

Spanish-American Literature 1  
Literatura Argentina (Literature 2)

**STUDY GUIDE – SPRING 2023**

Updated 28.11.2023  
Changes may occur

**Table of Contents**

Dates and Deadlines .....	2
1. Introduction .....	3
2. Course Content.....	4
Part 1 – Self Study Period .....	4
Part 2 - Study in Buenos Aires .....	5
Part 3 – Term Paper .....	6
3. Reading Lists .....	7
4. Guidance on Writing Essays .....	8
5. Internet Resources.....	11

## Dates and Deadlines Autumn 2022

Week	Dates	Activities, exams and deadline Papers
1	16 January- 12 February	Literature: Read the self-study texts Spanish: Do the self-study assignments History: Use the internet resources
2		
3		
4		
1	13-19 Feb	Literature first class
2	20 - 26 Feb	
3	27 Feb - 5 March	
4	6-12 March	
5	13-19 March	
6	20 - 26 March	Literature Essay Deadline (optional)
7	27 March – 02 April	
8	3-09 April	Reading week
9	10-16 April	
10	17-23 April	
11	24-30 April	
12	1- 7 May	Literature Cultural Activity
13	8-14 May	
14	15-21 May	Literature Last week of classes Literature Home Exam Deadline
15	22-28 May	
16	29 May – 2 June	

# 1. Introduction

---

This Study Guide is a supplement to the Course Description. It will give information about the course and advice on how best to study and carry out the different tasks.

Studying in Argentina gives you an excellent opportunity to engage with the country and its people. The course will give an introduction to Spanish-American Literature, with a regional focus on Argentina.

If you have any academic questions, please contact Monica Nardelli [nardellikulturstudier@gmail.com](mailto:nardellikulturstudier@gmail.com)

All other inquiries, please contact our office in Oslo, [mail@kulturstudier.no](mailto:mail@kulturstudier.no) or tel:+47 22358022.

## 2. Course Content

---

This section provides information about the different sections of the course and guidance on how the students should work in collaboration with each other and the teachers. As part of the course, students will complete one paper before the program starts in Buenos Aires, and the students hand in the home exam after the classes have finished in Buenos Aires.

### Part 1 – Self-Study Period

Most of the teaching will take place in Buenos Aires, but the learning should start before that, and the program starts with five weeks of self-studies. It is vital that you use these weeks well in order to follow the progression of the program once the classes start in Argentina. It is expected that you make yourself well acquainted with the curriculum during this period. You will get more out of the lectures if you have looked at the material beforehand, and a slow start to the semester will make the stay unnecessary overloaded with work.

Before the studies in Buenos Aires, students taking Spanish-American Literature 1 are expected to read the first three text on the compendium: [Compendium Literature 1](#) It is also found on your [personal Kulturstudier page](#).

1. Hernan Cortes: "Letters or despatches to the emperor Charles V"
2. Friar Bartolome de las Casas: "*A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*"
3. Bernal Diaz del Castillo: "The True History of the Conquest of New Spain"

Students taking Literatura Argentina (literature 2) are expected to read the first and second week texts as listed: (compendium will be available on your [personal Kulturstudier page](#)).

1. Silvina Ocampo: "El vestido de terciopelo"
2. Roberto Arlt: "La luna roja"
3. Nestor Perlongher: "Evita vive"
4. Julio Cortázar: "La Banda"

All texts are included in the compendium that you may download from [www.kulturstudier.org](http://www.kulturstudier.org) before the self-study period starts. Also, they will be provided by your course teacher.

Self-studies can be a challenge. It requires discipline to spend enough time reading and reflecting, but it will also help you develop an individual understanding of your curriculum. If you have questions, lecturers will be available to answer them during these five weeks.

The courses in literature looks at a variety of texts from the Discovery of the New World up until the present, and you will learn about the cultural and historical context of the texts during the lectures and seminars.

These texts are included in the compendium that you will receive before the self-study period starts. In addition to these texts, you will receive a lecture from your professors that you must study attentively.

## **Part 2 - Studies in Argentina**

The largest advantage of studying literature in Buenos Aires is that you study and live in the area you read about in many of the literary text and where the language is being spoken. We have the possibility to gain a positive influence from the social arena. The contact with your neighbours will become easier the more Spanish you learn, and your understanding of Argentina and the rest of the continent becomes greater by reading literary texts from the region. In addition, your lecturers will be available throughout the program, something that will give you a closer academic follow-up. You will also be a part of a small student body that can make the learning easier and create a common involvement.

