

HILA [History] 120: The History of Argentina

Fall 2011

Michael Monteón:

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10-11

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Class: Peterson Hall 103

Time: Tues., Thurs. 11-12:20

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.

ELECTRONIC 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, 10-12 pages in length, due at the time of the final exam. The paper will be written in three stages.

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 10 cards).

DISCUSSION WEB SITE: I will count up to 10 cards in this format, discussion topics listed on TED. 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 the last two weeks. 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 general bookstore.

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. Slatta, Richard W. Gauchos and the Vanishing Frontier (Nebraska, 1992) ISBN 0803292155
4. Plotkin, Mariano Bea. Freud in the Pampas: The Emergence and Development of a Psychoanalytic Culture in Argentina (Stanford 2002) ISBN 978-0804740609
5. Auyero, Javier. Poor People's Politics: Peronist Survival Networks and the Legacy of Evita (Duke 2000) ISBN 0822326213 KINDLE PRICE \$14.37; ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM OUR LIBRARY FOR FREE
6. Soft Reserve Reader on sale at Soft Reserves in the Old Student Center

Recommended but not on sale or on reserve:

7. Feitlowitz, Margarite. A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture (Oxford U. Press, 1999) ISBN 0195134169

LECTURES

Week 0: What happened to a great future?

Week 1: Argentina's expectations

- A. The colony and the attempt at a new nation
- B. Rosas and the Federation

Read: Rock, chaps. 1-4; and Slatta, chaps. 1-3

Week II: Liberals, Liberalism and its Opponents

- A. Urquiza, Mitre and other great men
- B. Sarmiento and the triumph of the Liberal State

Read: Slatta, chaps. 4-7. Soft Reserve Reader; Hilda Sabato, segment from The Many and the Few...

Week III: National Consolidation and the Oligarchy

- A. The Export Boom and the "oligarchy"
- B. Roca and his machine

Read: Slatta, chap. 8-conclusion

HAND IN STAGE ONE OF YOUR PAPER – Due on Thursday

Week IV: Radicals and Democracy

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

Read: Rock, chap. 5-6; Soft Reserve Reader, Charles S. Sargent, segment of The Spatial Evolution of Greater Buenos Aires.

Week V: The Origins of Peronismo

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

Read: Rock to the book's conclusion.; Soft Reserve Reader, Item 3. J.M. Taylor segment of Eva Peron...., Item 4. Julio Cortázar, "House Taken Over."

Week VI: The Permanent Crisis

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

Read: Plotkin, chaps. 1-4

Week VII: Peronismo and Argentina in the World

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

Read: Plotkin, chap. 5 to conclusion, Soft Reserve Reader, Item 5. Richard Gillispie, segment of Soldiers of Peron

WRITE STAGE TWO OF YOUR PAPER – due on Thursday

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.

Auyero, chaps. 1-3

Week IX: The Revival of Citizenship

A. Alfonsín and the Return to Civilian Government

B. Menem and Populist Corruption

Read: Auyero, chap. 4 to conclusion; Soft Reserve Reader, Item 6. Paul H. Lewis, segment of The Crisis of Argentine Capitalism

Week X: Endless Beginnings

A. 2001, Another Crisis endured

B. The Kirchners -- 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 three pages of text; Stage Two should be six pages; and the final paper should be 10-12 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.

What was the key element in the quarrel between Unitarios and Federalists? Was it more than a political difference?

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

Peronismo, as a cultural phenomenon as well as a political one, represents more continuities than discontinuities in Argentine politics. Would you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain.

Stage Three or The Final Paper. Answer one of the following questions.

1. The struggle between Peronists and anti-Peronists is based on an inability of Argentina's people to foster a political system that corresponds to its economic reality, Agree or disagree and in doing so discuss the following items as well as any other issue you wish to raise.
 - a. Persistent Patterns of Class Conflict
 - b. Profound Cultural Differences based on Religion or other beliefs, ----

2. Argentina's history acquired a different "axis" of meaning after "El Proceso." Agree or Disagree. In answering this question deal with:
 - a. The sense of itself as a European nation
 - b. The moral and economic degradation that followed the Dirty War