

Geography of South America-Argentina

Cultural Landscapes, Society and Sustainability

GRG f323K / LAS f330 Topic 3

Unique Numbers 84215 and 85500

Summer Session 1, 2014

M 9-4pm, Tu-Th 1-4 pm; times may vary with topic

Class location varies with topic

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines issues of cultural landscapes, society, and sustainable development in South America. For summer 2014, the course takes full advantage of its location in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Buenos Aires is South America's second largest city, with about 13 million people in the metropolitan area; it is located at the edge of the subtropical, agricultural Pampa. Buenos Aires has attracted a large number of immigrants from all over the country and a substantial number from the rest of South America, Europe, and Asia. Students will examine selected issues of the geography of this urban landscape through readings, discussions, and field trips.

This course may be used towards the Geography major (Cultural and Sustainability Tracks) and Latin American Studies major (core requirement and/or concentration), and as part of the Latin American minor in International Relations and Global Studies (IRG). This course may also be used for the environmental track in IRG, and the Global Cultures (GC) flag. This program may be used towards the study abroad requirement in IRG.

Prerequisite: Upper Division Standing; this requirement may be waived for study abroad students. The course is open to students in all majors, but students must be admitted to the corresponding Buenos Aires study abroad program.

Host Institution

Our course in summer 2014 is hosted by the IFSA Butler Program, (Av. Corrientes 880). Students will take one course in Advanced Spanish and Culture in addition to this course in Geography for a total of six academic credits. The Corrientes office of IFSA Butler has computers and staff available for students during regular office hours. All course activities involving classrooms will be held at AVIABUE, Viamonte 783, except where noted otherwise.

Course Format

Lectures by the course instructor will be combined with group discussions (including peer group discussions) of questions related to the readings. Many classes will be on site in accessible parts of the city; some classes will meet at other than the regular time. Students are required to attend all classes, read all materials, submit all assignments on time, and be prepared to participate. They are

also required to participate in additional program activities outside of regular class hours. Students will consult their email and Canvas frequently for course updates, including updates in the schedule.

Course Readings:

All assigned readings will be on the Canvas Website, provided as the course proceeds.

Canvas Web Site

The Canvas Web Site contains all required readings for the course, the calendar, and an interface for submitting assignments and sending emails to the instructor.

Summary of Grading:

Grading will be based on: a cumulative Logbook with entries based on notes on field trips (45%), a walking tour / site visit project (20%), essays (10%), and attendance (25%).

Attendance will be kept for all required class activities (25 activities, 1 point each).

Four brief essays will be required to be posted on logbook; these will probably include an introductory essay, two essays on readings, and a walking exercise, although the topics may be adjusted as the course proceeds. Course essays may be used in classroom discussions, including peer groups proctored by students. They will be graded on the basis of overall quality, originality, creativity, and evidence of independent personal investigation. (10 points)

In addition to the course essays, the students must maintain a Course Logbook, writing notes on each field trip and site visit, including the student-led activities, relating them to broader issues of nature, society, and sustainability as informed by the course readings and lectures. You should maintain this Logbook on your computer, updating it every day with your experiences and interpretations. On June 9, the current draft of your Logbook must be posted on Canvas (5 points). By the end of the semester, you must revise and “stitch together” your logbook entries to provide a interpretive travel essay, adding an introduction and conclusion and revising all the sections to provide for a sense of flow and thematic unity. You may focus your essay on a particular theme, make it an ongoing record of your evolving understandings of nature, society and sustainability in this place, or choose another approach with the permission of the instructor. This final, unified logbook, due July 3, will be graded (40 points).

For the project, you will work in a team of 3-4 students to develop a walking tour or site visit based on a theme involving the cultural, environmental, socio-economic, and/or historical dimensions of the landscape of Buenos Aires. You and your team will lead the class on the tour in one of the final class days. The tour should take about three hours, and should be readily accessible by public transportation. You could, for example, focus your tour on an example of

migration, religion, tourism, food ways, or about the impact of Eva Peron, the "dirty war," or tango culture on the contemporary Buenos Aires urban landscape. You must turn in (1) an early report on your project topic (2 points, June 9), (2) a more developed paragraph on your project (3 points, June 15), and (3) a longer essay on your project (10 points). Since this is a team project, every member of the team should contribute and take a leadership role for some portion of the site visit (5 points). By permission, you may instead write a 20 page conventional term paper on a topic related to the course. If you choose this option, you must request this of the professor by June 8.

