

TX 201B: Across the Andes and towards the Pacific. From La Plata and Buenos Aires to Santiago and Valparaíso



Prof. Aldo Vaccs
Phone: 580-5249
Ladd 309 211
avaccs@skidmore.edu

Prof. Patricia Rubio
Phone: 580-5219
PMH 413
prubio@skidmore.edu

“Across the Andes and towards the Pacific. From La Plata and Buenos Aires to Santiago and Valparaíso” is a two-course learning experience combining meetings and readings on campus during the fall semester, a field trip with meetings and lectures in Argentina and Chile during Christmas break, and a final presentation to the College community upon return.

TX201B is the classroom segment of the experience. Students do not have to register for TX202 in order to take this course. TX 201B and TX 202 taken together as a 3 credit experience can count toward the IA major and minor as the Cultural World requirement.

Course Expectations

Aims: The course aims to familiarize students with some of the key themes and conflicts in Argentina's and Chile's cultural, political, economic and social development through intensive and interactive study of the history and development of La Plata and Buenos Aires, Santiago and Valparaíso.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

To provide students with a basic understanding and general knowledge about the politics, economics and culture of Argentina and Chile in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Themes include:

- I. The Southern Cone region spans the international borders between the present-day Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. Both countries share the same language, distinctive colonial pasts, and similar social stratification. They differ in terms of their size and geographical challenges and opportunities as well as their demographics, and their cultural, economic and political development. Students will learn to distinguish between those phenomena that are nation-specific and those that are transnational.
- II. Students will learn about the impact of politics and the Catholic Church on the cultural, intellectual and artistic development of both countries and their main cities.
- III. Students will appreciate the importance and problems with centralization by comparing the development and history of Buenos Aires and Valparaíso. Although both are port cities, only Buenos Aires' economic, cultural and political importance has continued to grow, while Valparaíso's glow and importance succumbed to Santiago's power shortly after the opening of the Panama Canal.
- IV. Students will focus on the political and economic forces that led to the brutal military dictatorships of the 70s and 80s, and the heroic opposition championed by the Madres de Plaza de Mayo (Mothers of the Plaza) in Buenos Aires, and the Mujeres por la Vida (Women for Life) movement in Santiago. Both groups identified and occupied the central historical areas as the main arenas of their confrontation with the authoritarian regimes.
- V. Students will examine the impact of immigration in the development of cultures and societies different from their own.

Critical Skills

- To develop critical and comparative reading skills by introducing students to both primary and secondary sources.
- To enhance ability of students to read and think critically about scholarly writing by examining a variety of texts from different theoretical and interpretative perspectives.
- To develop better oral and written communication skills as they pertain to the study of the politics and culture in Argentina and Chile.
- To foster an awareness of the importance of debate in scholarly writing and knowledge.

Evaluation:

- *Participation in class discussions* (15%). All students will be expected to come to class, keep up with weekly readings and participate in class discussions. 5% will be assigned for attendance, 10% for participation, which may include in-class quizzes on an occasional basis, as well as brief in-class and homework writing assignments on readings and films.

- *Film paper* (15%). Students will write one 3-4 page paper (750-1000 words) on one of the three films discussed in class.
- *Essays* (70%). Two 3 to 5-page (750-1250 words) papers will help students focus on connecting critical reading with providing clear, well-written, well-argued and concise written argument (20% each). One 6 to 8 page (1500-2000 words) comparative essay on a topic that connects, compares and contrasts themes and/or issues pertaining to the Argentinian and Chilean cities in question (30%).

