

HILA [History] 120: The History of Argentina

Spring 2009

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10-12

Office: HSS 4077

PURPOSE

This class will devote the major part of the lectures and readings to the study of Argentina since 1810, and particularly after 1880. While primarily concerned with the course of the nation's political development and the social and economic consequences of government policies, lectures will address the development of ideas and major social and cultural changes. The course moves through three periods, from the present into the formation of the nation.

ELECTRONICS AND OTHER EMBARRASMENTS

No cell phones, beepers, or other devices should be going off during this class. If you are tired or need to read a newspaper or receive a phone call, do not come to class.

I welcome students during office hours but please do not visit me when you have a cold or the flu.

PAPERS

All writing assignments are built around the completion of a single paper, 10-11 pages in length, due at the time of the final exam. The paper will be written in three pages, see page 5 for details.

Stage One will be due on Thursday of Week III (15 per cent).

Stage Two will be due on Thursday of Week VII (25 per cent).

Stage Three will be due at the time of the final exam (40 per cent).

DISCUSSION

REQUIREMENT: This requirement will count 20 per cent of the grade. I will hand out 15 cards at the beginning of the course; you may hand them back for class participation (one card per class), through discussion of the readings on the "discussion" area of the web site, or a class presentation (up to 15 cards).

DISCUSSION WEB SITE: I will count up to 10 cards in this format. You may only post your comments on a discussion page not the e-mail or "chat" pages. Use the website e-mail for issues you want to raise but do not want the class to see. All comments on the discussion site must be accompanied by your full name. Check each week for the discussion topic and your contribution, which

should be a paragraph in length, will be due on that week. No late contributions will count toward the grade.

PRESENTATIONS: I am usually generous in grading presentations; they will count between 6-10 cards. First come, first served. The presentation must be about Argentina but the topic you pick can relate to any period, subject (including personal experiences there), and area. You must schedule your presentation at least a week ahead of time and have the subject approved by me. I will then schedule you a date; no change of dates. No more than one presentation will be allowed during a class period. Each presentation should be 10 minutes in length if done individually and no more than 15 minutes if done by two people. Do not expect to give a presentation by approaching me in week seven. I will try to keep the final class free of any presentations.

ASSIGNED TEXTS

To reduce the expense of book buying, I have placed the texts on reserve in the library. All the assigned texts are on sale at the Groundwork Bookstore. You are required to read the two books in Group A; Timerman is very short and takes about two to three hours and Collier is almost a magazine. We will go over the books in the first day of class.

List A: Required reading

1. Rock, David. Argentina, 1516-1987 (University of California, rev. ed 1989 or latest) ISBN 0520061780
2. Timerman, Jacobo. Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number (Vintage, 1988) pb--ISBN 0679720480
3. De la Fuente, Ariel. Children of Facundo: Caudillo and Gaucho Insurgency During the Argentine State-Formation Process (Duke University Press, 2000) pb. ISBN 0822325969
4. Collier, Simon, ed. Tango! The Dance, the Song, the Story (1997) pb--ISBN 0500279799

List B: Choose TWO of the following three titles.

5. Feitlowitz, Margarite. A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture (Oxford U. Press, 1999) ISBN 0195134169
6. Auyero, Javier. Contentious Lives: Two Argentine Women... (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003)

LECTURES

Week 1: Argentina's expectations

- A. What happened to a great future?
- B. The colony and the attempt at a new nation

Read: Rock, chaps. 1-4; and de la Fuente, Children of Facundo. Begin reading this book and finish it before you write the stage one of the paper.

Week II: Liberals, Liberalism and its Opponents

- A. Sarmiento and liberal ideals
- B. Mitre and the new political order

Read: de la Fuente.

Week III: National Consolidation and the Oligarchy

- A. The Export Boom and the “oligarchy”
- B. Roca and Roquismo

Write Stage One of your paper.

Week IV: Radicals and Democracy

- A. Immigrant politics
- B. Radicalism and the fall of Yrigoyen

Read: Rock, chap. 5 and Collier, Tango! – the entire book

Week V: The Origins of Peronismo

- A. The Infamous Decade
- B. Perón and Evita

Read: Rock to the book’s conclusion. You will find it useful to your paper, Stage Two.

Week VI: The Permanent Crisis

- A. Governing without Perón
- B. Borges and the national crisis

Read: Begin either Fietlowitz or Auyero this week and finish by week IX.

Week VII: Peronismo and Argentina in the World

- A. The influence of the United States
- B. The International Context for the Dirty War

Write your paper Stage Two.

Week VIII: The Proceso

- A. The Tactics and Consequences of Mass Murder
- B. The Debt Crisis and the Malvinas

Read: Timerman, Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number.

Week IX: The Revival of Citizenship

- A. Alfonsín, Menem and the Return of Civilian Rule
- B. The New Culture

Read: Finish all your reading and start organizing your final paper.

Week X: Endless Beginnings

- A. The Present Moment

B. A return to basic questions -- review

THE FINAL PAPER

All papers are to be submitted in printed form, double-spaced and using 12 point font. Each is to be an essay with an argument: Stage One should be two-three pages of text; Stage Two should be five-six pages; and the final paper should be 10-11 pages. You should use author-page citation on each submission (Rock, p. 123) and add a bibliography at the end. All submissions will be graded on the basic elements of writing as well as the use of evidence from the readings and lectures. **You may repeat or reuse sections of any earlier stage in writing a later one.**

Stage One – due on Thursday, at the beginning of class, of Week III.

Historians have often argued that the Liberals in nineteenth-century Argentina represented progress, is this true?

Stage Two – due on Thursday, at the beginning of class, of Week VII.

Peronismo represents more continuities than discontinuities in Argentine politics. Would you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain. Remember to discuss the nation's culture.

Stage Three or the final paper, due at the Café Roma at the time assigned for the final exam. Answer one of the following questions and remember do not limit your discussion to politics but bring in culture and economics as well.

1. The Dirty War represented the culmination of patterns in Argentina's development that extend from the nineteenth century until it occurred and that continue to the present. Do you agree or disagree?
2. Up until Peronismo, Argentina was doing well and had it not been for Peronismo, it would have gone on developing as a liberal, progressive nation – more European than it was Latin American. The problem of its development is that Peronismo turned it into a Latin American nation, with profound political cleavages. Agree or disagree?