### **Lectures**

During the lectures and demi-lectures, the most important parts of the course will be discussed. You will get an introduction to literary analysis, and will be lectured in (1) important literary topics and (2) the most relevant events in Latin American socio-cultural history. The authors in the literature course will be discussed in a literary historical context, and some of the most important directions in the literature since the Spanish discovery will be presented. The lectures will give you the necessary knowledge to analyze the texts on the reading list. The Demi-lectures will help you to focus this knowledge on particular texts. The lectures will be given by our local teachers, from the University of San Martín, and they will be available for questions throughout the semester. We strongly recommend the students to purchase the books for the course before going to Buenos Aires, as the texts in English can be difficult –or impossible– to find there.

The compendium with the poems, short stories and essays will be available at [www.kulturstudier.org](http://www.kulturstudier.org) before the course starts.

### **Tutorials**

The tutorials will focus on analysis of the individual texts. In these groups, the students will play a vital role. You will either individually or in groups present texts from the course literature for the rest of the group, and these presentations will be the foundation for later discussions. The aim is that you use what you have learnt during the lectures as a starting point, and incorporate that into the discussions on the seminars. By taking an active part during the teaching, you will have to use the course literature independently and this method gives you skills in literary analysis from an early point in the course.

## Part 3 – Term Paper

The Term Paper must be handed in latest May 20<sup>th</sup> (dates may be changed). For students taking *Spanish-American literature 1* the exam should be 2600 words (+/- 10%) something which is equivalent to six to eight pages, for students taking *Literatura Argentina* the exam should be 2200 words (+/- 10%). Students of the Spanish-American Literature 1 should write the paper in English, and students of *Literatura Argentina* should write the paper in Spanish.

### Student Requirement

#### Assignment – Term Paper

Deadline 22<sup>nd</sup> May

- Term Paper
- Graded
- 2.600 words (+/- 10%) for *Spanish-American Literature 1*
- 2200 words (+/- 10%) for *Literatura Argentina*
- Times New Roman, 12 point, 1,5 line spacing, 3cm margin (left and right). This equals approximately 400 words per page
- Handed in latest May 20<sup>th</sup>

### Grading Scale

Description	Percentage
10 (A) Excellent	100-95
9 (A-) Very Good	94-89
8 (B) Good	88-83
7 (B-) Above Average	82-77
6 (C) Average	76-71
5 (C) Below Average	70-65
4 (D) Lowest Passing Grade	64-60
F Failure	59-0
W Officially withdrawn	Academic Advisor's approval
I Incomplete	Only with Academic Advisor's approval

### 3. Reading List

---

#### **Spanish-American Literature 1**

You only need to buy one book for Spanish-American Literature 1:

Pedro Lemebel. My Tender Matador: A Novel (novel) (ISBN-10: 0802141870/ ISBN-13: 978-0802141873)

The following book is optional ([PDF copy here](#)):

Echeverría, Esteban. The Slaughteryard. (ISBN-10: 0007346735 / ISBN-13: 978-0007346738)

The following book is optional (you can read it for the Lectures and Demi-lectures or use it on your paper):

Puig, Manuel. Kiss of the Spider Woman. (ISBN-10 : 9780679724490 / ISBN-13 : 978-0679724490)

In addition, there will be compendiums available at [www.kulturstudier.org](http://www.kulturstudier.org)

#### **Literatura Argentina (Literature 2):**

You do not need to buy any books for Literatura Argentina:

The texts will be available at [www.kulturstudier.org](http://www.kulturstudier.org)

## **4. How to write academic texts**

---

The exam on the literature course is a home exam, and for some of you this will be the first academic essay you write. The following paragraphs will hopefully help you prepare for the exam and facilitate your:

- Reading and understanding of the course literature and other relevant information.
- Critical reflection around the topics the course addresses.
- Knowledge of academic writing.

Even if it is not expected that you come up with new and original answers in literary research, there are formative ways how an exam should be written. These guidelines are the same as the normal standards for academic texts written at tertiary institutions.

These guidelines can be split into five main topics:

### **1. Define the topic, the intention and structure for the exercise already in the introduction, and keep your promise.**

Regardless of what kind of academic text you are writing you should always start on the introduction. This is where you first introduce the topic of the text. Afterwards you should define the questions you want to answer. The questions you ask and the intentions of asking them should be well defined and realistic. At the end of the introduction you can give an overview of the structure for the text, and this involves giving an overview of what is to come in the text and how you will answer your questions you ask. This structure should be:

- An introduction (which you have already explained)
- A main section where you present your material, discuss the result in regards to the topic and the questions you asked in the introduction (this part is often split into smaller chapters)
- A conclusion where you sum up your material and draw conclusions.

We advise you to start the exercise by giving a short statement on how you understand the task given and how this will impact your answer to the exam. When you have defined the topic, the intention and the structure of the exam it is important to stick to this for the rest of the text. You have the right to guidance from a teaching staff during the writing period and we suggest you make use of this offer.