Bibliography

Required Films:

Camila (Luisa Bernberg, 1984)

Official Story (Luis Puenzo, 1985)

Missing (Costa Gavras, 1982)

Selected Readings from:

Jeremy Adelman, *Republic of Capital: Buenos Aires and the Legal Transformation of the Atlantic World* (Stanford, Calif. : Stanford University Press, 1999)

Marjorie Agosin, *Scraps of Life: Chilean Arpilleras* (Toronto: Willimas-Wallace Publishing, 1988)

Arturo Almandoz, *Latin America's Capital Cities (1850-1950)* (New York: Routledge, 2002)

Alejandra Barahoha, *Human Rights and Democratization in Latin America: Uruguay and Chile* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997)

Andrés Bello, *Selected Writings* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998)

Jorge Luis Borges, "Fundación Mitológica de Buenos Aires" (Mythical Foundation of Buenos Aires) in Jorge Luis Borges, *Biblioteca Personal* (Madrid : Alianza Editorial, 1997)

Ariel Dorfman, *Death and the Maiden* (New York: Penguin, 1994)

Simon Collier et al., *Tango! : The Dance, the Song, the Story* (New York, N.Y. : Thames and Hudson, 1995)

Julio Cortázar, "Las Puertas del Cielo" in Julio Cortázar, *Todos los fuegos el fuego* (Buenos Aires, Editorial Sudamericana, 1966) *All the Fires the Fire*

Margarita Feitlowitz, *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture* (New York : Oxford University Press, 1987)

Donna Guy, *Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1991)

Ana Igareta, "Civilization and Barbarism: When Barbarism Builds Cities", *International Journal of Historical Archeology* 9:3 (September 2005)

David Keeling, *Buenos Aires: Global Dreams, Local Crises* (Chichester ; New York : Wiley, 1996)

José Victorino Lastarria, *Literary Memoirs* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000)

Asunción Lavrin, *Women, Feminism, and Social Change: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995)

Brian Loveman, "Military Dictatorship and Political Opposition in Chile, 1973-1986." *Journal of InterAmerican Studies and World Affairs* 28, No. 4 1987: 1-38.

"Government and Regime Succession in Chile," *Third World Quarterly*, 10:1 (January 1988): 260-280.

Tomas Eloy Martínez, *Santa Evita* (New York: Vintage, 1997)

Julio Morosi, "La Plata: An Advanced 19th Century Modern Town", *Planning Perspectives* 18:1 (January 2003)

James Petras, "Road Warriors", *Resource Center of the Americas* (September 8, 2006)

"The Unemployed Workers Movement in Argentina", *Monthly Review* 53:8 (January 2002)

Mariano Ben Plotkin et al., *Mañana es San Perón: A Cultural History of Perón's Argentina* (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 2002)

- Laura Podalsky, *Specular City: Transforming Culture, Consumption and Space in Buenos Aires, 1955-1973* (Philadelphia : Temple University Press, 2004)
- Bryan Roberts & Alejandro Portes, "Coping With the Free Market City", The Center for Migration and Development - Princeton University, Working Paper # 05-06 (August 2005)
- David Rock, *Argentina, 1516-1982* (Berkeley : University of California Press, 1985)
- Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, *Facundo* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003)
- James Scobie, *Buenos Aires: Plaza to Suburb, 1870-1910* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1974)
- Simpson and Bennett, *The Disappeared and the Mothers of the Plaza* (New York : St. Martin's Press, 1985)
- Aldo Vacs, "Argentina" in Harry Vanden & Gary Prevost (ed.), *Politics of Latin America* (New York, Oxford University Press, 2006)
- Manuel Vicuña. *La belle époque chilena* (Santiago: Sudamericana, 2001)
- Benjamín Vicuña Mackenna. *The Girondins of Chile* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003)
- Villa 31-Retiro, Buenos Aires, "Seventy Years of Struggle for Housing, Land and Liberty", *International Alliance of Inhabitants*, (April 2006)
- Richard Walter. *Politics and Urban Growth in Santiago, Chile* (Stanford: Stanford UP, 2005)
- World Movement for Democracy, "Memoria Abierta and the Museum of Memory", *World Movement for Democracy* (August-September 2006)

