University of Arizona - College of Humanities  
Humanities Seminars Program

The ‘South American Way:’ Tastes, Textures, and Sounds of Argentina and Brazil  
Humanities Seminar Fall, 2023

Professors:  
Dorrance Dean A-P Durand (adurand@arizona.edu)  
University Distinguished Professor Melissa Fitch (mfitch@arizona.edu)

Dates:  
Wednesdays, September 20, 27, October 4, 11, and 18  
Time: 2-4pm

Location: The UA Poetry Center Rubel Room, 1508 E Helen, Tucson, AZ 85721

Seminar Description:  
This unusual seminar delves into the dance, literature, nature, urban art, cuisine, and the cultural significance of the "beautiful game" in two of South America's largest countries, Argentina, and Brazil. Participants will encounter South American dancers and divas, literary royalty, street artists, and award-winning musicians in this seminar. The course is organized around the three iconic cities of Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and Salvador da Bahia, each associated with specific writers, artists, and cultural modes of expression. From tango to samba and bossa nova, Carnival, soccer, candomblé, and capoeira, to learning about each city's literary giants, villains, heroes, and saints, the seminar will take students on a fascinating journey of cultural discovery.

Optional Reading/Viewing Materials:

While students may still enjoy the class without reading any of the listed materials, they will get more from the class if they do prior to coming to class.

Please note: Some of the films listed below include violence, nudity and/or sexually explicit scenes.

Argentina

Nouzeilles, Gabriela, and Graciela Montaldo, eds. The Argentina Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Durham: Duke UP, 2002. $29.95 (pdfs of any additional readings will be provided to the class by Melissa Fitch)


Evita (film) Dir. Alan Parker, USA, 1996. Available on Amazon Prime, Netflix, etc.

Links to additional films, documentaries and clips will be provided by Melissa Fitch

**Brazil**


Links to additional readings and films will be provided by A-P Durand

**Additional Suggested Readings and Films (most of which can be bought inexpensively used online through Amazon):**

**Argentina**


**Brazil**


A-P Durand can provide bibliography of additional Brazilian literary classics upon request.

**Breakdown of Topics by Class Session**

**Wednesday September 20** (both Durand and Fitch)

*The "Beautiful Game." Soccer culture in Brazil and Argentina.*
Readings (Fitch): “Soccer and Popular Joy” by Roberto Arlt and “Soccer and Masculinity” by Eduardo Archetti, both from *The Argentina Reader*.

Readings (Durand): “Becoming Brazilian: The Making of National Identity Through Football” by Felipe Tobar and Luana Gusso

**Wednesday, September 27 (Fitch)**

*Buenos Aires: How to Read a City: Understanding Peronism and the Dirty War (1976-83).*

Readings: (select 2 of the 4) “Peron and the People” by Daniel James; “Saint Evita” by Tomas Eloy Martinez; “The Madwomen at the Plaza de Mayo” by Hebe de Bonafini and Matilde Sanchez; “Never Again” by National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons, all from *The Argentina Reader*

Viewings: *


*Evita* (film) Dir. Alan Parker, USA, 1996. Available on Amazon Prime, Netflix, etc.

**Wednesday, October 4 (Fitch)**

*Tango Poets, Musicians, and Activists, and the Global Diffusion of the Argentine Dance.*

Readings: “The Birth of Tango” by Simon Collier from *The Argentina Reader* Chapters 1 and 5 from *Global Tangos* (pdf)

Viewings: *


**Wednesday October 11 (Durand)**

*Brazilian’s Roots, Cultures, and Identities Through the Lens of Salvador da Bahia*

Readings: Jorge Amado’s *Captains of the Sand.*

Viewings: *


**Wednesday October 18 (Durand)**

*Brazilian’s Roots, Cultures, and Identities Through the Lens of Rio de Janeiro*

Viewings: *


*Syllabus subject to change.*