(PALAS 420) Jorge Luis Borges:
Visions of Culture and Knowledge
Professor Dr. Alejandro Manara
Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies
Universidad de Belgrano
Course Syllabus 2016

Course Information
T-Th 4.00-5.30PM room 10.6
Instruction in: English

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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.

Course Requirements
Following UB policy, students need a minimum of 75% of attendance to be in good standing for the final exam. Sliding the ID card is the only way to track record of attendance. Classes missed for national holidays will not be recovered. Students are expected to do close readings, participate in class, and do at least one oral presentation. During the semester, students will write two short papers. The requirements also include a midterm and a final exam. In addition to this, each student will be expected to make a significant contribution to the classroom dialogue.

Grading Policy
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 International Student Handbook (see orientation kit packet).

Required Textbooks (available at UB Bookstore)
**Academic Calendar**

**Week 1: 8/2-4**
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: 8/9-11**
Tuesday: “Borges’s “An Autobiographical Essay”

**Week 3: 8/16-18**
Tuesday: Averroes’ Search & On the Cult of Books by Borges.
What is a Classic by J.M. Coetzee....

**Week 4: 8/23-25**
Tuesday: Borges and Postmodernity. A Universal History of Infamy.
Thursday: Imaginary Lives by Marcel Schwob.
**Short paper 1 assigned**

**Week 5: 8/30-9/1**
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: 9/6-8**
**Turn in short paper 1**

**Week 7: 9/13-15**
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: 9/20-22
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: 9/27-29
Tuesday: An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge by Ambrose Bierce.
Thursday: Borges’ The Waiting & Hemingway’s The Killers
Short paper 1 assigned

Week 10: 10/4-10/6
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: 10/11-13
Tuesday: Sergio Waisman’s Borges on Translation.
Thursday: Poe: The murders of Rue Morgue & The Purloined Letter
Turn in short paper 2

Week 12: 10/18-20

Week 13: 10/25-27
Tuesday: Borges and Postmodernity: Pierre Menard, author of the Quixote & Daniel Balderston’s “Historical Situations in Borges”:
The library of Babel & The Lottery in Babylon.

Week 14: 11/1-3
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: 11/8-10
Tuesday: Final Exam.
Thursday: Final Grade Sheet and signature of Hoja de situación (attendance is mandatory).
Bibliography


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