Course Schedule

Week 1	
Introduction and Geographical Overview of Argentina and Chile: Geography, Climate, Religion, Demographics	Read: Aldo Vacs, "Argentina" in Vanden & Prevost, "Politics of Latin America"
Week 2	
A Brief History of the Argentina and Chile Argentina under the caudillos: the age of Rosas. Civilization and Barbarism Roundtable discussion: "Camila"	Read: David Rock, "Argentina" D.F. Sarmiento, "Facundo" Chapters 1, 3, and 7. pp. 45-58; 72-78; 116-128. See film: Luisa Bemberg. "Camila"
Week 3 and 4	
European influence in the Development of 19th century Buenos Aires and Santiago	Read: Jeremy Adelman, "Republic of Capital: Buenos Aires and the Legal Transformation of the Atlantic World" Arturo Almandoz: "Urbanization and Urbanism in Latin America: From Haussmann to CIAM in Almandoz, Planning Latin American Cities, pp. 13-44. Ramón Gutiérrez, "Buenos Aires, A great European City" in Almandoz, <i>Planning Latin American Cities</i> , pp.45-74. Fernando Pérez. "Cities within the City: Urban and Architectural Transfers in Santiago de Chile", Almandoz, <i>Planning Latin American Cities</i> , pp. 109-138.
Week 4 and 5	
Santiago, the hub of intellectual development in	Read: José Victorino Lastarria: Excerpts from <i>Literary</i>

Spanish America: Bello, Lastarria and Vicuña Mackenna.	<p><i>Memoirs</i>, pp. 20-50.</p> <p>Benjamín Vicuña Mackenna, "The Girondins of Chile". (Whole book, 42pp).</p> <p>Andrés Bello, <i>Selected Writings</i>, pp. 34-65.</p>
Week 6	
<p>Barbarism and Civilization: Buenos Aires and La Plata during the <i>belle époque</i></p> <p>First 3-5 page paper due</p>	<p>Read: Jorge Luis Borges, "Fundación Mitológica de Buenos Aires" (Mythical Foundation of Buenos Aires)</p> <p>Artemis Cooper et al. <i>Tango</i>, pp. 35-63</p> <p>Donna Guy, <i>Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires</i>, pp. 28-54.</p> <p>James Scobie, "Buenos Aires: Plaza to Suburb 1870-1910", pp. 15-42.</p> <p>Julio Morosi, "La Plata: An Advanced 19th century modern town"</p> <p>Ana Igareta, "When barbarism builds cities"</p>
Week 7	
Santiago and Valparaíso during the belle époque to the mid-20th century	<p>Read: Vicuña. "El club de señoras y el ideal de la domesticidad", pp. 129-160 (to be translated by P. Rubio)</p> <p>Walter: "Politics and Urban Growth in Santiago, Chile", pp. 74-87</p> <p>Lavrin: "Women's Politics and Suffrage in Chile" pp. 286-320</p>
Week 8	
Decline and Recovery: Buenos Aires and La Plata throughout the Great Depression and the Populist Era	<p>Read: Tangos: "Cambalache", "Uno", etc. (translated)</p> <p>Opera: "Evita" (selected songs)</p> <p>Julio Cortázar, "Las Puertas del Cielo" or "Casa Tomada" (short stories, in translation)</p> <p>Mariano Ben Plotkin et al., "Mañana es San Perón: A cultural history of Perón's Argentina", pp. 125-168.</p> <p>Tomás Eloy Martínez, "Santa Evita"; "La Plata becomes Ciudad Eva Perón"</p>
Week 9	
<p>From the "Patria Nueva" to the Unidad</p> <p>Popular Social Unrest and Women's</p> <p>Protagonism In Santiago and Valparaíso</p>	<p>Read: Lavrin, "Labor Feminism: Foundations of Change". Pp. 125-159</p>

