MIGRATIONS AND POPULATION: ARGENTINA’S QUEST FOR NATIONAL IDENTITY

This course offers an introduction to both the theoretical and practical issues related to the phenomenon of migration in the formation of the Argentine Republic. We will analyze its different dimensions; macro and micro, symbolic and physical, individual and collective, in connection with different historical moments in which immigrant communities arrived in Argentina and how these communities were integrated or marginalized into a larger “national community”. We will focus on how these migratory phenomena affect the positioning and relationship of Argentina with other countries in the region and in a global scale. The course complements the Sociological approach to migration phenomena with others such as political analysis, anthropology, history, language studies, with the intention of broadening the scope of the students’ reflections and class discussions.

ETHNICITY AND IDENTITY IN ASIAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN BUENOS AIRES

This interdisciplinary course focuses on the contribution of Asian immigrant communities to diverse ethnic composition of a country that once prided itself in being a ‘melting pot’ of races. During the latter decades of the 19th and most of the 20th centuries, Argentina received numerous immigrants —most of whom came from European countries—which contributed to the demographic growth and transformed the ethnic landscape of the port-city of Buenos Aires. Although the importance of European immigration has been pervasive in the public discourse of the formation of a national self, the arrival of Asian immigrants created a different set of challenges for the idea of a unidirectional process of national integration. Against this historical background, the course will examine the dynamics and demographics of Asian migration to—and more recently—from Argentina, and migrants’ integration or otherwise into the education system, the labor market, and social, political and cultural life more generally. Class discussions and readings will analyze the Argentinean responses to immigration of Asian groups, whether in the shape of laws and public policies, literary, cinematic and media representations of migrants, or public attitudes and behavior towards newcomers and ethnic minorities, including racism, xenophobia and other forms of exclusion. The course will end by considering the impact of the ongoing economic crisis on the younger generation of members of the Asian immigrant communities.

CULTURAL PRODUCTION BY/ABOUT ASIANS IN LATIN AMERICA: GENDER AND RACE DISCOURSES

This course will examine the discourse surrounding Asian diaspora in Latin America. By drawing mostly on theory, literature, and film, the seminar investigates the issue of immigration and cultural hybridity as related to racial formation and national identity. What constitutes belonging to the literatures and cultures of the geopolitical and imaginary space of both Asia and Latin America? How are Asia and Asian immigrants imagined in Latin American literary and cinematic production? How does the Orientalist and gendered discourse of the “yellow peril” and “model minority” or the “coolie” make sense in hemispheric American perspective? The course will engage historical and anthropological studies as well as theoretical writings on critical race and gender with literature and film screenings to emphasize modes of reading that highlight the intertwined relationship among power, representation, and cultural production. This course will engage visual culture, popular culture and film, among other media, as means to underscore the role that cultural production has played in transforming, adapting and sustaining normative ideas regarding race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality in relation to citizenship.
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AMERICA AND EAST ASIA

In the past decades, the economic integration between East Asia and Latina America countries has been hailed as a model of partnership for development, but also criticized as the reconfiguration of the center-periphery model for the 21st century. Bilateral relations, especially with the People’s Republic of China, after the year 2010, have acquired new dimensions, giving place to debates in academic circles and the media about the role and the strategy of China in the region. Commercial and financial relations have set the pace for the growing political and cultural exchanges. China has become the second trade partner and the third source of investment in the region. Beside China, other East Asian countries have established long-lasting political and commercial links with the region through investments in infrastructure projects, joint ventures and financial cooperation. In this course, we will examine the impact of recent developments in the political and economic relations of Latin American countries, especially Argentina, Peru and Brazil, with East Asian countries.