### **2. Systematize your material**

To have order in your text is vital for the quality of your exam and to make it easy to read and understand the different points you are arguing. (By “your material” we mean the different viewpoints, theories or empirical examples you will use to answer the task). There is no right way of doing this, but it is important that you throughout the text give the reader an explanation of why you are doing the things you do. Every time you introduce a new idea or a new example you need to ask yourself: Is it understandable for the reader why this is being introduced here? If you cannot give a clear yes to that answer you should edit the text.

### **3. Discuss your result and come up with a conclusion**



How you discuss your material is crucial to the quality of the text. Nevertheless, be humble towards the text you are referring to and do not come with your own distinct opinions. Explain the different views, the theoretical viewpoints and the empirical examples and put them in relation to the rest of the text and the questions you asked in the introduction. Try to put the different theories up against each other, explain the similarities and differences, pros and cons, and always discuss this with the help of other texts. At the end of the text this discussion should be summed up and you should come with a conclusion based on the previous discussion.

#### **4. Write clearly and understandable**

Even if academic texts should be written in a formal language, there is no use using intricate sentences. On the contrary, you should try to explain the discussion as clear as possible. It is also a good idea to have flow in the text, so work on getting good flow between the paragraphs. Avoid single sentences with no connection to the surroundings and always have a short introduction or explanation if the text suddenly jumps from one main argument to another. It can be a good idea to split the text into chapters, but still try to have logic switches between the different parts. This can include mentioning the questions in the introduction and as long as you do not exaggerate, re-mentioning important things can be a good thing.

#### **5. Sort out the technical aspects.**

##### **References in the text**

You must reference after every quotation, or after each paragraph that refers to someone else's literature, viewpoints or other specific information. These references should be written in parentheses in the right spot in the text (always after the paragraph or quotation). These references should only include the last name and year of publication. If it is a direct quotation the page should also be mentioned. I.e. (Ekern 1986) (UDNP 2004: 37).

##### **Reference list**

All references mentioned in the text needs to be completely referred to in a reference list at the end of a document. This list should be organised alphabetically after the last name of the author. The reference list should have the following format:

Author's last name, first name or initials (year of publication in parentheses) "Title", place of publication (normally a city), name of publicist, i.e.:

Woodward, Ralph Lee (1999) "Central America, A Nation Divided", New York: Oxford University Press

If you refer to an article that is a part of an anthology or article collection (meaning a book with different authors), you must write the reference like this: Author's last name, first name or initials (year of publication in parentheses), "Title of article", author of the article in Title of the book, place of publication, name of publicist, i.e.:

Larrain, Jorge (1999) "Modernity and Identity: Cultural Change in Latin America" Robert N.Gwynne and Cristobal Kay, Latin America Transformed. Globalization and Modernity, London: Arnold Publishers

When you refer to an article from a magazine the reference list should have the following format: Author's last name, first name or initials (year of publication in parentheses), "Title of the article" in Name of Magazine, edition, page number, i.e.:

Vilas, Carlos (1992) "Family Affairs:Class,Lineage and Politics in Contemporary Nicaragua"  
In Journal of Latin American Studies 24,s 306-341.

Only references that are actually used in the exam should be referred to and written in the reference list.

#### Format

The exam should be written in Times New Roman, 12 point, 1,5 line spacing, 3cm margin (left and right). This equals approximately 400 words per page.  
page.

## 5. Internet resources

---

In addition to preparing for the studies in Argentina we suggest that you become a bit familiar with the country and the continent before you travel. There are many good internet pages that will give you good introductions to what the country has to offer. Some of the pages are:

### **Facts on Argentina (more or less non-political):**

Public site: <http://www.argentina.gov.ar/argentina/portal/paginas.dhtml?pagina=356>

### **Newspapers:**

An overview of different newspapers with their own website:

<http://www.prensaescrita.com/america/argentina.php>

Latin America groups (in Norwegian):

<http://www.latin-amerikagruppene.no/Medieklipp/index.html>

The Economist (Political magazine with focus on economic news, there is a section of news about Latin America): <http://www.economist.com/world/la/>

We have also gathered some websites that can be useful for the Spanish studies before and during the program in Argentina:

### **Dictionaries:**

Tritrans (Norwegian-Spanish-English): <http://www.tritrans.net/>

Word reference (English-Spanish): [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com)

Lexin (Norwegian-English): <http://decentius.hit.uib.no/lexin.html>

Jergas de habla hispana (local slang from the different Spanish speaking countries, check out the site for Argentina): <http://www.jergasdehablahispana.org>