Course Information
MW 4:00-5:30 PM
Instruction in: English

Contact Information
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Course Description
“All stories are fictions”, wrote Hayden White, insisting in the fact that history is as much about how these stories are told as what is the material ground in which they are produced. Following this trend, this course seeks to problematize the complex relationship --be it sometimes a dialogue, some other times contested debates that could go well beyond rhetoric into bloodshed--between history and literature. If literary texts could be considered cultural artifacts inscribed in and produced by a given socio historical horizon, we will aim at analyzing in depth the ways in which they represent, contest, silence or resist the fundamental political, social and cultural issues of their times. From the foundational moments of nation building to state terrorism and its painful aftermath; from the founding fathers to the newest narratives, we will revisit major works by Sarmiento, Echeverría, Arlt, Borges, Walsh, etc. as well as films and documentaries that address the key moments of our historical conflicts and cultural imagination.

Course Requirements
Following the UB policies, students need a minimum of 75% of attendance to be in good standing for the final exam. No excuse will be granted to students for traveling. Students are expected to do close readings, participate in class, and do one oral presentations in groups. The requirements also include amidterm and a final exam. In addition to this, each student will be expected to make a significant contribution to the classroom dialogue.
Grading Policy

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<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>20 %</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading: check table online [http://www.ub.edu.ar/studies/conversion_table.htm](http://www.ub.edu.ar/studies/conversion_table.htm)

**Required textbook:**
Liria Evangelista, Ed. *Course Reader*

**NOTE:** required readings are excerpts and selected chapters of major literary and political works

**Academic Calendar**

**Week 1- 3/9-11**
Course introduction
History and Fiction: the Narrative Space (Historical Novel, Autobiography, Essays, Testimony, documentary films, Nation Building, Nation and Narration, Imagined Communities)

The Body Politics of Language
Required reading: Esteban Echeverría, "The Slaughter House"
Felix Luna, Chapter V: "Towards a national design"

**Week 2 - 3/16-18**
**Founding a Nation**

Barbarism and Civilization
Required readings: Domingo F. Sarmiento, *Facundo*(Intro, chapter 1 and 2)

http://archive.org/stream/lifeinargentiner00sarmrich

Felix Luna, Chapter IV: "The search for a political formula"
Ricardo Piglia: "Sarmiento the writer"

This Country is not for Everyone
Required reading: Juan Bautista Alberdi, “Immigration as a means of progress”
José Hernández, "Gauchos in an out of the state"
Lucio V. Mansilla, *An expedition to the Ranquel Indians* (excerpts)
Felix Luna, Chapter VI: "The shaping of institutions"
**Week 3- 3/25**

**An Unequal Modernity**
Splendid Inequality
Required reading: David Viñas, “The foundation of the national state”
James Scobie, “The Paris of South America”
José Ingenieros, “Bourgeois snakes”
Felix Luna, Chapter VII: "The shaping of modern Argentina"

**Week 4-3/30 and 4/1**

**Modernization and Cosmopolitanism**
New Subjectivities: The making of the New Barbarian
Required reading: Oreste Sola, “Making it in America”
José María Ramos Mejía, “The Modern Crowd”
Simon Collier, “The birth of Tango”
Felix Luna, Chapter VII: "The shaping of modern Argentina"

The language of the Argentineans Dispute on National Identity
Required reading: Jorge Luis Borges: "The South"
Beatriz Sarlo: "The adventure of Martín Fierro: Avant-Garde and criollismo"
Beatriz Sarlo: "Fantastic invention and cultural nationality, the case of Xul Solar"
http://www.borges.pitt.edu/bsol/bsfi.php
Paintings by Xul Solar
Felix Luna, Chapter VIII: "Radical Democracy," and Chapter IX: "The nineteen thirties"

**Week 5-4/6-8**

City Lights, City Trouble
Required reading: Oliverio Girondo, *Poems to be read on a trolley car*
Alfonsina Storni: “Modern Women”
Ezequiel Martínez Estrada: *X-Ray of the Pampas*
Felix Luna, Chapter IX: "The nineteen thirties"
Delusional Modernity
Required reading: Roberto Arlt, *The Seven Madmen* (Chapters 1-3)
Enrique Santos Discépolo, *Cambalache* (tango lyrics)

**Week 6-4/13-15**

**Populism and the Subaltern Subject**
When the Subaltern speaks?: Peronismo
Documentary Film: Felipe Pigna, *Argentine History 1943-1955*
Required reading: Daniel James, “Perón and the People”
Required reading: Tomás Eloy Martínez, *Santa Evita*

**Week 7-4/20-22**
Santa Evita (cont)
Representing the dead body: several documentary accounts of Evita.
Contesting fictions
Required reading: Witold Gombrowicz, “The foreign gaze”
Julio Cortázar, “House taken over”

**Week 8-4/27-29**
**Revolution is an Endless Dream**
Required reading: Ernesto Guevara “The Latin American Revolution according to "Che"
Documentary: *Che, el hombre nuevo (Che, the New Man)* Tristán Bauer: 2010

**Week 9-5/4-6**
Revision for Mid-Term Exam
Mid Term Exam

**Week 10- 5/11-13**
Juan L. Ortiz. “Village on a River” (Argentina reader p. 324)
Atahualpa Yupanqui: The Muleteer (song)
Montoneros: Soldiers of Perón (Argentina reader, p.377)
Documentary: *Cazadores de Utopias (Hunters of Utopias)*. David Blaustein: 1996

**Week 11- 5/18-20**
**No Shelter**
State Terrorism and War
Required reading: Never Again, National Comission for the Dissappearance of Persons (Argentina Reader p.440)

Required reading: Alicia Partnoy, “The Little School, tales of disappearances and survival” (excerpts, pdf)

Week 12-5/27

Required reading: Hebe de Bonafini and Matilde Sánchez, “The madwomen of the Plaza de Mayo” (Argentina Reader- p.429)
Graciela Speranaza and Fernando Cittadini, “War in the South Atlantic” (Argentina Reader-p.465)

Week 13-6/1-3

Required reading:
http://thewip.net/contributors/2009/06/argentinas_collective_memory_c.html
Photography: Marcelo Brodsky, Good Memory
Alicia Ulanovsky, Photos of you

HIJOS (Sons and Daughters of the Disappeared)
Required reading: Laura Alcoba. The rabbit’s house (pdf)

Required reading: María Moreno and Marta Dillon, The children of death

Week 14-6/8-10

HIJOS in film:
Film: Clandestine Childhood, by Benjamín Avila (fragment)
Nicolás Prividera "M" (fragments)
María Inés Roqué "Papá Iván"
Class debate
Perspectives on the relationship (dialogue) between literature and history.

Week 15-6/15-17
Final exam
Final conclusions
Final Grade Sheet and signature of “Hoja de situación” (attendance is mandatory)
Bibliography


Davies, Lloyd Hughes. “Portraits of a Lady: Postmodern Readings of Tomás Eloy Martínez’s “Santa Evita”.” (JSTOR)


Salinas, Alejandro. “Culture, politics and literature in Jorge Luis Borges.” Paper prepared for delivery at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 28th - August 31st, Boston. Copyright by the American Political Science Association


Viñas, David. “Sarmiento: Madness or Acumulation.” *Sarmiento: Author of a Nation*. 113-119.