

# Argentina

## Regional Integration, Development, and Social Change

Examine the social and economic development strategies of South America's Southern Cone countries—Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

## 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/ARD](http://www.sit.edu/ARD) for details.

### Regional Integration, Development, and Social Change Seminar

LACB 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course examines the impact that economic integration has upon the social and economic development of the countries composing the MERCOSUR (Mercado Común del Sur/Southern Common Market) block. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the Institute for Social and Economic Development (Argentina), the University of Rosario (Argentina), Federal University of Rio Grande (Brazil), University of the Republic in Montevideo (Uruguay), and the Center for Research and Documentation in Asunción (Paraguay).

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *History and Politics of Argentina and the Southern Cone*

Immigration and nation building; populism; modern political parties; early industrialization and postwar economic policies; the legacies of authoritarian rule; human rights; democratization and transition to civilian rule; the socioeconomic crisis and beyond; politics of the new century.

#### *Development, Regionalization, and Local Production Strategies*

Development theories as applied in Latin America; the effects of different development strategies and policies on society and the economy; international politics of trade; globalization and the impact of neoliberal economic policies; special issues of small economies; economic and financial crisis in the region; local sustainable development strategies; MERCOSUR: its trajectory and transformations.

#### *Social Change and Recent Trends in Social Conditions*

Poverty and inequality; evolution of the labor market: economic activity, unemployment, and income distribution; women's participa-

tion in the labor force; strategies to promote inclusive growth; social policies: the roles of government and social movements; social construction of policy through rhetoric, narrative, and ideology; social movements in Argentina and the region.

#### *Regional Issues and Concerns*

Nations and identity; border relations and cultural change; migration and labor displacement; specialized workforce mobility; migrations, social development, and policy implications; transnational social movements.

#### *Educational Excursions*

The program typically includes field excursions and a rural homestay in the pampas in Argentina as well as a one-week stay in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The group then divides into two sections for one week, with one group traveling to Asunción, Paraguay, and the second to Montevideo, Uruguay. In each location, seminar sessions and educational visits are delivered by local faculty, development practitioners, government officials, and local community and labor groups.

#### **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



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Buenos Aires

**Language Study** Spanish

**Homestay** Buenos Aires, 12 weeks

**Rural Visit/Homestay** Santa Fe province, 4 days

**Other Accommodations** Small hotels and hostels

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

**Prerequisites** Previous college-level coursework and/or other significant preparation in sociology, political science, economics, or development studies, as assessed by SIT. Four recent semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent and the ability to follow coursework and assignments in Spanish, as assessed by SIT.

observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.

#### **Independent Study Project**

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours  
Conducted in Buenos Aires or in another approved location appropriate to the project.

**Sample topic areas:** bilateral government-owned development projects; immigration policy changes; development of corporate social responsibility; women's political participation; changes in political participation; eliminating child labor; sustainability of agricultural export production; gender issues and border crossings; recuperated industries; informal labor markets; indigenous struggle for land; transborder conflict around forestry projects.