

Syllabus v 1.0

**History 3643**  
**Argentina and the La Plata Region**

UConn Spring 2013

*Class Hours:* Tu Th 9.30-10.45

*Class:* Wood Hall 4a

*Professor:* Mark Healey

*Email:* mark.healey@uconn.edu

*Office Hours:* Tu Th 11-12

*Office:* Wood Hall 222

This course is a survey of the history of Argentina from independence to the present, with particular emphasis on the twentieth century. We will draw our readings from historical documents, essays, songs, movies, novels, and scholarly studies. The course will examine culture, politics, and economics, with attention to topics from the culture of cattle-raising and the rise of tango, from mass culture to grassroots protest, from consumer politics to the experience of state terror.

The course has five major themes. Our first theme is identity and memory: we will trace how popular movements and elites forged a nation from a multi-racial colonial society and how this nation was transformed by massive immigration. What symbols and practices were important to the making of Argentine identities? How were they shaped by differences of race, class or gender? How have they changed over time? Our second theme is political economy: we will examine how a colonial backwater became an economic powerhouse by 1910, and why its economic performance since has been so conflictual and disappointing. Who benefited from which strategies for development? How did the distribution of power within Argentina shape its economy and politics? What lessons might Argentine development offer for the rest of the world? Our third theme is city and countryside: independence was a project that began in Buenos Aires, and the city has long been both a laboratory for the rest of the nation and a dominant force over it. We will examine the relationship between national culture and urban culture, and the power, enchantments, and resentments of Buenos Aires. Our fourth theme is democracy and dictatorship: we will examine why a country with an early and strong democratic tradition proved so vulnerable to authoritarian rule in the twentieth century, and we will track the final and decisive rejection of that authoritarian heritage after the 1976-83 military dictatorship. As we will see, the rejection of dictatorship and embrace of democracy and human rights have come to play a powerful role in national memory and identity.

**Ground rules:**

Please be prompt, engaged, and courteous. Class begins at 9.30 sharp, at which point everyone should be in the room and ready to engage with materials. If you are delayed or unable to attend class, please notify me as soon as possible. No breaks during class or leaving early, unless you have notified me beforehand of a prior appointment.

Attendance. During the first few weeks I will take attendance, as a way to get to know everyone. While attendance is not required, it will be directly and indirectly reflected in your participation grade.

Electronics. No texting, calling, or messaging during class. All electronic devices should be turned off before class begins, except for laptop computers used for taking notes. This is the only acceptable use for laptops in this class; any other use is a distraction to you and to your classmates.

**Assignments and Grades:**

Your grade will be based on class participation, a short paper (4-6 page), a long paper (8-10 page), a midterm and a final exam. The short paper will be an analysis of key primary sources; the long paper will be a critical response to a specific course theme; the assignments will be made available shortly. While class participation will be fundamentally based on contributions to discussion and engagement with the class, it may also be expanded to include pop quizzes, group work, and on-line responses at my discretion.

Participation	20
Short Paper	15
Long Paper	20
Midterm	20
Final	25

**Films:**

We will be screening the following films during the semester. The dates and location for the screenings will be announced shortly; all films will also be on reserve at the library.

"Camila" (Maria Luisa Bemberg, 1984)

"The Hour of the Furnaces" (F. Solanas and O. Getino, 1968)

"The Official Story" (Luis Puenzo, 1985)

"The Take" (Avi Lewis, 2004)

## Readings:

Books assigned for this course and available for purchase at the Coop. Note that these books are also available at much lower cost online.

Matthew Karush, *Culture of Class* (Duke, 2012)

David K. Lewis, *The History of Argentina*

(Palgrave Macmillan, 2003) (other editions acceptable)

Gabriela Nouzeilles and Graciela Montaldo, eds. *The Argentina Reader* (Duke, 2002)

Jacobo Timerman, *Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number*

(Wisconsin, 2002) [original edition 1982, also acceptable]

An electronic version of Lewis, *The History of Argentina*, can also be accessed online through the HOMER catalog. Look for the author, click on the title "History of Argentina [electronic resource]" and then "UConn Access" and you will be able to navigate the book through your browser.

Additional articles and short excerpts are available on the class website on HuskyCT.

All readings must be completed prior to the class meeting they are listed below. The readings below are the basic core, and may be supplemented by a few additional articles and documents over the semester. Any new readings will be announced in class and on HuskyCT.