during the late 60's and early 70's	
Week 10	
Instability, mobilization and terror: Buenos Aires and La Plata from the 1950s to the 1980s Roundtable discussion of "Official Story" Second 3-5 page paper due	Homework: Read: Laura Podalsky, "Specular City: transforming culture, consumption and space in Buenos Aires, 1955-1973" David Keeling, "Buenos Aires: Global Dreams, Local Crises" Simpson and Bennett, "The disappeared and the Mothers of the Plaza" Margarita Feitlowitz, "A Lexicon of Terror" Film: "Official Story"
Week 11	
Terror, torture and destruction. Consequences of the 17-year Pinochet dictatorship on urban life: the struggle against poverty and for human rights Roundtable discussion of "Missing"	Film: "Missing" Agosin, <i>Scraps of Life</i> pp. 19-66 Barahona. <i>Human Rights and Democratization in Chile</i> , pp. 98-125 Brian Loveman. "Military Dictatorship and Political Opposition in Chile"
Week 12 & 13	
The Return to Democracy in Chile and Argentina and the New Urban Experiences Film paper due (week 12) Last day of classes: Comparative paper due	Argentina: Roberts & Portes, "Coping with the Free Market City" Villa 31-Retiro, Buenos Aires, "Seventy Years of Struggle for Housing, Land and Liberty" World Movement for Democracy, " <i>Memoria Abierta</i> and the Museum of Memory" James Petras, "The Unemployed Workers Movement in Argentina" and "Road Warriors" Chile: Ariel Dorfman. "Death and the Maiden" Brian Loveman, "Government and Regime Succession in Chile,"

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Prof. Aldo Vacs Phone: 580-5249 Ladd 319 avacs@skidmore.edu	Prof. Patricia Rubio Phone: 580-5219 PMH 413 prubio@skidmore.edu
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“Over the Andes Towards the Sea: From La Plata and Buenos Aires to Santiago and Valparaíso” is a two-course learning experience combining meetings and readings on campus during the the fall semester, a field trip with meetings and lectures in Argentina and Chile during Christmas break.

TX201B is the classroom segment of the experience. Students do not have to register for TX202 in order to take this course.

TX202 is the travel segment of the experience. **Students must be registered for TX 201B in order to take this course.**

Course Expectations

Aims: The goal of this two-course learning experience is to familiarise students with some of the key themes and events that have guided and determined Argentinian and Chilean political, cultural and economic development during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Grades will be based on:

- Guided Journal in Argentina and Chile (50%)
- Final Field Report Presentation during Academic Festival or similar panel (50%)

Students must participate fully in the course in order to receive a passing grade. This means attending pre-departure meetings, activities in Argentina and Chile, and participation final field report presentations.

Texts: There will be reading required for this learning experience. The instructors will distribute them previous to departure.

Course Schedule

This course meets on campus in Fall 2007 as well as in the Argentina and Chile from December 1, 2007 to January 15, 2008. The instructors will schedule two separate meetings on Skidmore campus in December to discuss the logistics and the code of conduct for the travel experience and one follow-up meeting upon returning from Argentina and Chile (dates to be determined). While Argentina and Chile are safe places to travel, travelers should proceed with the normal care and good judgment that traveling overseas or in any large city require. A set of guidelines and a college-endorsed code of conduct will be distributed to students before the trip. Students will be required to sign the code of conduct to assure that they are familiar with, and agree to follow, the rules.

Outline subject to change.

Two pre-departure meetings (dates to be determined).

SYLLABUS FOR TRAVEL SEMINAR: BUENOS AIRES AND LA PLATA/SANTIAGO AND VALPARAISO

Day One: Travel from USA to Argentina (overnight flight)

Day Two: Old Buenos Aires: Power and Stability

Arrival in Buenos Aires from New York (usually early in the morning)

Transportation to lodging

Morning: Lecture on “The Foundation and Early Development of Buenos Aires: from the margins to the center” and visit to the traditional center of power: *Plaza de Mayo* and visit to *Casa Rosada*, Cathedral and *Cabildo*.

Lunch in San Telmo neighborhood

Afternoon: Colonial and 19th century Buenos Aires: San Telmo Neighborhood and visit to *Manzana de las Luces* (Enlightenment Square), Convent and Church of Santo Domingo, colonial tunnels, and the City Museum.

