

Buenos Aires: City of the Arts

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: ARGN 3011

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Contact Hours: 45 hours

Instructor: Onsite Faculty

Course Description

This course focuses on the art and architecture of Argentina. Learn about the different artistic movements in the country and visit museums, private art collections, and public monuments. The city becomes your classroom. At the same time, get a broader perspective of world art that serves as a background for a better understanding of the art and architectural scene in Argentina throughout the past 300 years.

Course Objectives

The main objective of the course is for the students to get to know the Argentine Art and Architecture from the beginning of its history until the current days, and to show the influence of foreign styles, mainly European, in local art.

Methodology

In class, students acquire knowledge about the subject that will be developed on site visits to monuments, museums, etc related to the topic. At the beginning of each class a review will be conducted. Students are expected to have read the corresponding bibliography for each class and to participate actively.

Required Reading / Materials

- Pacheco, Marcelo. "An approach to Social Realism in Argentine Art 1875 – 1945."

- Malosetti Costa, Laura “Poetic Painting in Picturesque Poetry between Literature and Visual Arts in the Emergence of National Symbolic Repertoires in the XIX Century River Plate Area”
- Guide Museo Nacional de Arte Decorativo.
- Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts, n° 18. "Argentine Architecture of the 30s", by Ernesto Katzenstein
- Catalog of Art from Argentina, 1920- 1994. Museum of Modern Art, Oxford.
- Entre el Silencio y La Violencia , 2004. Essays by: Mercedes Casanegra, Daniel Link, Oscar Teran, Silvia Dolinko Catalog of the Exhibition: Inverted Utopias, Institute of Fine Arts, Houston.

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Midterm Paper	40%
Final paper	40%
Class Participation	10%
Attendance	10%
Overall grade	100%

Assessment Details

- a) **First half of the course** (Aboriginal Population of Argentina BC to 19th century art and architecture): paper describing one of the sites or institutions visited during the course study. The paper must include an architectural description of the building/site (including historical references), purpose of the building (e.g. museum, church, government house, etc.) and its importance as a landmark. The paper will be graded considering the overall description, terminology, research as well as editing and grammar.
- b) **20th century and contemporary art:** brief written text, where the students will be asked to compare two different art pieces from two different preeminent Argentine masters. Students will also be provided with the images of those art pieces and given a half hour to write about them. Students will be asked to find differences and similarities in subject matter, concerns and styles. There will also be an interview for students to talk about their writing. Understanding of basic notions in terms of period, styles and artists' concerns as a reflection of events of the times will be key. The right use of the arts vocabulary and jargon will also be in serious consideration, and students will be made aware of this during the course.

Unit 1

Introduction

Unit 2

History of Buenos Aires. Characteristics of Colonial architecture in Latin America and characteristics of Colonial architecture in Buenos Aires and Uruguay. Building techniques.

- General characteristics of European movements in Architecture: Classical cultures, Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo.

Suggested Readings

- History of the City of Buenos Aires and its Architecture. (Introduction to Construction techniques)

Unit 3

Colonial Painting and sculpture. Native Indigenous societies.

- Visit: Plaza de Mayo, San Ignacio, Santo Domingo, Editorial Estrada

Suggested Readings

- History of the City of Buenos Aires and its Architecture. (Colonial city to Cathedral)

Unit 4

Colonial Art: Colonial Painting and Sculpture. Neo-Colonial Architecture.

- Visit: Museo Fernández Blanco. Iglesia del Pilar

Suggested Readings

- Grementieri/Versraeten “Buenos Aires. Architectural Heritage” (Colonial Period)
- History of the City of Buenos Aires and its Architecture. (Iglesia del Pilar, Colonial Painting, Colonial Image makers, Museo Fernández Blanco.)

Unit 5

Native populations before the colonial period: Selknam, Inca, Mapuche, Ona civilizations.

- Visit: Museo Etnográfico

Suggested Readings

- History of the City of Buenos Aires and its Architecture. (Indigenous Local Societies)

Unit 6

Architecture of the 19th Century. Architecture of the first half of the 20th Century.

- Visit: Cathedral

Suggested Readings

- History of the City of Buenos Aires and its Architecture. (Emancipation Period to The Northern Hemisphere trends in architecture during the 19th and 20th centuries. Romanticism or Historicism Architecture, Realism Architecture, Art Nouveau, Art Deco)
- Grementieri/Verstaeten “Buenos Aires. Architectural Heritage”(Neoclassicism)

Unit 7

Architecture of the first half of 20th Century. Different rooms and styles. The French influence. The aristocratic project of Buenos Aires.

- Visit: Museo Nacional de Arte Decorativo (Palacio Errázuriz).

Suggested Readings

- Grementieri/Verstaeten “Buenos Aires. Architectural Heritage” (Buenos Aires, the multiple heritage of the Western World)
- National Museum of Decorative Arts, Museum’s Guide

Unit 8

Carlos E. Pellegrini, Prilidiano Pueyrredón, Cándido López. The 80’s generation, the founding of Art Institutions. Eduardo Sívori, Eduardo Schiaffino, Ernesto de la Cárcova, Giudici, Della Valle.

- Visit: Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes

Suggested Readings

- Malosetti Costa, Laura "Poetic Painting in Picturesque Poetry between Literature and Visual Arts in the Emergence of National Symbolic Repertoires in the 19th Century River Plate Area" Pacheco, Marcelo. "An approach to Social Realism in Argentine Art 1875 – 1945." (Pgs. 126-132)

Unit 9

MIDTERM EXAM

Unit 10

Architecture of the first half of 20th Century. Palacio Paz, Avenida de Mayo, Obelisco, Congreso Nacional, Kavanagh building

- **Visit: Palacio Barolo**

Suggested Readings

- History of the City of Buenos Aires and its Architecture. (Palacio Barolo)
- Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts, n° 18. "Argentine Architecture of the 30s," by Ernesto Katzenstein
- Grementieri/Verstaeten "Buenos Aires. Architectural Heritage"(Art Nouveau, Art Decó, Rationalism)

Unit 11

BREAK

Unit 12

The early Avant-garde: Emilio Pettoruti and Xul Solar.

- **Visit: Xul Solar Museum**

Suggested Readings

- Catalog of Art from Argentina, 1920- 1994, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford.

Unit 13

Formal Renewal and Social Concerns in 20th Argentine Century Art. Spilimbergo, Berni, Forner, Quinquela Martín, Guttero

- **Visit: Museo de Bellas Artes**

Suggested Readings

- Pacheco, Marcelo. "An approach to Social Realism in Argentine Art 1875 – 1945." Catalog of Art from Argentina, 1920- 1994, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford.

Unit 14

Berni. The Sixties in Buenos Aires: The Neo-figurative Painters, Geometrical Art, the Di Tella Institute. The Latin American context.

- **Visit: Museo de Arte Latinoamericano, Coleccion Constantini**

Suggested Readings

- Catalog of Art from Argentina, 1920- 1994, ,Museum of Modern Art, Oxford

Unit 15

FINAL EXAM

Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).