Comparative Literature 130
The National Imagination
Spring, 2009

Instructors:
Marvin D'Lugo
Estabrook 408
Mdlugo@clarku.edu
tel. 793-7725
Office hours: Th 11-12, and by appointment

Robert Tobin
Estabrook 309
rtobin@clarku.edu
tel. 793-7353
Office hours: M W 2-4, and by appointment

Alice Valentine
Estabrook 403
avalentine@clarku.edu
tel. 793-7726
Office hours: M 12-1; W 10-11; Th 1:15 – 2:15; and by appointment.

REQUIRED TEXTS

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE FL&L DEPT. OFFICE for $20:
Course Reader: The National Imagination 2009

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE BOOKSTORE:
The Argentina Reader: History, Culture, Politics, ed. Nouzeilles and Montaldo
Enchi Fumiko, The Waiting Years
Tanizaki Jun’ichiro, Some Prefer Nettles
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Faust I and II
Gertrud Kolmar, A Jewish Mother in Berlin

FILMS AVAILABLE AT GODDARD LIBRARY RESERVE DESK:
María Luisa Bemberg. Camila
Juan Carlos Desanzo. The True Story of Eva Peron
Luis Puenzo. The Official Story
Marcelo Piñeyro. Kamchadka
Itami Juzo. Tampopo
Rainer Werner Fassbinder. The Marriage of Maria Braun
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular attendance at all class sessions. More than one unexcused absence will adversely affect your grade. When you know you will be absent, please have the courtesy of contacting one of us in advance by e-mail.

2. Preparation of all assigned readings and viewing of all assigned films prior to class meetings.

3. For each of the three “National Experiences” students may choose one of three formal analytic exercises: (a) a take-home examination consisting of responses to ‘Think Questions’ distributed for assigned readings and screenings [6-8 pages]; (b) an analytic essay based on readings and class discussions. Essay topics will be distributed in class [6-8 pages]; (c) a visual/aural culture project (see below). Evaluation and grades for analytic exercises will be done collaboratively by all three instructors. Note: You may choose to do one, two or three take-home exams and/or analytic essays, but no more than one visual/aural culture project. Due Dates for submitting take-home essays and analytic essays:
   - Argentine Experience:   February 24
   - Japanese Experience:     March 31
   - German Experience:   April 30

4. VISUAL/AURAL CULTURE PROJECTS: In lieu of one take-home exam or analytic essay, students may wish to develop a visual/aural culture project. The project, which may be developed singly or as a collaborative assignment among two or three students, will involve the exploration of visual dimensions of themes and materials previously presented in course readings. There is a department archive of visual culture projects developed in previous years. All visual culture projects must be approved by the appropriate instructor. Visual/aural culture projects are usually presented during Academic Spree Day.

5. Weekly Cicada Forum Postings: By midnight of the Tuesday following each class, students will post at least one comment (minimum 50 words) and a response to at least one other posting in their forum group.

Determination of final grades

   Analytic Exercises – 60%
   Class participation and Cicada Forum discussion – 40%

COURSE INTRODUCTION
WEEK ONE, January 15

How does the course work? What is a National Imagination?

Handout: Benedict Anderson on “unisonance,” from Imagined Communities

**Singing the Nation:** Assorted film clips

*Homework: Please update your profile on Cicada*

WEEK TWO, January 22

**National and Ethnic Stereotypes and You!**

**Reading due:**

**INVENTING ARGENTINA**

WEEK THREE, January 29: **Inventing Argentina: Gender, Violence and Nation**

**Reading due:**
1. Domingo F. Sarmiento: “Civilization and Barbarism” (Argentina Reader 80-90)
4. María Luisa Bemberg. “Camila” [Film]

[RECOMMENDED]:
1. Nicolas Shumway: Prelude to Nationhood.” [*Course Reader*]
3. Richard Slatta: “Man to Myth: Literary and Symbolic Images” [*Course Reader*]

WEEK FOUR, February 5:

**Popular/ Elite Narratives of the Nation/Sounds of the People**

**Reading due:**
1. Jorge Luis Borges “Man from the Slums” [*Course Reader*]
2. Jorge Luis Borges. “The South” [*Course Reader*]
3. ”Splendor and Fin de Siècle” (Argentina Reader: 157-160)
   (Argentina Reader 209-13).

