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 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, Leonardo Sciascia, Danilo Kis and Umberto Eco, among others). Finally, it looks at Borges’ presence in visual culture: film, architecture and art (PFA).

Attendance policy:
Students need a minimum of 75% of attendance to be in good standing for the final exam. Students are expected to do close readings, participate in class, and do at least one oral presentation. During the semester, students will write two short position papers. The requirements also include a midterm and a final exam. In addition to this, each student will be expected to make a significant contribution to the classroom dialogue.

Evaluation Methods:
- In-class Participation 10 %
- Oral Presentation 20 %
- Position Paper (2 page long) 20 %
- Midterm Exam 25 %
- Final Exam 25 %
**Academic Calendar**

**Week 1**

**Week 2**

**Week 3**
“Buenos Aires & Beyond” 3-13 in *Borges and his fiction: a guide to his mind and art* by Gene Bell-Villada. OP Borges’ Interviews by Fernando Sorrentino
2- OP. *On the Cult of Books* by Borges & *What is a Classic* by J.M.Coetzee...

**Week 4**

**Week 5**
“The Aleph”. OP on Beatriz Urraca’s *Wor(l)ds Through the Looking Glass*”
Martin Hadis, Author of *Literary & Excentrics: The English ancestors of Borges*, will visit our class.

**Week 6**

**Week 7**
Week 8
Gödel, Escher & Bach by Douglas Hofstadter (introduction)
Borges as pioneer of the Internet: “Tlon, Ukbar & Orbis Tertius”
OP on Aden Hayes’ Orbis Tertius and Orbis Novus: The Discovery of New Worlds

Week 9
Jason Wilson, author of Borges biography will visit class.
Borges’ The Waiting & Hemingway’s The Killers

Week 10
Mid-term paper due.
Regarding Roderer by Guillermo Martinez Borges’s influence on Guillermo Martinez’s writing.
Class discussion.
Borges and Mathematics by Guillermo Martinez.

Week 11
Borges’ The Secret Miracle: Literary Vanity...literature is constructed in the head. OP Post-Lecture Discussion of His Own Writing by Borges.
OP Connecting Pungencies: Borges Conjured and Restored by Eduardo Gonzalez.

Week 12
Poe: The murders of Rue Morgue & the Purloined Letter
OP Svend Østergård: The Unconscious of Representation (“Death and the Compass”) & Borges’ The Labyrinths of the Detective Story & Chesterton.
Borges, Poe and the detective story: “Death and the Compass” Irwin 1-12 & 30-36

Week 13
Borges and Postmodernity: Pierre Menard, author of the Quixote & Daniel Balderston’s “Historical Situations in Borges”:
**Week 14**
Borges’ precursors and disciples: *Six Memos for the Next Millennium* by Italo Calvino: *Multiplicity* 101-124
*J.L. Borges: Collected Fictions* by J.M. Coetzee...

**Week 15**
Final Paper Due
Review Class: Students should choose some aspect of the class they liked and briefly expand on it.

**Bibliography**
COZARINSKY, Edgardo: *Borges in/and/on Film*