



**UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
ASIAN CULTURES IN LATIN AMERICA PROGRAM**

**CULTURAL PRODUCTION BY/OF ASIANS IN LATIN AMERICA:  
GENDER, ART AND URBAN DISCOURSES AND EXPERIENCES**

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Class Times:** TUE. and THU. 10 AM to 12 PM

**Class Location:** School of Social Sciences (Santiago del Estero 1029, Buenos Aires)

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Course Duration (weeks):** 6 weeks

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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 descendants and national identity, asking questions such as; 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 ethnicity, gender, and sexuality in relation to citizenship.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Students will gain an understanding of the representations of Asians and Asian migration to Argentina, and Latin America in general, through an analysis of a variety of sources (literary, musical, cinematic).
- Students will develop their awareness and understanding of the approaches of different disciplines—history, literary and cultural studies, cultural theory, sociology, anthropology – and how they apply to the study of the representations of Asian immigration in local cultural productions.
- Students will gain an understanding of how Chinese, Japanese and Korean identities have been portrayed in different historical moments.

## COURSE MATERIALS

- Grimson, A. (2010) "Culture and identity: two different notions", *Social Identities: Journal for the Study of Race, Nation and Culture*, 16:1, 61-77, DOI: 10.1080/13504630903465894
- García Canclini, N. (2001). *Consumers and citizens: globalization and multicultural conflicts*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Bhabha, H. K. (1994). *The Location of Culture*. London: Routledge
- Delmonte, R. (2018). "Food, migration and gender identities. Korean migrants in Buenos Aires". 18th IUAES World Congress
- Liu, Haiming (2009). "Chop Suey as Imagined Authentic Chinese Food: The Culinary Identity of Chinese Restaurants in the United States", *The Journal of Transnational American Studies* 1.1: 1-25.
- Chisu Teresa Ko (2015) "'Argentina te incluye': Asians in Argentina's Multicultural Novels", *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal in Modern Literatures* 69:1, 1-13, DOI: 10.1080/00397709.2015.1004267
- Iadevito, Paula (2013). "Fiction of an Identity. Female figures and drifts in the New Korean Cinema", *Comparative Korean Studies* vol. 21: 133-166
- McDonogh, G. and Wong, C. (2012). "Beside downtown: Global Chinatowns". In Peterson, M. and McDonogh, G., *Global Downtowns*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Habib, F. et al. (2013). "Japanese Garden as a Physical Symbol of Japanese Culture". *International Journal of Architecture and Urban Development* Vol. 3, No. 4, Autumn
- Grimson, A. (2006). "Cultures are more Hybrid than Identifications. A Dialogue on Borders from the Southern Cone", *Latino Studies* 4.1-2: pp. 96 - 119
- Denardi, L. "The Rituals of the New Year. [Unpublished Draft].

### Recommended Materials

- Iadevito, Paula. (2017) "Industrias culturales coreanas en Buenos Aires: un primer acercamiento desde la perspectiva del consumo". *Portes, Revista mexicana de estudios sobre la Cuenca del Pacífico* Vol. 10, N. 20: pp. 157-180.
- Montt Strabucchi, Maria. (2018). "Encuentros con la comunidad china en Buenos Aires: Un análisis de dos novelas". REDCAEM, Revista N°4, *Working Paper Series (WPS)* "Historia y Relaciones Culturales".

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

The course will be graded on a 10-point scale, and the final grade will be determined as follows:

### **Class Participation and Attendance (25%)**

Attendance and active participation are required. Students are expected to do the readings assigned for each class meeting beforehand, and to actively participate in class discussions.

### **Written Assignments.**

#### **On site observations (25%).**

A two-page summary based on students' impressions / notes during the field trips in relation with the week's readings.

#### **Midterm Exam (20%).**

Brief presentation about a topic that will be developed in the essay for the final exam.

#### **Individual Research Paper (30%)**

Students will have to investigate artists or artistic works, including visual arts, literature, the gastronomy, etc. that are involved to dialogue between Asia and Latin America in the migration process, choose one case to analyze and interpret its approaches, implications of the production, and representation by trying out the theoretical concepts that have already learnt in the classroom.

Essays will be 10-12 pages long and will include an introduction, main body, and conclusion. Must be typed, double-spaced in Times New Roman (12pt), and 2.5cm/1-inch margins on all four sides. The essay will be submitted in class on Week 6. Late submissions will not be graded for credit.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **Week 1: Identities and Cultures.**

Rethinking Identities through Hybridization in times of Globalization.

Session 1: Introduction of students, professors and presentation of the course objectives. Introduction to main categories of analysis: identities, culture, cultural hybridity.

