

PEAL 322: Argentine Literature

Universidad de Belgrano

60 contact hours / 4 semester credits. This class meets twice a week for 90 minutes each session.

This course is taught in Spanish.

Pre-requisite: minimum Intermediate level of Spanish.

Course Description

The course examines Argentine literature starting with its role in the construction of national identity in the 19th century. Esteban Echeverría's short story "The Slaughterhouse", written in 1839 but not published until 1871, illustrates the conflict between gauchos, Indians and government. However, it is José Hernández's "Martín Fierro" (1872), an epic poem depicting the plight of the all-but-vanished gaucho minority, which is to become problematic when appropriated by the literary establishment.

The course also looks at the literary avant-garde of the twenties (Oliverio Girondo, Alfonsina Storni, Jorge Luis Borges, Roberto Arlt) and its relationship with the city of Buenos Aires, as well as literary testimonies of the 1976-1983 military dictatorship in Argentina and discusses the place of literature in the national memory. Finally, we consider some new literary phenomena: blogs, virtual publications, and the problem of copyright in the digital age.