

SPAN 4313-002: Topics in Hispanic Culture: Contemporary Argentina

Instructor(s): Christopher Conway

Office Number: Hammond Hall 329

Office Telephone Number: 817-272-3161.

Email Address: conway@uta.edu

Faculty Profile: <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/christopher-conway>

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-4 PM and by Appointment.

Section Information: SPAN 4313-002

Time and Place of Class Meetings: TR 5:30-6:50, TH 202

SPAN 4313 Topics in Hispanic Culture (3-0) Among the topics are Spanish or Latin American music, television, radio, film, and literature as culture. May be repeated for credit as topic changes. This section (002) is an introduction to modern Argentinian culture. Students learn about historical contexts while cultural forms and expressions such as film, comics, customs, and other topics. The end of the course is focused on current events.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students demonstrate an ability to clearly explain major historical and cultural themes relating to nineteenth-century politics and culture, Peronism, Human Rights, and contemporary Argentina.
2. Students demonstrate ability to sketch the positions of key political parties in Argentina.
3. Students successfully apply advanced writing skills in Spanish in their exploration of Argentinian culture and politics.
4. Students exercise critical thinking by making connections between cultural representations and historical and sociological contexts.
5. Students demonstrate the ability to cooperate with each other and manage a group project.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials (available at UTA bookstore):

None. Readings will be provided on reserve or on Blackboard.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

Quizzes (7): 21%
Test 1: 15%
Test 2: 15%
Response Paper: 10%
Viaje Imaginario Assignment: 10%
News Report: 5%
Oral Presentation: 10%
Final Exam: 14%

Quizzes (7): Pop quizzes in Spanish will be provided to students to verify that they have done the reading and made every effort to understand it. Each quiz will have additional questions to allow students to make some mistakes without losing too many points. Various unannounced dates. Each student should read and take notes. Each student will be permitted to use handwritten notes to answer questions. Printed notes may also be used, as long as they are turned in after the test. Students are not permitted to use each other's printed notes for the tests.

Tests (2): In class Spanish language examination on material covered in class (lecture, reading, assigned videos.) The test will be composed of short identifications and longer essays. 2/11 and 3/10.

Response Paper: A 400-600 word essay in Spanish on an assigned topic. The assignment will be graded on both quality of Spanish and quality of content. 2/2.

Viaje Imaginario Assignment: A project in Spanish about an imaginary vacation to Buenos Aires. The project will require writing in Spanish but it will be organized differently and be composed of different components that will be amply discussed in class. 3/29

News Report: A 400-600 paper about current events in Argentina. 4/12

Presentation: In groups of 2 or 3, students research a topic and do a 10 minute presentation on it. Each presentation will be judged on the quality of research, the quality of delivery, and the clarity of the information provided. 4/28-5/5

Final Exam: A Spanish language examination on the course material. Students may be exempted from this assignment and receive a 100 on it by having a course grade of 85 or higher by the last week of the class (prior to the presentation assignment.) 5/10

Missed Work: Students may make up one quiz and one test if they miss either one. However, I reserve the right to schedule said make-up during regular University business hours, 9-5. I also reserve the right to schedule the make-up for a subsequent week, to accommodate my schedule. Make-ups will not be identical to original assignments.

Late Work: If homework is turned in late, it cannot receive an A. Excellence requires meeting deadlines. Homework that is turned in more than two days late will not be accepted.

Grading Criteria: An "A" stands for impeccable or outstanding. "B" stands for good work. "C" stands for acceptable work. "D" stands for poor work. "F" for unacceptable work. Students should review instructions for each assignment to understand how they will be graded.

Classroom Management: Every single person in our class, or their family, has made sacrifices to make it possible for them to be sitting there for the purpose of learning. I have dedicated my life to trying to teach to the best of my ability. We should all remember that and be serious about our collaboration as a learning community. Nothing less will be accepted.

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section I have the following policy: You are permitted two absences without any questions asked. These absences are for family emergencies, illness, etc. For each absence after that, 2 points will be deducted from your final grade. If you are for some extraordinary circumstance is excused from class an additional two times, the point deductions will begin in the fifth absence. However, regardless of whether absences are excused or not, you are not permitted more than 6 absences. Missing more than three weeks of class is not acceptable. For that reason, any student who misses more than 6 classes will have 20 points deducted from their final grade.

