

Course Title (English)	Argentinean Popular Culture
Academic Institution	University of Belgrano (UB)
City	Buenos Aires
Country	Argentina
Course Title (Spanish)	Cultura Popular Argentina
Course Number	PEAL 261
Sessions (Terms)	Semester
Instructional Language	Spanish
Contact Hours	60
Credits (semester credits)	4
Credits (quarter units)	6
Prerequisites	Intermediate Spanish II
Track	PEAL (Argentine & Latin American Studies in Spanish): semester

Course Description	The objective of the course is for the student to study Argentine popular culture through material, spiritual and ideological manifestations that are widely recognized by the traveler and that represent Argentines and their identity. The city (the center and its margins), the food, the music, the soccer and the myths are manifestations created and / or consumed by the popular classes that we will study. In addition to complementing the immersion into Argentine culture, the course also facilitates a transition into 300 level courses, by encouraging brief and continuous participation from the students in either oral or written form. From 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 the classes, grammar corrections will be made and students will be assisted with support exercises to improve their expressive production in Spanish.
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Course Content	Unit 1: The postal city. • The Culture in the Gastronomy: influences of dishes, actuality and tendency to look for a typical recipe, to recreate it. Beyond empanada and choripán, Picada, stews. • Popular music: rock and cumbia Soda Stereo, Charly, Spinetta, Divididos –Cumbia villera/Agapornis- Gilda (película/música) • Soccer: passion, tradition, folklore, violence and corruption / the old and the new. • The other side of the city: villas (slums): Political passion and social commitment. Current situation. Elefante Blanco, urbanization projects.
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- Argentine myths: Evita, Gilda, Maradona, Messi, Papa Francisco.

Week 1:

- Presentation of the subject. What is popular culture?
- Being Argentine. Preconceptions and clichés.
- Song “La Argentinidad al Palo”
- Advertising spot of TyC Sports: “Contrastes”
- The postal city - Buenos Aires.
- Advertising spot of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires.
- Why do you not observe 3 gestures, 3 characteristics of the style of the Argentines and 3 words of slang they use?

Week 2:

- "The imagined city", in La ciudad vista, by Beatriz Sarlo.
- Critical analysis of the tours offered by the Government of the City of Buenos Aires.
- Short: "Bombita", in Relatos Salvajes, by Damián Szifrón.
- Essay: “Instrucciones para recordar una ciudad” en La ciudad contada. Anthology
- "Social transformations and new spatial behaviors", in public spaces and social construction.
- Writing 1
- Question: Why not take a photo that shows a situation in the public space of Buenos Aires?

Week 3:

- The city in photos. Piedrabuena neighborhood, Gian Paolo Minelli.
- The city in the poetry of Borges.
- Oral presentation I
- Question: Why do not you do the Liniers tour with the City Government?

Week 4:

- The culture in the gastronomy: influences of dishes, current and trends.
- Typical meals. Argentine customs.
- The asado (barbeque). Fragment of Juan José Sáer.
- Videos “Locos x el asado”.
- Writing 2
- Question: Why not try loco?

Week 5:

- Dulce de leche. Chocotorta and alfajores.

- History of alfajores Havanna brand.
- Picada
- Gastronomic survey
- Reviews
- Oral presentation 2
- Question: Why not try the mini alfajor Fantoche?

Week 6:

- Popular music. National rock. Cumbia (from cumbia villera to Agapornis)
- Video Canal Encuentro: "Quizás porque: Generación beat" (fragments)
- Video Canal Encuentro: "Quizás porque: Comienza el rock" (fragments)
- Analysis of songs by Spinetta.
- Rock and dictatorship. Analysis of songs by Charly García.
- Soda Stéreo. The Latin American boom of national rock.
- Writing 3
- Question: Why not listen to the Perota Chingó band?

Week 7:

- Cumbia argentina. From cumbia villera to Agapornis (passing through Gilda)
- Cumbia villera. Stereotype and social identity, Estereotipos y clichés, Amossy and Herschberg Pierrot.
- Cumbia villera & the end of the work culture in Argentina in the 90s, Eloísa Martín Transcultural Music Magazine
- Fragment of the movie Gilda
- Oral presentation 3
- Question: Why not watch the TV show "Pasión de Sábado"?

Week 8:

- Review for midterm exam

Week 9:

- Football: passion, tradition, folklore, violence and corruption / the old and the new. The approaching change
- Video: Why does soccer make us so crazy?
- Historical rivalries. Brief history of the most popular teams. Origin of football nicknames.
- Question: Why not go to a cafe to watch a soccer game and see what happens?

Week 10:

- Story: "La observación de los pájaros", Fontanarrosa.
- Soccer as a ritual, anthropological analysis.
- Economic interests in soccer. The case of Liverpool as the current trend of Argentine football.
- Writing 4
- Oral presentation 4
- Question: Why not talk to an Argentine about the Argentina national team and the World Cup in Russia?

Week 11:

- The other side of the city: villas (slums). Political passion and social commitment. Social activism
- History of shanty towns. Attempts to eradicate. Evolution.
- Question: Why not you look for the difference between a settlement and villa (shanty town)?

Week 12:

- Current situation of Villa 31 and 31 Bis.
- Fragments from the movie "Elefante Blanco", by Pablo Trapero, Urbanization projects. Debate.
- Oral presentation 5
- Writing 5
- Question: Why not look for the latest statements in the media of a "cura villero"?

Week 13:

- Argentine myths
- Conformation of a myth
- Maradona, Messi, Pope Francisco
- Video "El gen argentino"
- Question: Why not find out what other contemporary character has the category of "myth"?

Week 14:

- Oral presentation 6.
- Written 6
- Review
- Week 15:
- Final presentations
- Final presentations and delivery of results.

Policy

Attendance and punctuality:

- In agreement with the policies of the University of Belgrano the student can only have a 25% absence rate. The percentage of attendance that is required in order to take the final exam is 75%. Any trip or excursion that is not planned in the calendar is part of the 25% absence. The attendance control system is electronic. The teacher also has an attendance control, since it is part of the course grade (see evaluation system).
- Not being punctual (arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving before class) will be considered half an absence. In case of not attending class, it is the student's responsibility to contact their classmates to find out and do the assigned tasks for the next class. Being absent does not justify not fulfilling the assigned task for the missed class.
- Participation and work in class:
- The student must participate actively in the classes and make oral presentations that must be accompanied and make one or more oral presentations. During the semester, the student will have homeworks and assignments assigned to each class, which will be part of the final grade. In addition, you must make 6 oral presentations and deliver 6 short written papers. Late assignments and homeworks negatively affect the overall grade, and once an assignment or homework is two days late it will not be accepted.
- Short papers should be written in double space, be precise and well organized, and have a creative title.
- Plagiarism:
- Presenting words, ideas or any information as if they were their own is plagiarism and constitutes an intellectual theft. The student who performs an act of plagiarism will not receive credits for the class.

Assessment

Oral Presentations

- Oral presentations must be made with the student's own words, they can not be read, although they can be supported by notes (the professor will evaluate in each case the pertinence of the "notes").

Grading Policy

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| • Participation: | 10% |
| • Assignments, homeworks, short essays: | 20% |
| • Journal | 5% |
| • Oral presentation: | 20% |
| • Midterm exam: | 20% |
| • Final exam: | 25% |

Bibliography

Package prepared by Professor María Úrsula Castro Alonso.