Grading will be on the plus minus system, as follows. Scores and totals will not be rounded up or down.

93-100 A
90-92.99 A-
87-89.99 B+
83-86.99 B
80-82.99 B-
77-79.99 C+
73-76.99 C
70-72.99 C-
67-69.99 D+
63-66.99 D
60-62.99 D-
Below 60 F

Field Trips

All students are required to participate in the weekend field trip to Colonia de Sacramento, Uruguay (June 6-7), as well as the City Tour (May 24) and Orientation (May 23), as well as all class site visits and field trips.

Classroom Policy on Timeliness:

Each one of our classes may meet at a different place, and some at different times. Check Canvas frequently for updates.

Although it may be considered rude in some social contexts to show up on time, for our class it is the opposite: **YOU MUST SHOW UP ON TIME.** We will not wait for you. Plan ahead to arrive at least 15 minutes early. On field trips, it is your responsibility to enter and exit subway cars and other transportation with the group and stay with the group until the end of the activity. If you do arrive late or get separated from the group, call Greg or a classmate with your cell phone and make plans to return to a safe place until the next activity.

Classroom Policy on Electronic Devices and Behavior

Students are responsible for meeting all of the requirements of IFSA Butler, as well as the UT Study Abroad Office, for continued participation in the program. Violations can result in termination of participation in the program.

Electronic Devices. Laptops and tablets should be brought to days in which we meet in the classroom, to enable sharing papers with other students and consult readings from Canvas. If you cannot bring your laptop or tablet, you must print out and bring any assignment to class.

Lectures and other class activities may not be recorded in any way without prior permission. Online materials may not be copied or distributed without prior permission.

Students will arrive on time, and stay until the class ends. Discussion will often include controversial issues. Expression of differing opinions and debate will be encouraged. Do not be afraid to express your real opinion, but also please respect the right of persons to disagree with you, and avoid ridicule, or ad hominem attacks. You often will learn more from those who disagree with you than from those who agree with you.

Accommodations for Special Needs

Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor no later than the first day of class so that needed accommodations can be discussed. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual's behavior. Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

If you use words or ideas that are not your own you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE - WILL BE ALTERED AS COURSE PROCEEDS

Current as of 5/20/14

Reading Assignments will be provided on Canvas as the course proceeds.

Week One: Orientations

May 22: Arrival, students met at airport and introduced to host families

May 23: Program Orientation (Circolo Italiano, Libertad 1264 in Recoleta)

May 24: City Tour in Buenos Aires

Week Two: Buenos Aires Food, Farming, and Nature

May 26: Urban Food and Farming in Buenos Aires. **Essay 1 Due.**

May 27: Classroom, AVIABUE, Viamonte 783, Classroom A

May 28: Reserva Ecológica Costañera Sur and Puerto Madero

May 29: Subte exercise

Week Three: Environments and Societies of Argentina and Uruguay

June 2: Jardin Botanico, Zoo, and Japanese Garden. **Essay 2 Due.**

June 3: Classroom, AVIABUE, Viamonte 783, Classroom A

June 4: Museo Etnográfico

June 5: Catedral, Catedral and Manzana de las Luces

June 6: Trip to Colonia, Uruguay (Required)

June 7: Return from Uruguay

Week Four: Environments and Societies Continued

June 9: Jewish Buenos Aires. **Project Idea Essay 1 Due; Logbook Draft Due.**

June 10: Classroom, AVIABUE, Viamonte 783, Classroom A

June 11: Palacio Noel

June 12: Museo de Ciencias Naturales

Week Five: Contemporary Urban Spaces

June 16: Plazas **Project Idea Essay 2 Due**

June 17: U of Buenos Aires Liberal Arts Campus **Essay 3 Due**

June 18 Walking Exercise in Microcentro

June 19: Cafe Culture **Project Final Essay Due**

Week Six: Student Led Field Trips and Site Visits

June 23: Palacio de Aguas Corrientes and Lib. Ateneo **Walking Exercise Essay Due**

June 24: Classroom, AVIABUE, Viamonte 783, Classroom A

June 25: Student led field trip

June 26: Student led field trip

Week Seven: Student Led Field Trips

June 30 Student led field trip

July 1 Student led field trip

July 2 Alternative field trip day if needed

July 3 **Course Logbook Due**

July 4 Fly out of Buenos Aires