Dinner: traditional Argentine food and walk through Palermo neighborhood (Jorge L. Borges’ house; Plaza Cortazar; etc.).

Day Three: The Transformation of the City: Modernity, Growth and Repression.

Morning: Lecture: “Status and Wealth move to the North: the rise of Recoleta, Palermo and Belgrano neighborhoods” (Visits: Recoleta: Cemetery of the Recoleta, Buenos Aires Cultural Centre, National Museum of Arts – Palermo: Botanical Gardens, Rose Garden, Palacio Errazuriz, and Argentine Traditions Museum – Belgrano: Sarmiento Historical Museum, Enrique Larreta Museum, the *Round Church* and access to Sabato’s “world of the blind”)

Lunch in Belgrano’s traditional restaurant

Afternoon: Lecture: “Terror and Memory: the city under the authoritarian regime (1976-1983) and after the return to democracy” – Visit to Museum of the Memory (located in the former Navy School of Mechanics’ clandestine detention and torture center); and train travel to Tigre neighborhood on the delta of the Parana River (the Northern suburbs and the rise of the gated communities, malls, and entertainment; pushing the poor to the margins and creating insecurity)

Dinner: at a Tigre restaurant

Day Four: The Many Faces of Buenos Aires: Ethnicity, Socioeconomic Diversity, and Culture.

Morning: Immigration and Diversity: Lecture on “Immigration and the Rise of a New Buenos Aires” and visit to Italian neighborhood (La Boca).

Lunch: at La Boca *cantina* close to Boca Juniors’ soccer stadium.

Afternoon: The cultural development of Buenos Aires: Lecture on “The Cultural Vicissitudes of Buenos Aires: from tango and European art to rock and Latin American roots” and visit to Teatro Colon, Corrientes and 9 de Julio avenues, and Congress Square.

Dinner: at a theater district restaurant

Day Five: The Planned City: La Plata as Political, Cultural and Administrative Supplement of Buenos Aires (all day)

Lecture on “Under the Shadow of the Metropolis: The creation and Development of La Plata as a Planned City” and visit to La Plata (in the way to La Plata opportunity to see and discuss the industrial district of Avellaneda and the impact on Peronism; in La Plata, comparison with Washington, DC, walking tour and visits to Founding Stone, Plaza Moreno, Municipal Palace,

Dardo Rocha's Museum and street, University of La Plata, and Natural Sciences Museum.
 Lunch in La Plata; traditional barbecue
 Dinner in Buenos Aires: at a tango dancing place.

Day Six: Buenos Aires and the Pampas: The City and the Agricultural Llains (all day)

Visit to an operating *estancia* founded in the late 18th century by a traditional landowning family in the area of Lujan (40 kilometers from Buenos Aires) – Includes observation of agricultural, horse and cattle raising activities; visit to library containing colonial and 19th century Argentine books and documents; and countryside's traditional fare).
 Dinner: in Buenos Aires.

Day Seven: Departure for Santiago, Chile. (morning flight)

Checking into hotel; Lunch at Restaurant Villa Real. Afternoon: an overview of Santiago from Cerro San Cristóbal. The Mapocho River and its historical importance for the development of the city.
 Dinner at a Chilean food restaurant, and after dinner 3-hour outing guided by Paty's two nephews who will give us a tour of the key places of Santiago's night life.

