Course Syllabus

History and Human Rights in Argentina
LACB-3005 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Argentina: Social Movements and Human Rights

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description
In this seminar students examine recent Argentine history to contextualize the struggle for human rights that has taken place in the country during the past few years. Students will study Argentina’s political and economic history, placing particular attention on the dictatorship years and the aftermath. Within this exploration, students will focus specifically on human rights abuses and struggles. In particular, students will examine and evaluate the case of special protection rights such as the rights of women, children, and immigrants. The course will be taught in both Buenos Aires and Patagonia.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- Evaluate the historical, political and economic contexts which have led to large-scale social movements in Argentina with specific reference to human rights infringements and challenges.
- Critically analyze the social and legal framework in which (or beyond which) human rights struggles take place and are understood.
- Apply human rights concepts to the organizations visited and cases analyzed.
- Evaluate the special protection cases of women, children and immigrants,
- Discuss human rights in terms of public policy solutions.

Language of Instruction
This course is taught entirely in Spanish. Readings, lectures, discussions, and visits are conducted in Spanish. Some translation will be available in certain cases. Pre-departure assignments can be written in English. Other assignments are to be written in Spanish.

Course Schedule

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers’ availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.
Module 1: Introduction to the History of Argentina

Required Readings:

Session I: Consolidation of the Nation State; the Oligarchic Regime
The first session of the seminar explores a number of topics related to the consolidation of the nation state in Argentina. Students will study the Desert Conquest (La Conquista del Desierto) and the consolidation of the frontiers, as well as the construction of the nation. The session will then analyze oligarchic governments, the social structure of the primary export model, the crisis of the Argentine economic system, and political instability. Students will also look at European immigration, the radical presidencies, and the expansion of citizenship. This session includes a historical city tour.

Session 2: Peronism and the Growth of Urban Space
Session 2 will focus on several areas related to Peronism including: Peronism’s emergence and mass democracy; the labor movement’s incorporation to the national scenario; women’s participation in political activity; Peronism in government: 1946-1955; Peronism’s social and economic policies; the figure of Eva Perón; the September 1955 coup d’état; and the Peronist resistance. This session will also include a historical city tour.

Session 3: Political Instability; Terrorism of State: Civic and Military Coup D’état (Part I)
This session will analyze both political instability and the concepts of civic and military coup d’états. First, the class looks at repression as an instrument of socioeconomic reorganization and the dictatorship and state terrorism. Students will then study the discipline and reorganization of society, the construction of the "other," "subversion," and the "disappeared." The session concludes with the consideration of the effects of dictatorship on society, the evaluation of military and civic military dictatorships, and an introduction to the human rights movement in Argentina. Debates on some movies from the pre-departure assignments will also be included.

Session 4: Political Instability; Terrorism of State: Civic and Military Coup D’état (Part II)
Session 4 will focus on a visit (conducted in English) to the Ex Clandestine Detention Center, Espacio para la Memoria y para la Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (ESMA).

Session 5: History of Argentina through Images
Centered on a guided tour of the History Museum of Argentina, this session will provide a general overview of the museum and the history of Argentina.

Session 6: Democracy, Crisis, and After
This portion of the seminar will look at different topics on the period leading up to and after the Economic Crisis in Argentina, including: Alfonsín and the recuperation of democracy; the Menem era and neoliberalism; Menem's second government; unemployment and corruption; terms of appointment; the “Alliance” government: Fernando de la Rúa’s presidency; the institutional and legitimacy crisis; 2001-2002 Economic Crisis; Nestor Kirchner’s triumph in 2003; Kirchner’s presidency (2003-2007) and its relation to human rights organizations; getting out of the Crisis.

Session 7: Contemporary Problems in Argentina
Session 7 will explore areas of contemporary problems in Argentina, from 2007 to now. First, the class will analyze the Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner presidency in 2007, and the economic, political, and social situation, including “El campo,” the Kircherismo Agenda, human rights, La Cámpora strengthening, the death of Nestor Kirchner, re-election, and the CFK second government. The class then moves on to study the current agenda, including inflation, the stock exchange, insecurity, human rights, Clarín, the Supreme Court and justice, breaking associations, and the 2013 electoral agenda. The session will include a comparative view for electoral results in 2009, 2011, and the preliminary (PASO) in August 2013.