#### *Assigned Readings*

- Grimson, A. (2010) "Culture and identity: two different notions", *Social Identities: Journal for the Study of Race, Nation and Culture*, 16:1, 61-77, DOI: 10.1080/13504630903465894
- García Canclini, N. (2001). *Consumers and citizens: globalization and multicultural conflicts*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Session 2: Asian cuisines in Buenos Aires.

Consumption, representations and authenticity. We will analyze how Asian migrants employ food-related practices, meanings, and values in the construction of narratives that define senses of belonging. We will contest the concepts of ethnic cuisine, national cuisines and authenticity.

#### *Assigned Readings*

- Delmonte, R. (2018). "Food, migration and gender identities. Korean migrants in Buenos Aires". 18th IUAES World Congress
- Liu, Haiming (2009). "Chop Suey as Imagined Authentic Chinese Food: The Culinary Identity of Chinese Restaurants in the United States", *The Journal of Transnational American Studies* 1.1: 1-25.

### **Week 2: Gender and migration in literature and films.**

We will analyze the Asian presence in Argentinean literature and the influence of living in Argentina on Asian migrants that started writing novels. Also, the gender issues will be introduced in the case of the recently published novel *Ida*, by Lu Xia (aka Eva Blanco).

Session 3: Asians in Argentinean literature

#### *Assigned Reading:*

- Ko, Chisu Teresa (2015) "'Argentina te incluye': Asians in Argentina's Multicultural Novels", *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal in Modern Literatures* 69.1: 1-13, DOI: 10.1080/00397709.2015.1004267

#### *Additional reading (optional):*

- Montt Strabucchi, Maria. (2018). Encuentros con la comunidad china en Buenos Aires: Un análisis de dos novelas. Working Paper Series (WPS) de REDCAEM, *Revista* N°4, "Historia y Relaciones Culturales".

Session 4: Gender, migration and literature.

Guest speaker: Eva Blanco, author of *Ida*, the first novel written by a Chinese migrant in Argentina. Feminism and Chinese youth in Buenos Aires.

### **Week 3: Gender, migration and films**

We will discuss the role of Korean and Chinese women both, in Korea and in Argentina. How does it change within the migration process? How does it change in the different migrants generations?

Session 5: Korean women in Argentina.

*Assigned Reading*

- Iadevito, P. (2013). "Fiction of an Identity. Female figures and drifts in the New Korean Cinema", *Comparative Korean Studies* Vol. 21: 133 -166

Film projection: "Mi ultimo fracaso", by Cecilia Kang, 2016

Session 6: Midterm Exam (20%).

Brief presentation about a topic and the main theoretical categories that will be developed in the final essay.

**Week 4. Place and place-making in Buenos Aires. Chinatowns and Japanese Gardens.**

We will discuss the different ways in which Chinese and Japanese are building spaces where ideology, ontology, cultural views and rites are taking place.

Session 7: Different aspects of Chinatowns in the world.

*Assigned Reading*

- McDonogh, G. and Wong, C. (2012). "Beside downtown: Global Chinatowns". In Peterson, M. and McDonogh, G., *Global Downtowns*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Film Projection: Arribenos, by Marcos López.

Interview with Stephanie Chan, specialist on Chinatown in New York

Session 8: Cultural values in the design of Japanese Gardens.

*Assigned Reading*

- Habib, F. et al. (2013). "Japanese Garden as a Physical Symbol of Japanese Culture". *International Journal of Architecture and Urban Development* Vol. 3, No. 4: 13-18.

**Guest lecturer: Cecilia Onaha**

**Week 5: Festivals and events: Chinese New Year Festival and K-pop Festivals in Buenos Aires.**

We will analyze the ritual elements of each festivity, the tensions that emerge inside the communities and with local communities identified with mainstream Argentinean society.

Session 9: Chinese New Year Festival.

*Assigned Reading*

-Denardi, Luciana. The Rituals of the New Year. [Unpublished Draft presented in China, December 2017]

Youtube videos about the construction of the Chinese Gate in Chinatown Buenos Aires.

Session 10:

*Assigned Reading*

-Iadevito, P. (2014). "Hallyu and Cultural Identity. A Sociological Approach to the Korean Wave in Argentina", in Marinescu, V. (ed.), *The global impact of South Korean Popular Culture*. London: Lexington Books.

**Week 6: Final Essay Presentations.**

Session 11: Peer review of drafts

Session 12: Final Presentation

Each student will have 10 minutes to present the case and main conclusions of the analysis.

**Suggested Field trips:**

- Association of Japanese Immigrants
- Japanese Garden of Buenos Aires
- Buenos Aires Chinatown
- Buenos Aires Korean neighborhood
- Korean Cultural Center
- Korean, Japanese and Chinese restaurants

Sample syllabus. Final syllabus will be available on-site.