Course Name: Jorge Luis Borges: Visions of Culture and Knowledge

- Hours of Instruction per Week: 4
- Total weeks: 15
- Total Hours of Instruction: 60
- Courses transferable to ECTS
- Courses transferable to U.S. System
- Recommendation: Advanced written and spoken English

Course Description:
Borges’ vision of the world as a Library of Babel and an Aleph anticipated the information age and the development of the Internet by several decades. However, although Borges can be regarded as the least representative Latin American writer, not all his fictions address universal problems. This course shows how many of his short stories, essays and poems are embedded in and have contributed to the Latin American and Argentine literary traditions. The course also considers Borges’ precursors (Poe, Marcel Schwob and Kafka) and his followers (Donald Barthelme, Italo Calvino and Umberto Eco, among others). Finally, it looks at Borges’ presence in visual culture: film, architecture and art.

Attendance policy:
In accordance with University policies, students are required to have 75% percent attendance in order to take the final exam and have an opportunity to pass the class. Any absences incurred during trips or excursions not organized by the University fall within the 25% limit of absences. An electronic system keeps track of attendance. Students have to slide an electric card every class to comply with attendance policy.

Evaluation Methods:
- In-class Participation 10 %
- Oral Presentation 20 %
- Short Papers (2) 30 %
- Midterm Exam 20 %
- Final Exam 20 %

For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading: check the conversion table for the numerical scale (in orientation kit packet).
Required Textbooks and Materials

(available at UB Bookstore)


Academic Calendar

**Week 1**
Thursday: Borges’s “An Autobiographical Essay” (in collaboration with Norman Thomas di Giovanni) & *The South* by Borges.

**Week 2**
Tuesday: “Borges’s “An Autobiographical Essay”

**Week 3**
Tuesday: *Averroes’ Search & On the Cult of Books* by Borges & *What is a Classic* by J.M. Coetzee....

**Week 4**
Tuesday: Borges and Postmodernity. *A Universal History of Iniquity*.
Thursday: *Imaginary Lives* by Marcel Schwob.
Short paper 1 assigned

**Week 5**
Tuesday: *A Universal History of Infamy*.
OP on Freud’s *The Uncanny* & Ernst Jentsch’s *On the Psychology of the Uncanny*.
Thursday: “The Aleph”. “Wor(l)ds Through the Looking Glass” by Beatriz Urraca

**Week 6**
Turn in short paper 1

**Week 7**
Thursday: Impact of Borges on U.S. writing in the 60s: Donald Barthelme’s *Sixty Stories: Paraguay* 127-137 & Gene Bell-Villada’s *Borges and his Fiction* 278-284. OP on above.

**Week 8**
Tuesday: Borges as pioneer of the Internet: “Tlon, Ukbar & Orbis Tertius” OP on “Orbis Tertius and Orbis Novus: The Discovery of New Worlds” by Aden Hayes
Thursday: Mid-term exam.

**Week 9**
Tuesday: *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge* by Ambrose Bierce.
Thursday: Borges’ *The Waiting* & Hemingway’s *The Killers*
**Short paper 1 assigned**

**Week 10**
Tuesday: “ Borges’ *The Secret Miracle*: Literary Vanity...literature is constructed in the head. OP *Post-Lecture Discussion of His Own Writing* by Borges.
Thursday: Borges & Women: Emma Zunz. Lewald article: *The Labyrinth of Time and Place in Two Stories by Borges*.

**Week 11**
Tuesday: Sergio Waisman’s *Borges on Translation*.
Thursday: Poe: *The murders of Rue Morgue & The Purloined Letter*
**Turn in short paper 2**

**Week 12**

**Week 13**
Tuesday: Borges and Postmodernity: *Pierre Menard, author of the Quixote* & Daniel Balderston’s “Historical Situations in Borges”:
Thursday: *The library of Babel & The Lottery in Babylon*.
Week 14  
Tuesday: “Borges’ disciples: Six Memos for the Next Millennium by Italo Calvino: Multiplicity 101-124  
Thursday: Last Year in Marienbad (film) by Alain Resnais

Week 15  
Tuesday: Final Exam  
Thursday: Final Grade Sheet and signature of Hoja de situación (attendance is mandatory).

Bibliography


COZARINSKY, Edgardo: Borges in/and/on Film


