

**ADVANCED LEVEL  
WORKSHOP ON ARGENTINE MYTHS AND  
LEGENDS**

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72 contact hours

**Basis**

In all cultures we find stories that are related to the magical or the supernatural. The myths (from the Greek *mythos*, "history") arise within a society in order to give a sense, an orientation, to its members who find, in this way, the confidence in themselves against the powers of nature, of life or of death. It is through these stories that people express what is important and meaningful in their lives.

Latin American culture is characterized by the coexistence of the real and the magical since its birth, when the Spanish conquistadors, dazzled by the exuberance of the new world, needed to resort to a new language to describe it. Reality is populated with fantasy and vice versa, without the limits between them being defined.

In this context, and specifically in Argentina, popular religiosity tends to actually canonize real people, even imaginary ones, to whom the oral tradition attributes true miracles. These stories, which are part of the social imagination and everyday culture, circulate and manifest themselves in various discursive forms: shrines, offerings, street inscriptions, oral legends, journalistic programs, film, tales and novels, and thus cross the entire social structure.

Valued as myths or legends, called superstition by some, esteemed as religious or pagan beliefs by others, of long-standing or recent formation, they acquire the symbolic power of the identity-building story. Among these stories, we have chosen some examples associated with certain figures of relevance in Argentine culture, which condense within them a series of traits which can be observed and discussed from different theoretical viewpoints.

In both identity and cultural narratives, they are appropriate for use in Spanish classes for foreigners, as they provide the necessary cultural framework for language learning.

**Objetives**

**General objective:**

- Analyze the magical reality present in the myths and legends of Argentina.

**Specific objectives:**

- Become familiar with the characteristics of popular culture of Argentina.
- Analyze a selection of cases.

- To improve the teaching of the use of Spanish as a foreign language, so that the students can communicate flexibly and effectively in social, academic and professional contexts, both orally and in writing.
- Can maintain an informal conversation with a lot of fluency and spontaneity over a long period of time, and discuss abstract and cultural issues with enough vocabulary, with no obvious signs of effort to find the right expression.
- Can understand a wide variety of extensive, demanding texts, as well as recognize implicit meanings in them.
- Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed texts of a certain length on topics of some complexity, showing a correct use of the mechanisms of organization, articulation and cohesion of the text, selecting the appropriate style according to the receiver and the text function.

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### **Discursive content:**

#### **Coherence and cohesion:**

- Cohesive processes: grammatical and lexical cohesion.
- Cohesion based on textual coherence.
- Connectors: Types and Uses.

#### **Types of text:**

- Conventionally structured genres: formulas, formal and informal letters.
- Narrative texts: basic characteristics of the narrative, the journalistic chronicle.
- Descriptive texts: Literary or scientific description, expository essay.
- Argumentative texts: outline, resources and argumentation procedures; the essay, the experimental report, the editorial commentary, the letter to mass media.
- Explanatory texts: Instructional forms.
- Dialogue texts: The Interview.
- Texts that make an appeal: Advertising

### **Contenidos**

- **Introduction: Legends and myths.** Rites. Argentine myths: popular saints. Superstitious popular beliefs. The cabals.
- **MODULE I: The Magical Reality.** The meeting of two worlds: Columbus and the conquest of America. American exuberance. Magical realism.
- **MODULE II: Indigenous culture in Argentina.** Indigenous peoples. Characteristics. The legend: Yerba mate legend. Mate and its meaning.
- **MODULE III: Mother Earth.** The Incas and the Pachamama. The celebration. Pachamama and death. Man's relationship with the land. Folklore.
- **MODULE IV: The deceased Correa.** The mother in Argentinean culture. The concept of "mother" in music. Deolinda Correa. The Sanctuary.

- **MODULE V: The miraculous *gauchos*.** The figure of the *gaucho*. The *gaucho* and his culture. *Gauchesca* literature. Popular beliefs: The bad light and the *Lobisón*. *El Gauchito Gil* and the claims of the poorest. History. Ways to venerate him throughout the country.
- **MODULE VI: The Argentine comic: The myth of the hero.** The birth of the comic book. The hero's myth. The hero's way. The birth of the "Superhéroe". The *indio Patoruzú*: the first "superhero". *Patoruzito*.
- **MODULE VII: Urban legends.** Icons of Buenos Aires. Hidden Legends of the *Recoleta*.
- **MODULE VIII: Urban myths.** Carlos Gardel: Immortality. Buenos Aires at the time of Gardel. Curiosities of the early TWENTIETH century. Rodrigo: The phenomenon repeats itself.
- **MODULE IX: Urban myths.** Eva Perón: a fairy tale. Her life. Her death. The myth.
- **MODULE X: Diego Maradona: The Argentinian God.** His life. The national hero. The Maradonian church.