtual platform (LMS). The student must have 75% attendance to class in order to avoid losing regularity. It is expected that the students' work and interventions show deep reflection as well as the management of the concepts presented. During the semester, the student will have homework and assignments, which will be part of the final grade. **Late submissions are not allowed.**

THE EXAM DATES CAN NOT BE MOVED

Class participation

Student must actively participate in the proposals and make oral presentations. The homework and assignments for each class are part of the final grade.

It is expected a high level of student participation. The professor will evaluate the students' commitment, curiosity and personal contributions. Students will also keep a journal, where they will capture personal experiences.

Oral and Written presentations

Throughout the semester the student should make **5 oral presentations** and deliver **5 short written papers**.

Oral presentations shall be made in the students' own words; they cannot be read, although they may be supported by notes (the professor will evaluate the relevance of the "notes" in each case).

Plagiarism

Presenting words, ideas or any information as if they were your own is plagiarism and constitutes intellectual theft. The student who commits an act of plagiarism will not receive credit for the class.

Grading Policy

Class participation (in person and in the LMS)	20 %
Written assignments	15 %
Oral presentation	20 %
Mid – Term exam	20 %
Final exam	25 %

1. Presentation and get started. Cultural and mate introduction. Clichés, popular characters. The culture of sharing: card games ("*Chanco y Truco*") and mate.

2. Lunfardo and gestural language. Colloquial language, frequent expressions and keys to understanding and appropriating culture.

3. Gastronomy. Influences, current affairs and trends. Beyond "*empanada*" and "*choripán*", "*picada*", stews and more.

4. Popular music. Rock and folklore, Charly, Spinetta, Divididos.

5. Soccer. Passion, tradition, fanning, violence and corruption.

6. The city, its B side and the "villas" (slum). Political passion and social commitment. Current situation. Urbanization projects

Academic Calendar

- Week 1** Course presentation. **What is popular culture? Being Argentine.** Preconceptions and clichés. Song "La Argentinidad al Palo". #Collage. First images
- Week 2** **Project: "lunfardo" (slang)**
Frequent expressions. Interactions and meanings.
Preparation of a typical Buenos Aires dialogue. #New lunfardo words.
- Week 3** Gestures and body language.
Oral presentation 1: Video of "porteña" conversation.
Writing 1. Argentines according to their vocabulary and gestures.
#Body expression. Acting like Argentines.
- Week 4** Mate. Own characteristics, typical accompaniments. Rituals and connotations.
Culture in gastronomy, influences in dishes, current events and trends.
Typical meals. Argentine customs.
- Week 5** The "asado" (BBQ). Fragment of Juan José Sáer.
Videos "*Locos x el asado*". Gastronomic survey.
Reviews.
#Pure poetry...
- Week 6** **Oral presentation 2: Culinary customs.**
Popular music. National rock. Writing 2. Argentines and food.
Analysis of Spinetta songs.
Rock and dictatorship. Analysis of songs by Charly García #Why don't you listen to the band "Perota Chingó?"
- Week 7** Stereotype and social identity, Stereotypes and clichés, Amossy and Herschberg Pierrot.
"*Cumbia villera*" (*popular music style*) and the end of work culture in Argentina in the 90s, Eloísa Martín
Transcultural Music Magazine
Writing 3. A band I would listen to.
Oral presentation 3: An **Argentine band or singer.**
#Why don't you listen...?"
- Week 8** Review
Written Mid- Term exam.
- Week 9** **Soccer and passion,** tradition, folklore, violence and corruption / the old and the new.
Video: why does football drive us so crazy?
Historical rivalries. Brief history of the most popular teams.
Origin of football nicknames.
#Why don't you go to a cafe to watch a football game and see what happens...?

- Week 10** Football as ritual, anthropological analysis. Political and economic interests in football.
Writing 4
Oral presentation 4: Argentines through the soccer world cups. #Why don't you analyze the body language of the fans on the field?
- Week 11** **The postal city - Buenos Aires.**
 Advertising spot of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires. "The imagined city", in The seen city, by Beatriz Sarlo. "Instructions to remember a city", by Coelho.
 Short: "Bombita", in "Relatos Salvajes", by Damián Szifrón.
 #Take a photo that shows the relationship between the people of Buenos Aires and the rules of the public space of Buenos Aires.
- Week 12** Another side of the city: "*villas*" (slum). Political passion and social commitment.
 Social activism.
 History of the slums. Eradication attempts. Evolution.
Writing 5. My Buenos Aires outlined. #My personal map
- Week 13** Current situation of "*Villas*" (*slums*) 31 and 31 Bis.
 Oral presentation 5. Urbanization debate.
 Personal opinion on the urbanization of the "*villas*".
- Week 14** Review.
Final presentations.
- Week 15** Feedback and completion of class.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Material prepared and selected by professor María Úrsula Castro Alonso.