Day Eight: Architectural changes and public art: the dormant capital city comes of age

Day one: Santiago's architectural and social landscape: from the 19th to the 20th centuries:
 Morning: One hour lecture and guided tour by Professor and architect Luis Cano, Universidad de Chile.
 Visit: Cerro Santa Lucía, Plaza de Armas, Iglesia San Francisco, Biblioteca Nacional, Universidad de Chile, Parque Forestal and Museo de Bellas Artes
 Lunch. TBD Discussion of one of Neruda's poems on Santiago.
 Afternoon: Estación Mapocho, Mercado Central, Barrio Bellavista and Neruda's House "La Chascona".
 Dinner: TBD

Seventh Day: The city under siege: Santiago under Military Dictatorship

Morning: One hour lecture by Jorge Montealegre, journalist and Undersecretary of Culture, Ministry of Education. Montealegre, a noted Chilean poet was imprisoned and tortured at the Estadio Nacional in Santiago. Topic of his lecture: "The impact of the coup and the subsequent struggle against the military regime: Santiago's human rights and cultural life." Connections to Costa Gavra's "Missing".
 Visit to La Moneda, where Salvador Allende died, and Villa Grimaldi, noted center of torture and presently a museum.
 Lunch TBD
 Afternoon: Lecture by and discussion with Lotty Rosenfeld, representative of the "Mujeres por la vida Movement", and Pía Barros, noted Chilean feminist writer.
 Dinner: Chilean music and typical *cueca* dancing at "El Parrón" or "Enoteca"

Day Nine: The center vs the margins: high rises, malls and gated communities versus poblaciones and shantytowns

One hour lecture by Paty Rubio: A guided visit of Providencia, Las Condes, La Dehesa, Ñuñoa and La Pintana. Traveling Avenida Américo Vespucio from north to south, one travels through the various socio-economic strata of Santiago. How the city negotiates extreme economic and social differences. Discussion of how the Christian Democratic and the Popular Unity governments began to solve the problems of extreme poor housing.
 Dinner: Barrio Bellavista: a Chilean meal of empanadas and fish soup; after dinner: students who are proficient in Spanish will attend a play; students who are not will attend a musical event.

Day Ten: Travel to Valparaíso. The importance of the Central Valley for the development of Santiago and Valparaíso, and the country in general

Travel to Valparaíso; lecture and visit to two wineries in Casablanca: Veramonte and Casa Lapostolle Vinyards. Lunch at the restaurant in one of the vineyards.

Afternoon: Checking into hotels and visit to the harbor and neighboring “barrios”. The importance of the harbor city for Chile’s economy and culture. Reading: Manuel Peña, *Valparaíso*, pp. 25-35; Manuel Rojas, “The Glass of Milk” (short story)
 Dinner: a Restaurant in Cerro Alegre

Day Eleven: Valparaíso (Puerto de Santiago) a unique city in the Americas: topographical features, historical interest; its importance for the country’s cultural and economic development.

Morning: Lecture and discussion with Manuel Peña Muñoz, professor of literature and author of several books on Valparaíso:
 Guided visit and history of Ascensores (Concepción, Polanco, Artillería). Their importance for everyday life of “porteños”, for the city’s economic development, and their presence in Valparaíso’s art and literature.
 Lunch in a restaurant on Paseo Atkinson in Cerro Alegre.
 Afternoon: Walking tour through the late 19th and early 20th century: British and German immigration to Valparaíso and its evidence in the architecture of Cerros Alegre and Concepción. Paseo Gervasoni, visit to Museo de Pintura Chilena housed in the Bauriza mansion. Valparaíso and contemporary art: a walking tour of the Museo Abierto 15 Murals by painters such as Montecino, Núñez, Bru, Antúnez, Barcia, et al. starting below Neruda’s house (“La Sebastiana”) and moving towards cerro Bellavista.
 Dinner: a restaurant in Cerro Barón

Day Twelve: Valparaíso, Chile’s legislative center?

Morning: Valparaíso as Chile’s legislative center. A visit to the “Congreso”. Discussion of why and how the Pinochet regime physically separated the site of the Executive in Santiago from the Legislative in Valparaíso.
 Lunch in a small restaurant (specializing in fish and seafood) in the Central Market
 Visit to Iglesia La Merced, the oldest Church in Valparaíso (18th century)

Afternoon: Return to Santiago. Checking into hotels, dinner.

Evening: Completion of journals

Day Thirteen and Fourteen: Travel from Santiago to the United States