

PEAL 444: Urban Cartographies: the Representation of Latin American Cities (Special Topic)

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

Taking Buenos Aires as a model, this course deals with representations of Latin American cities from the nineteenth century to the present day. Over the past two hundred years, Buenos Aires has behaved almost like a nation, reacting against internal and external threats (farmers, immigration, and progress) and the fantasies of would-be Europeans and Latin Americanists alike.

From *The Great Village* (La gran aldea, 1884) by Lucio V. López to *The Woman who murdered Princess Diana* (La asesina de Lady Di, 2005) by Alejandro Lopez, Buenos Aires has been an object of desire and rejection. Literature, poetry, film, music, photography and painting have all helped to shape, explain, mystify, condense, deny or encourage the city's identity. We will study certain urban types - the dandies, tangueros, knife-fighters, immigrants, professionals and militants that arose in response to cultural adjustments.

Finally, the course reflects on the urban experience of modernity in other Latin American cities which, like Buenos Aires, sometimes think of themselves as lying on the periphery of global culture and needing to construct an identity for themselves on the edge of the world.