

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)

Labyrinths by Jorge Luis Borges ISBN-13: 978-0811216999

Academic Calendar

Week 1

Tuesday: "Introduction to the course. How and when Borges became known outside Argentina. Available translations.

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"

Thursday: Borges Interviews by Fernando Sorrentino (65-82, 123- 133)& interview by A. Manara. "Buenos Aires & Beyond" by Gene Bell-Villada.

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

Tuesday: "Borges The Poet: *The Mythical Founding of Buenos Aires*... Two versions. James C.

McKegley: "Buenos Aires in the Poetry of Jorge Luis Borges". Contrast: Oliverio Girondo: Borges' review of *Calcomanías*.

Thursday: Horacio Coppola: 1936 photos of Buenos Aires, art & architecture.

Turn in short paper 1

Week 7

Tuesday: "Beatriz Sarlo: "Utopia & the Avant-Garde": (115-137) "The Adventure of Martin Fierro: the Avant-Garde & Criollismo", (95-114).

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

Tuesday: "Borges, Poe and the detective story: *Death and the Compass*" by Irwin (1-12) & Borges' *The Labyrinths of the Detective Story* & Chesterton. R. Gillespie: "Detections: Borges & F.Brown".

Thursday: "Borges, Poe and the detective story: The Garden of Forking Paths" by Irwin (30-36) & Daniel Balderston's "Historical Situations in Borges": GFP. Eduardo Gonzalez's "Connecting Pungencies: Borges Conjured & Restored".

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

BELL-VILLADA, Gene: *Borges and His Fiction: A Guide to His Mind and Art*: University of Texas Press, Austin, 1999.

BORGES, Jorge Luis: *Collected Fictions* translated by Andrew Hurley, Penguin, New York, 1998.

BORGES, Jorge Luis: *Selected Non-Fictions* translated by Eliot Weinberger, Esther Allen, and Suzanne Jill Levine, Penguin, New York, 1999.

CALVINO, Italo: *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*, Vintage International, New York, 1993.

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

HOFSTADTER, Douglas: *Gödel, Escher & Bach* Vintage Books, New York, 1989.

IRWIN, John T.: *The Mystery to a Solution: Poe, Borges and the Analytic Detective Story* Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1996.

MARTINEZ, Guillermo: *Regarding Roderer* Saint Martin's Press, New York, 1994.

NOUZEILLES, Gabriela & MONTALDO, Graciela. *An Argentina Reader: History, Culture & Politics* Duke University Press, Durham, 2002.

SARLO, Beatriz *Jorge Luis Borges: A Writer on the Edge* Verso, London, 2006.

SCHWOB, Marcel *Imaginary Lives* Solar Books, Washington D.C., 2009.

SORRENTINO, Fernando *Seven Conversations with Jorge Luis Borges* Paul Dry Books, Philadelphia, 2010.

WILSON, Jason *Borges* Reaktion Books, London, 2006.

Mente Argentina – Av. Santa Fe 3192 4B, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

ARG. +54 (11) 3968 7861

USA. +1 (858) 926 5510

UK. +44 (020) 3286 3438

Email: info@MenteArgentina.com || www.MenteArgentina.com