

HUM 5GS: Modern Culture

Course Description

In HUM 5GS, we find ourselves part of a rapidly changing global society that originated in the cultural, intellectual, economic, scientific, and technological developments of what is known as the “Modern Era.” Through lectures, readings, discussion, and writing assignments, students taking HUM 5 will explore the development of the Modern Era from the mid-nineteenth century up to the present. In particular, we will address the intellectual developments that fundamentally changed our understanding of the world around us as well as the larger questions of what it means to be human in the modern world.

We will use our time in the city of Buenos Aires to explore the impact of modernization and industrialization on the development of Latin American culture as well as some of the ways that the civilizations and cultures of the Americas helped to shape the developments of the modern world. In doing so, HUM 5GS will also allow students to see both the development of Latin America and the broader Modern World in a different light.

Instructor

Name: Bretton Rodriguez, Ph.D.

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Course Schedule

Day and Time: Mon-Thurs, 11am-1pm

In-Class Seminars: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

Buenos Aires Excursions: Tuesdays

Required Texts

1. Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
 2. Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*
 3. Elie Wiesel, *Night*
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Course Requirements

Participation (30%)

Reading Quizzes (10%)

Weekly Critical Responses (30%)

Final Essay (30%)

Course Outline

Week 1: Imperialism and the World

Day	Topic Excursion
Monday	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
Tuesday (Santiago Excursion)	Visit to the Plaza de Mayo, La Casa Rosada, and Metropolitan Cathedral of Buenos Aires
Wednesday	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
Thursday	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>

Week 2: Modern and Modernism

Day	Topic Excursion
Monday	Virginia Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i>
Tuesday (Santiago Excursion)	National Museum of Fine Arts
Wednesday	Virginia Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i>
Thursday	Wilfred Owen, Select Poems

Week 3: Independent America(s)

Day	Topic Excursion
Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
Tuesday (Santiago Excursion)	Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires (MALBA)
Wednesday	Jorge Luis Borges, Selections from <i>Fictions</i>
Thursday	Jorge Luis Borges, Selections from <i>Fictions</i>

Week 4: A World at War

Day	Topic Excursion
Monday	Orson Welles, <i>The War of the Worlds</i>
Tuesday (Santiago Excursion)	Tour of Recoleta Cemetery
Wednesday	Elie Wiesel, <i>Night</i>
Thursday	Elie Wiesel, <i>Night</i>

Week 5: The World Today

Day	Topic Excursion
Monday	Ocean Vuong, Selections from <i>On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous</i>
Tuesday (Santiago Excursion)	The ESMA Museum and Site of Memory in Buenos Aires
Wednesday	Ta-Nehisi Coates, <i>Between the World and Me</i>
Thursday	The Wachowski Sisters, <i>The Matrix</i>