22 Jan Introduction

24 Jan From Colonial Backwater to Independent Republic

Lewis, *Argentina*, 17-34

Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 19-42

29 Jan The Unsettled World of Independence

Lewis, *Argentina*, 35-43

Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 66-75

Film: "Camila" (Maria Luisa Bemberg, 1984)

31 Jan The Age of Juan Manuel de Rosas, "The Restorer of the Laws"

Lewis, *Argentina*, 43-49

Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 75-102, 107-114

Domingo Sarmiento, "Facundo, or Civilization and Barbarism",  
Husky CT

Oscar Chamosa, "To Honor the Ashes of their Forebearers"

Husky CT

Ricardo Salvatore, "Repertoires of Coercion and Market Culture in Nineteenth-Century Buenos Aires Province" HuskyCT

- 5 Feb Liberal Dissidents: Projects and Visions  
Lewis, *Argentina*, 49-52  
Juan Bautista Alberdi, "Foundations and Points of Departure"  
Husky CT  
Esteban Echeverría, "The Socialist Doctrine of the Association of May", Husky CT
- 7 Feb Liberal Project: "A Nation for the Argentine Desert"  
Lewis, *Argentina*, 53-72
- 12 Feb **Short paper due**  
Liberal Project: Indians, Immigrants, and Oligarchs  
Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 115-156, 161-169
- 14 Feb 1910: Centennial Dreams  
Lewis, *Argentina*, 73-77  
Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 170-214
- 19 Feb The Centennial Viewed From Below  
Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 219-250  
Brian Bockelman, "Between the Gaucho and the Tango"  
Husky CT
- 21 Feb The Promise and Perils of Democracy, 1912-1930  
Lewis, *Argentina*, 77-83  
Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 251-262
- 26 Feb Buenos Aires, Mass Culture and the City of Immigrants  
Karush, *Culture of Class*, 1-84  
Adrián Gorelik, "A Metropolis in the Pampas, 1890-1940"  
Husky CT  
Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 263-265
- 28 Feb 1930: Crisis and Rupture  
Lewis, *Argentina*, 83-91  
Karush, *Culture of Class*, 85-176  
Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 266-268
- 5 Mar Peronism  
Lewis, *Argentina*, 93-111  
Daniel James, "October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 1945" Husky CT  
Karush, *Culture of Class*, 177-224  
Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 273-332

- 7 Mar            Peronism  
                   Natalia Milaneseo, "Peronists and Cabecitas" Husky CT  
                   Diana Lenton, "The Malón de Paz of 1946" Husky CT
- 12 Mar           Interlude: Sports and Nationalism  
                   Christopher Gaffney, "Estadiolandia" and "Class and Conflict in  
                   the Stadiums of Buenos Aires" HuskyCT  
                   Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 519-525
- 14 Mar           **Midterm**
- Spring Break**
- 26 Mar           After Perón  
                   Lewis, *Argentina*, 112-132  
                   Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 333-340
- 28 Mar           The Long Sixties: From Modernization to Revolution  
                   Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 345-395
- Film:            "The Hour of the Furnaces" (F. Solanas and O. Getino, 1968)
- 30 Mar           Dictatorship: State Terror and Market Reform  
                   Lewis, *Argentina*, 133-150  
                   Timerman, *Prisoner Without a Name*, entire
- 2 Apr            Everyday Life under Dictatorship: City and Countryside  
                   Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 399-472
- 4 Apr            No class
- 9 Apr            Memory, Justice, and Human Rights  
                   Lewis, *Argentina*, 151-162  
                   Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 477-486
- Film:            "The Official Story" (Luis Puenzo, 1985)
- 11 Apr           **Long Paper Due**  
                   Democracy: A Fragile Victory  
                   Nouzeilles & Montaldo, *Argentina Reader*, 487-499, 509-544
- 16 Apr           Menem: Citizens and Consumers  
                   Lewis, *Argentina*, 162-177  
                   Javier Auyero, "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina"  
                   Husky CT

- 18 Apr No class
- 23 Apr Menem: Transformation and its Limits  
Lewis, *Argentina, 177-185*  
Emanuela Guano, "The Denial of Citizenship: "barbaric" Buenos Aires and the Middle-class imaginary" Husky CT  
Gastón Gordillo, " The Clientelization of Ethnicity" Husky CT
- 25 Apr 2001: Collapse and Reinvention  
Gabriela Bukstein, " A Time of Opportunities: The Piquetero Movement" Husky CT  
Film: "The Take" (Avi Lewis, 2004)
- 30 Apr The Kirchner Era: Triumphant Recovery or Distressing Revival?  
Mireille Abelin, " Entrenched in the BMW" Husky CT
- 2 May Argentina at the Second Centennial
- 9 May **Final Exam** (8am)