CIEE Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course title: Body, Gender, and Sexuality in Argentina: Representations, Experiences, Social Movements, and Politics

Course code: LAST 3009 AFLA / GEND 3002 AFLA

Programs offering course: Liberal Arts, Summer Language and Culture, Undergraduate Research—Globalization and Development

Language of instruction: Spanish

U.S. semester credits: 3.00

Contact hours: 45.00

Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

This course examines basic concepts and perspectives in gender studies and sexuality studies in Latin America. It proposes a multidisciplinary approach that intersects sex and gender with others social constructions of difference such as race/ethnicity, class, age and religion. By focusing on social and political debates related to sexual and reproductive rights in Argentina (birth control, abortion, equal marriage, gender identities), it investigates issues relating to social constructions around Latin American masculinities ("machismo"), the history of feminist and LGTB movements in Argentina and their agendas. Through the readings, activities, and assignments, students will develop tools to critically analyze how social and cultural forces shape us as gendered individuals in the context of the world in which we live.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Examine the relations between gender, sexuality, culture and politics in contemporary Argentina
- Integrate critical vocabulary in the field of gender and sexuality studies to oral and written skills
- Research issues relating to social constructions around Latin American feminism and masculinities ("machismo"), the history of feminist and LGTB movements in Argentina and their agenda

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

The course features a combination of methods and strategies designed to engage meaningfully the students’ attention, and to allow them to acquire the major skills the course intends to develop in a progressive and practical way. The main frame for the course is provided by a series of classes presented by the instructor. In many cases, special guests will be brought to the classes, specialists in the area or point being discussed or major actors involved in the events or processes under discussion. This will be complemented and enriched by a series of additional activities including visits to a museums, and a memory site.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Film review 15%
2. Midterm 25%
3. Photo Essay 15%
4. Final Exam 25%
5. Participation 20%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Film review
Midterm

Students will have to answer three questions and will be graded based on the quality of the analysis and the capacity to summarize the main conceptual frameworks of the bibliographic material.

Photo Essay

It will be about a topic analyzed during the course (feminist/LGTB movement, illegal abortion, argentinean recent history, “machismo”, etc.). Each presentation must include 3 original photos and critical thinking, reflections, and some comparison between their previous knowledge and how it was challenged (or not) throughout this course. Creativity will be encouraged.

Final Exam

Students will have to answer three questions and will be graded based on the quality of the analysis and the capacity to summarize the main conceptual frameworks of the bibliographic material.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on cocurricular and outside-of-classroom activities. Each student is expected to actively participate in class, and this is absolutely necessary for the effective functioning of the course as well as for individual progress. Participation and the investment of an appropriate amount of time in the preparation of each session will be taken into account in the determination of final grades. The course will provide – on a class-to-class basis – short analytical exercises in which the students are expected to produce a grounded, meaningful and theoretically informed analysis of an assigned reading, or a brief situation given by the instructor.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will
Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: 1.1 Orientation Week

The first class will begin with the course presentation, including goals, activities and evaluation methods. It continues with a class conversation about expectations and personal involvement in the subject of the course. Instructor will present key concepts as gender and sexuality. Then each student will write their first personal impression about gender roles in Buenos Aires and will be encouraged to share them in the class. Instructor will keep those writings to go back to them at the end of the course.

Reading: Eleonor Faur, « Guerreras », Revista Anfibia (article piece)

Week 2
Class: 2.1 Latin America during Cold War: the sexual revolution in Buenos Aires

This class will focus in gendered aspects of socio cultural modernization in Argentina, focusing in the ways that sexual revolution took place in Buenos Aires. We focus in the role of youth as symbols of modern changes in gender roles and sexual practices; they also served as a lightning rod for the dreams and anxieties of experts and rulers.


Week 3
Class: 3.1 Bodies under the state terrorism: repression and resistances

In this class, we will see the film Infancia Clandestina (2011) with the intention to focus in the interaction among paradigms of sexual revolution and political revolution in left wing movements. We will also discuss some gender patterns developed by state terrorism during repression and the role of Madres de Plaza de Mayo.

Required Reading: Cosse, 2017

Screening of Infancia Clandestina. Directed by Benjamin Avila, 2011

Week 4
Class: 4.1 Site visit to ESMA, current Memory Site

Required reading: Webpage of the site http://www.espaciomemoria.ar/english.php

Due: Film Review

Week 5
Class: 5.1 Second Wave feminism and beginnings of LGBT movement

This class will focus in the origins of second wave feminism in Argentina and the connection to U.S. feminism. We will also analyze the impacts of Stonewall Riots in the first gay organization: the Homosexual Liberation Front of Argentina (FLH).


Week 6
Class: 6.1 Revisiting “machismo”

In this class we will discuss historical meanings of “machismo” and common description about masculinities in Latin America. In small groups students will discuss different situations and reflect about cultural backgrounds and gender discrimination.

Required Reading: Gutmann (2002)

Week 7
**Week 8**

Class: 8.1  Sex Education

In this class, we will analyze the different approaches in sex education. We will also compare experiences at schools in U.S. and Argentina.

Required reading: Graciela Morgade, Jesica Baez, Susana Zattara, Gabi Díaz Villa (2011)

**Week 9**

Class: 9.1  Illegal Abortion in Argentina: why, what for and until when?

In this class instructor will present historical background to understand legal and socio political situation related to abortion in Argentina.


**Week 10**

Class: 10.1  Battles for Equal marriage and LGBT rights

In this class we will reconstruct the historical process that ended with same marriage in 2010. We will start with the origins of gay and lesbian movement in Argentina during the 70s, their organization in the 80s, the influence of AIDS in their structures and their battles in the 90s. We will give some reasons to understand why same sex marriage is possible nowadays in Argentina and main demands included in LGBT agendas.

Required Reading: Meccia (2018).

Guest speaker: Daniel Jones

**Week 11**

Class: 11.1  Sex work and women trafficking: are they always in line?

In this class we will discuss a topic that divides feminism in different part of the world: can be prostitution considered a (sexual) work or is a sexual exploitation? A guest speaker, academic from the University of Buenos Aires, specialist in this topic will present the most important positions in current debates in the Argentine society about this topic. Questions and opinions from the students will be strongly encouraged.


Guest Speaker: Santiago Morcillo

**Week 12**

Class: 12.1  Catholic and Christian churches

The class will begin with a short presentation of the instructor about historical relations between Catholic Church and Argentinean State. Then the instructor will present current debates around abortion and the importance of Pope Francisco in this debate.

Required Readings: Vaggione, 2015

**Week 13**

Class: 13.1  New Paradigms

In this class we will discuss new paradigms in courtship and (hetero)sexual relations. We will question the prevalence of romantic love paradigm and the influences of new technologies in love and sex.

**Week 14**

Class: 14.1 Display of photo essays

During this class, students will present their final projects. Each student or group will have enough time for their presentation in order to expose their works and receive other student’s comments and questions. Closing remarks will be done for instructor.

**Due: Photo Essay**

**Week 15**

Class: 15.1 Final Exam

Instructor will give 3 questions to be answer during time class.

**Due: Final Exam**

**Course Materials**

**Readings**


PALUMBO, Mariana; Marentes, Maximiliano y Boy, Martín (2016), “ “Me clavó el visto”: Los jóvenes y las esperas en el amor a partir de las nuevas tecnologías”, Astrolabio, n. 17, pp. 307 - 330


**Media Resources**