

# Argentina

## Social Movements and Human Rights

Discover the diverse social movements and struggle for human rights in Argentina.

## Coursework

**Please note:** This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester. Please visit [www.sit.edu/ARR](http://www.sit.edu/ARR) for details.

### Social Movements and Human Rights Seminar

LACB 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish with required readings and educational excursions. The course examines Argentina's prolific and highly dynamic social movements—including claims by environmental, gender, indigenous, peasant, and labor groups—and these movements' connections to historical and contemporary human rights issues. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the University of Buenos Aires and the National University of Salta.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *History and Politics of Contemporary Argentina*

Overview of Argentine history with a special emphasis on social organizations; Peronism; the strengthening of the labor movement; dictatorship and resistance strategies; democracy and the recent economic crisis; impoverishment and collective coping strategies.

#### *Human Rights and the Fight for Justice*

Concepts and applications of human rights from theoretical and applied perspectives including international, regional, and national human rights instruments; the history of human rights movements in Argentina; current human rights issues; the use of human rights—including economic and social rights, women's rights, and indigenous rights—in the struggles of social movements.

#### *Social Movements: Theory and Case Analysis*

Theories of collective action and social movements seen in theoretical and applied perspectives; the challenges social movements face in working for social change at local, national, and international levels; the interrelationship among social movements, human rights, and social exclusion; exposure to relevant cases of Argentine social movements from the 1990s to the present, focusing on their political and social contexts;

analysis of and visits to social organizations that emerged during the 2001 crisis; territorial movements (*piqueteros*), neighborhood assemblies, and recuperated factories.

#### *Educational Excursions*

Students travel to northwestern Argentina, including to the Bolivian border, and to Patagonia, where they spend time in Bariloche and in a Mapuche indigenous community. Both excursions emphasize various social struggles in relation to gender, peasant, indigenous, and environmental rights. In the north, the program also stresses migrant rights and human trafficking at the Bolivian border. At each site, intensive seminar sessions are delivered by university faculty, development and human rights practitioners, government officials, and local development workers. The trip to the north includes a rural homestay with peasant communities.

#### **Intensive Language Study: Spanish**

SPAN 2000–4000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours  
Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in intensive intermediate or advanced classes, with further language practice in homestays, lectures, and field visits.

#### **Field Study Seminar**

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours  
A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, analyzing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Buenos Aires

**Language Study** Spanish

**Homestay** Buenos Aires, 6 weeks

**Rural Visit/Homestays** Peasant community in the north of Argentina and an indigenous community in the south

**Other Accommodations** Small hotels and hostels

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

**Prerequisites** Previous college-level coursework and/or other significant preparation in social work, political economy, development studies, or Latin American studies, as assessed by SIT. Three recent semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent and the ability to follow coursework in Spanish, as assessed by SIT.

#### **Independent Study Project**

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Buenos Aires or in another location in Argentina appropriate to the project. Emphasis will be given to firsthand and in-depth research of a social movement or human rights issue. **Sample topic areas:** labor rights; rights of migrants; issues of identity; women's rights; LGBTQ rights; interaction of state and society; indigenous rights and community; the Disappeared Peoples; art as a tool for social transformation; children's rights.