

Travel Seminar to Argentina and Chile with Skidmore Faculty

For information on the cost and travel logistics of TX 202, contact Lisa Hobbs at Office of International Programs (OIP) at 580-5355.

For information on the IA program, contact Professor Mary-Beth O'Brien, Director of International Affairs at 580-5216.



“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.” Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad* (1869) Chapter LXII



Skidmore College

*Over the Andes and
Towards the Sea:*

*From La Plata and Buenos Aires to
Santiago and Valparaíso*



TX 202: IA Faculty-led Travel Seminar to Argentina and Chile

January 4-20, 2008

FACULTY

PROFESSOR PATRICIA RUBIO
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PROFESSOR ALDO VACS
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Travel Seminar to Argentina and Chile

Over the Andes and Towards the Sea is a two-course (3 credits total) learning experience combining class work and readings on campus during the Fall semester and a field trip with class work and lectures in Argentina and Chile during January break. TX 201 Faculty-Led Travel Seminar (1 credit) is the travel segment of the experience. TX 202B Regional Topics (2 credits) is the on-campus segment. Students must be registered for TX 202 in order to qualify for the travel seminar TX 201.

Why the Southern Cone?

Why did Argentina's and Chile's republican development differ profoundly after 1810, the year both colonies became republics? How was their divergent colonial past responsible for such differences? How did Buenos Aires become the "Queen of the River Plate" and Santiago the hub for Spanish American intellectual development in the 19th century? How did the modern Argentinian elites of the late 19th and 20th centuries turn their capital into the "Paris of South America"? What were the factors that impeded Santiago to live up to its mid- and late 19th century glorious past by the time Chile celebrated its first centenary as a Republic? This seminar examines key themes in Argentinian and Chilean politics, economic development and culture by focusing on four cities: Buenos Aires and La Plata in Argentina, and Santiago and Valparaíso in Chile. We will focus on both the 19th and 20th centuries; on the emergence of a strong middle and organized working class, the growing participation of women, the impact of immigration and the development of cultural landscapes with vibrant literature, music and art. We will examine the rise of political democracies and their abrupt end with the military dictatorships of the '70s. We will also study the emergence of La Plata as the first planned city in Latin America, and Valparaíso's rise as the most important city in Latin America's Pacific coast due to the influx of commerce from the Atlantic to the Pacific and vice versa before the construction of the Panama Canal.

Preliminary Travel Schedule

Subject to change

- Day 1:** Depart from NYC for Buenos Aires
Day 2: Old Buenos Aires: Power and Stability . Visit to Plaza de Mayo, Casa Rosada, Cathedral and Cabildo. Tour of San Telmo neighborhood
Day 3: Visit to Manzana de las Luces, Convent and Church of Santo Domingo and the City Museum.
Day 4: The transformation of Buenos Aires into a modern city. Visit to Recoleta, Palermo, Belgrano.
Day 5: The city under the authoritarian regime. Visit to Museum of the Memory and train travel to Tigre neighborhood on the delta of the Parana River..
Day 6: Immigration, diversity and culture. Visit to La Boca, Teatro Colón, Corrientes. Tango show.
Day 7: La Plata: the planned city. Walking tour of Plaza Moreno, Municipal Palace, the University.
Day 8: The city and the estancia. Visit to an *estancia* found in the 18th century.
Day 9: Departure for Santiago, hotel check-in. Visit to Cerro San Cristóbal, Costanera.
Day 10: Architectural changes and public art: Visit to Iglesia San Francisco, Biblioteca Nacional, Estación Mapocho, Mercado Municipal.
Day 11: The city under siege: the military dictatorship. Visit: La Moneda Palace, Plaza de Armas, Museo Salvador Allende, Neruda's house.
Day 12: The center vs. the margins. Visit to Providencia, Las Condes, La Dehesa, Nuñoa and La Pintana.
Day 13: Travel to Valparaíso. Visit to wineries in Casablanca. Cerro Alegre and cultural paseos.
Day 14: Valparaíso, Puerto de Santiago: Visit to 3 ascensores, Neruda's La Sebastiana, Open sky museum.
Day 15: Valparaíso, Chile's legislative center? Visit to the Congreso Nacional, Viña del Mar, return to Santiago.
Day 16: Santiago, a class conscious city. Visit to the "barrio alto" and a "población" Return to the United States.
Day 17: Back in the U.S.

Anticipated Costs

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar to Argentina and Chile is \$3900 (may fluctuate). This includes roundtrip airfare from NY to Argentina/ Chile, all ground transportation onsite, onsite accommodations with double occupancy, 2 meals a day, medical insurance, entrance and performance fees, local guides, cultural excursions, Skidmore IA faculty onsite, and the support of Skidmore's OIP. The fee does not include personal expenses.

Skidmore Faculty

Patricia Rubio is Professor of Spanish and Chair of Foreign Languages and Literatures. A Chilean native, she completed her Licenciatura in Hispanic Literatures at the Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, and received her Ph.D. in Hispanic Literatures from the University of Alberta, Canada. She teaches Spanish language, Spanish American Literature and Culture, and Women's Studies. Her primary research interests are in Chilean women writers of the 20th and 21st centuries. She has edited *Entre mujeres: colaboraciones, influencias e intertextualidades en la literatura y el arte latinoamericanos* (2005), *Escritoras chilenas: novela y cuento* (2001), and *Gabriela Mistral ante la crítica: Bibliografía anotada* (1995). Currently she is editing a collection of José Donoso's essays published in the Spanish press during the 70s and 80s.

Aldo Vacs is Professor of Government. An Argentine native, he holds degrees in political science, sociology, and economic policies and planning and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Pittsburgh. He teaches Latin American politics and relations with the U.S., international political economy, and diplomatic negotiations. His research interests are focused on Latin America's international relations and policies, democratization processes, and international political economic issues. His publications include *Discreet Partners: Argentina and the USSR since 1917* (1984), "Between Restructuring and Impasse: Liberal Democracy, Exclusionary Policy Making, and Neoliberal Programs in Argentina and Uruguay," (1998); "Argentina: Between Confrontation and Alignment,"(2003); and "Coping with the General's Long Shadow on Chilean Democracy" (2006).

Application

Applications are available from Professor Rubio in PMH 413, Professor Vacs in Ladd 319 or OIP in Starbuck. Application Deadline is April 15, 2007. Applicants are required to submit a \$250 non-refundable deposit at time of application to hold their space on the program. (100% refundable if not accepted to program). This deposit will be applied to program fee.