[RECOMMENDED]
1. David Viñas, “The Foundation of the National State”
   (Argentina Reader 161-9)
2. Oresta Sola. “Making it in America” (Argentina Reader 188-192)

WEEK FIVE, Feb.12: Juan and Eva Perón: Myth-Making and Popular Culture

Reading due:
1. “Populism and New Nationalism” (Argentina Reader 269-303)
2. Julio Cortázar. “House Taken Over” (Argentine Reader 328-32)

RECOMMENDED:
Daniel James. “Perón and the People” (Argentine Reader 273-95)
Tomás Eloy Martínez. “Saint Evita” (Argentine Reader 296-303)
Rodolfo Walsh. “Operation Massacre” (Argentine Reader 333-339)

WEEK SIX, February 19: “The Dirty War:” Gender, Family and Nation

Reading due:
1. Hebe de Bonafini and Matilde Sánchez. “The Madwomen at the Plaza de Mayo”
   (Argentine Reader 395-471)
   (Argentine Reader 440-47)
   [Course Reader]
4. Luisa Valenzuela: Course Reader]
   “The Best Shod”
   “The Censors”
   “Addendum”
   “Symmetries”
   Marcelo Piñyero. “Kamchadka”
INVENTING JAPAN

WEEK SEVEN, February 26: Inventing Japan: Sacrifice, Feudal Remnants and the Nation as Family

Reading due:
1. Valignano, de Torres, and Carletti. “Reports of the Earliest Western Visitors to Japan” [Course Reader]
2. “Black Ship Scrolls,” [Cicada link]
3. Enchi Fumiko. The Waiting Years

WEEK EIGHT, March 12: Memory, Fantasy, Modernity: Defining Japan Against the Other

Reading due:
1. Tanizaki Jun’ichiro. Some Prefer Nettles
2. Tanizaki Jun’ichiro. “In Praise of Shadows” [Course Reader]

WEEK NINE, March 19: Japan and the West, Redux: Subjection, Accommodation, and Re-visioning the Past; Identity and the Other

Reading due:
1. Nosaka Akiyuki. “American Hijiki” [Course Reader]
2. Itami Juzo, Tampopo [film]

WEEK TEN, March 26: Beyond Civilization, Race and Gender, National Margins/Marginally National?

Reading due:
1. Tawada Yoko. “The Bridegroom Was a Dog” [Course Reader]
2. Tawada Yoko. “Is Europe Western?” [Course Reader]
3. Takashi Murakami links on Cicada

[Border Crossing to the German Experience with Prof. Tobin]

INVENTING GERMANY
WEEK ELEVEN, April 2: Building a Nation: Faust and *Faust*  
The National Canon  

**Required reading:**  
excerpts from Goethe’s *Faust I and II*  

WEEK TWELVE, April 9: The Nation in the Crisis of Modernity:  
Gender and Race in the 1920s  

**Required reading:**  
Kolmar’s *Jewish Mother in Berlin*  

WEEK THIRTEEN, April 16: Coming to Terms with the Past:  
Third Reich, Holocaust, and Economic Miracle  

**Required reading and viewing:**  
1. Fassbinder, *Marriage of Maria Braun* [film]  
2. Celan, “Death Fugue” [*Course reader*]  
3. Benjamin, “The Artwork in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” [*Course Reader*]  

WEEK FOURTEEN, April 23: Performing the National and the Supranational:  
The Eurovision Song Contest  

**Required readings and viewing:**  
1. Current Eurovision contestants, available on the Internet at:  
   http://www.eurovision.tv/  
2. Adorno, “The Culture Industry” [*Course Reader*]  
3. Possible selections from *A Song for Europe* [handout]