

**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)

Argentina: 1985 (film). Dir. Santiago Mitre. Argentina, 2022. Available on Amazon Prime, Netflix, etc.

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

Tango: Don't Leave Me (film) Dir. Carlos Saura. Spain/Argentina, 1998. Available on Amazon Prime, Netflix, etc.

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

Brazil

Amado, Jorge. *Captains of the Sand*. 1937. Trans. Gregory Rabassa. New York: Penguin Classics, 2013.

Black Orfeus (film). Dir. Marcel Camus. 1959.

City of God (film). Dir. Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund. 2002.

Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands (film). Dir. Bruno Barreto. 1978.

Rio, I Love You (film). Various. 2014.

Tobar, Felipe and Luana Gusso. "Becoming Brazilian: The Making of National Identity Through Football." *The International Journal of Sport and Society* 8.2 (2017): 37-49.

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

Barnes, John. *Evita, First Lady: A Biography of Eva Perón*. Grove, 2007.

Fitch, Melissa. *Global Tangos: Travels in the Transnational Imaginary*. Bucknell UP, 2015.

Foster, David William; Lockhart, Darrell, and Fitch, Melissa. *Culture and Customs of Argentina*. Greenwood Press, 1998.

Fraser, Nicholas. *Evita: The Real Lives of Eva Peron*. Andre Deutsch, 2003.

Martínez, Tomás Eloy. *The Tango Singer*. Bloomsbury, 2007.

Pron, Patricio. *My Father's Ghost is Climbing in the Rain: A Novel*. Vintage, 2014.

Wilson, Jonathan. *Angles with Dirty Faces: How Argentinian Soccer Defined a Nation and Changed the Game Forever*. Bold Type Books, 2016.

Brazil

Albuquerque, Severino, and Kathryn Bishop-Sanchez, eds. *Performing Brazil: Essays on Culture, Identity, and the Performing Arts*. Madison: U of Wisconsin P, 2015.

Amado, Jorge. *Jubiabá*. 1935. Trans. Margaret A. Neves. New York: Bard/Avon Books, 1984.

- . *Gabriela, Clove, and Cinnamon*. 1958. Trans. James L. Taylor and William L. Grossman. New York: Vintage, 2006.
- . *The Double Death of Quincas Water-Bray*. 1961. Trans. Gregory Rabassa. New York: Penguin Classics, 2012.
- . *Dona Flor and her Two Husbands*. 1966. Trans. Harriet de Onís. New York: Vintage, 2006.
- Bastide, Roger. *The African Religions of Brazil*. 1960. Trans. Helen Sebba. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2007.
- Central Station* (film). Dir. Walter Salles. 1998.
- Coutinho, Edilberto. *Bye, Bye Soccer*. 1980. Trans. Wilson Loria. 2006.
- da Matta, Roberto. *Carnivals, Rogues, and Heroes: An Interpretation of the Brazilian Dilemma*. Notre Dame: U of Notre Dame P, 1992.
- Durand, Alain-Philippe. "Jorge Amado." *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. Vol. 307. *Brazilian Writers*. Eds. Monica Rector and Fred Clark. Columbia, SC: Brucoli, 2004. 26-39.
- . "Jorge Amado and Albert Camus: Formative Literary Visions and Prewar Politics" (Co-Authoring with Ralph Schoolcraft III). *PMLA* 124.3 (2009): 918-25.
- . "The French Jorge Amado." *Romance Notes* 50.2 (2010): 191-202.
- Gabriela* (film). Dir. Bruno Barreto. 1984.
- Goldblatt, David. *Futebol Nation: The Story of Brazil Through Soccer*. New York: Nation Books, 2014.
- Green, James N., Victoria Langland, and Lilia Moritz Schwarcz. *The Brazil Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Durham: Duke UP, 2019.
- Levi-Strauss, Claude. *Tristes tropiques*. Trans John Weightman. New York: Penguin Classics, 2012.
- McGowan, Chris and Ricardo Pessanha. *The Brazilian Sound. Samba, Bossa Nova, and the Popular Music of Brazil*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 2008.
- The Mission* (film). Dir. Roland Joffé. 1986.
- 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: *Argentina: 1985* (film). Dir. Santiago Mitre. Argentina, 2022. Available on Amazon Prime, Netflix, etc.

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: *Tango: Don’t Leave Me* (film) Dir. Carlos Saura. Spain/Argentina, 1998. Available on Amazon Prime, Netflix, etc.

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: *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands* (film). Dir. Bruno Barreto. 1978.

Wednesday October 18 (Durand)

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

Viewings:

Black Orpheus (film). Dir. Marcel Camus. 1959.

City of God (film). Dir. Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund. 2002.

Rio, I Love You (film). Various. 2014.

Syllabus subject to change.