Required Reading:

Session 8: Mid-Term Exam – Module 1

Module 2: Human Rights and the Fight for Justice in Argentina

Required Readings:

Session 9: Basic Concepts of Human Rights
This class will focus on the acknowledgement of universal human rights through legal instruments at different levels, such as the universal human rights system, regional systems (particularly the Interamerican Human Rights System), and its incorporation at the domestic level. We will also discuss the pre-departure exercises and readings related to international and regional systems of the protection of human rights and social, economic, and cultural rights, and introduce a guideline for the visits that will be completed during the week.

Session 10: The New Agenda of Human Rights in Argentina (Part I)
The students will have the opportunity to visit one of three organizations that are fighting for human rights in Argentina today. Each organization represents a different perspective in the struggle for human rights in Argentina. The three organizations could include:

- Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS; Center for Legal and Social Studies)
- Comunidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA; the Homosexual Community of Argentina)
- Madres de Plaza de Mayo

**Session 11: Migrant and Citizenship Rights**
This session will analyze “the right to migrate” as the new paradigm of the human rights discussion, which has been propelled by waves of migration from Latin America, particularly Argentina. Students will debate the role of civil society and government and international structures in order to assure human rights for migrants. This session will also include a visit to the Universidad Nacional de Lanús.

**Session 12: The New Agenda of Human Rights in Argentina (Part II)**
This class will elaborate on the theoretical concepts in the cases seen during the previous two sessions. Based on pre-departure readings, we will review topics related to universal and regional systems of human rights protection and explain how they are incorporated in Argentina. In addition, we will study the interdependence and interrelatedness of human rights and the artificial division between civil and political rights and economic, social, and cultural rights.

**Module 3: Human Rights in the Patagonia Region: Environment and Indigenous Movements**

Required Reading:
Special readings will be included in the Handbook for the Trip to the South.

**Session 13: Main Issues with Human Rights in Patagonia and the Role of EPADHES**
In this class during the excursion to the south, students will be introduced to the issues of human rights in the Patagonia region. They will also meet some members of EPADHES, an organization that helps different social movements in their fight for human rights.

**Session 14: Recuperation of Identity and Territory: The Case of Mapuches in Southern Argentina**
Session 14, which will also take place during the trip to the south, will analyze the Mapuche indigenous group who reside in Southern Argentina.

**Session 15: Environmental Movement and Development; Thinking from a Human Rights Perspective**
The final session of Module 3 will explore environmental considerations from the perspective of human rights.

**Module 4: Final Reflections and Debates on Human Rights**

**Session 16: Final Discussion and Debate**
The final session of the course will focus on final reflections as well as debates on human rights. Students will be required to submit a research paper with concluding synthesis and analysis of course themes. The themes discussed will include:
Capitalism and human rights - Is it possible to coexist?
- Development and Environmental Issues
- Right of Private Property vs Right for Welfare

Are universal human rights possible and desirable?
- Universal vs Minority Rights
- Cultural Relativism

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments:
- Pre-departure Assignments: Prior to the beginning of the program, students will be required to analyze specific movies and read about Argentine history and human rights theory.
- History Exam: The students will be given some basic guidelines for the classes and visits. The history exam will be in a quiz format and will ask questions about the content of the pre-departure reading as well as content from the classes.
- Human Rights Exercise: The students will have to complete a group presentation in relation to the visits to different organizations. Each student will also apply different concepts analyzed in class and in the readings to the organization.
- Final Group Debate: Each student will choose a topic to debate and also a position to defend. We will end the semester with a trial where each group defends its position and gives support from a theoretical and real world perspective.
- Participation: Participation refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active participation in all classes, discussions, excursions, and other activities. It also means appropriate and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of students’ participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Assessment:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-departure Assignments</td>
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<td>History Exam</td>
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Grading Scale
- 94-100% A
- 90-93% A-
- 87-89% B+
- 84-86% B
- 80-83% B-
- 77-79% C+
- 74-76% C
- 70-73% C-
- 67-69% D+
- 64-66% D
- below 64 F
Expectations and Policies
- **Show up prepared.** Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- **Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done according to the specified requirements.** This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- **Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer.** You should keep in mind that the lecturers are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- **Comply with academic integrity policies.** No plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical.
- **Respect differences of opinion.** This includes the opinions of classmates, lecturers, and local constituents that you interact with during visits. You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

**Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook** for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.