Incompletes: I will only grant an incomplete to a student if he or she has completed both tests, two homeworks (response, viaje assignments), and 4 quizzes.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc.

Grade Grievances: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. Please see: <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#graduatetext>.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.
Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any

examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located to the right and up the stairs. After ascending the stairs in a calm and orderly fashion, turn right again to clear the building. Do not use the elevator in the case of an emergency. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In **Quick Hits** sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, Workshops, and advanced services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information.

Library Resources Available to Students to Assist Them with Coursework:

Library Home Page.....	http://www.uta.edu/library
Subject Guides	http://libguides.uta.edu
Subject Librarians	http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php
Course Reserves.....	http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do
Library Tutorials	http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php
Connecting from Off- Campus	http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus
Ask A Librarian	http://ask.uta.edu

Librarian to Contact for Assistance: Diane Shepelwhich (dianec@uta.edu)

Course Schedule

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Christopher Conway

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Students should use the Blackboard platform as their primary point of access to information about the course.

Political Violence and National Heroes in Nineteenth-Century Argentina

- Tuesday 1/19: Introduction to the Course; The Independence of Argentina.
- Thursday 1/21: Political Violence in the Nineteenth Century. Assigned reading: “El Matadero” by Esteban Echeverría.
- Tuesday 1/26: A National Symbol: Martín Fierro. Assigned reading: “Martín Fierro.”
- Thursday 1/28: “Martín Fierro.”

The Rise and Fall of Juan Domingo Perón and Evita Perón (1945-1974)

- Tuesday 2/2: The Rise of Juan Domingo Perón. Assigned reading: “El gobierno de Perón” by Luis Alberto Romero. **Response Paper is due.**
- Thursday 2/4: “El gobierno de Perón” by Luis Alberto Romero. Video Assignment: Evita.
- Tuesday 2/9: The Cult of Evita Perón. Assigned reading: “Evita: The Globalization of a National Myth” by Marta E. Savigliano.
- Thursday 2/11: **Test 1.**

The Terror, 1976-1983

- Tuesday 2/16: The Terror. Assigned Reading: “El proceso” by Luis Alberto Romero. Video assignment: “Dramatic Stories of Argentina’s Stolen Children.”
- Thursday 2/18: “El proceso” by Luis Alberto Romero. Video assignment: “Dramatic Stories of Argentina’s Stolen Children.”
- Tuesday 2/23: Video assignment: *Kamchatka*.
- Thursday 2/25: Video assignment: *El secreto de sus ojos*.

Argentinian Comics

Tuesday 3/1: Assigned reading: “Mafalda.”
Thursday 3/3: “Mafalda.”
Tuesday 3/8: “El Sargento Kirk” and “El Eternauta.”
Thursday 3/10: **Test 2.**

SPRING BREAK

Cultural Themes: Tango and Language

Tuesday 3/22: What is the Tango? Assigned Reading: From Bawdyhouse to Cabaret...” by D.L. Jakubs. Video Assignment: “The Heart of Tango.” In class review for assignment *Viaje Imaginario a Buenos Aires*.
Thursday 3/24 To Be Announced.
Tuesday 3/29: The Spanish Spoken in Argentina. Assigned Reading: To Be Announced. **Due: Viaje Imaginario assignment.**
Thursday 3/31: Evento Especial.

Argentina Today

Tuesday 4/5: Reading Assignment: “Una nueva oportunidad” by Luis Alberto Romero. Video assignment: Presidentes de Latinoamérica: Cristina Fernández de Kirchner.
Thursday 4/7: “Una nueva oportunidad” by Luis Alberto Romero.
Tuesday 4/12: Argentina in the News Now. Assigned Reading: Current News. **News Report Assignment due.**
Thursday 4/14: Argentina in the News Now. Assigned Reading: Current News.

Oral Presentations

Tuesday 4/19: Preparation for Oral Presentations.
Thursday 4/21: Teamwork 1.

Tuesday 4/26: Teamwork 2.

Thursday 4/28: **Presentations.**

Tuesday 5/3: **Presentations.**

Thursday 5/5: **Presentations.**

Final Examination: 5/10/16 5:30-8 PM

Emergency Phone Numbers: [Optional but strongly recommended] In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381