Exhibitions are spaces of knowledge, experience, and entertainment. This course studies the methods, functions, and conditions of exhibition practice, through visual and textual analysis as well as exhibition visits. Although the history of exhibitions and museums, from the 18th to 21st century, will provide an underlying basis for this course, special attention will be paid to the present. Through the lens of curatorial studies, the changing conceptions of the work of art, art’s origin, and its functions in Latin America will also be charted. We will visit a variety of exhibitions on view in the city of Buenos Aires when class will be on-site in order to develop critical skills and address the following questions: What are the major theoretical and practical issues at stake in different kinds of exhibitions, and how can we perceive their significance? What is the relationship between the curator and artist/s? What role does museum architecture play in creating a context for experiencing exhibitions? What are some illuminating interactions between exhibitions and contemporary thought? Finally, what is an exhibition? Readings will include essays by curators, writers, and critics such as Walter Benjamin, Jorge Luis Borges, Michael Brenson, Brian O’Doherty and Mari Carmen Ramírez.

• Students will learn about the ways in which artworks are presented and framed. Since exhibitions are the medium through which most art becomes known, students will moreover engage with contemporary art in its own right. First examining what is an exhibition, the course will go on to ask what is art, how it is related to our cultural history, and how it can configure possible futures.

• Students will also learn how to analyze and interpret significant exhibitions, works of art, and texts. Overall, students will be asked to be open by being receptive to new ideas, that
is, new art (and new exhibitions) introducing different views, voices and perspectives on our present.

• In placing emphasis on Latin American contemporary art, students will learn to reflect on their own assumptions and ideas about geographically or culturally unfamiliar societies.

Students will read and write about exhibitions with a critical point of view that displays depth of thought, is mindful of theoretical traditions, and demonstrates personal engagement. Debate will be encouraged through the unique lens of theoretical discussions (ensuring that scholarship and research are part of the fabric of the course) combined with on-site observations and case studies.

Participation and attendance: 22% (throughout)
Written responses: 38% (varies)
Final Paper: 40% (December 15)

Students must come to each class having read the material carefully, and be prepared to speak intelligently. Participation in class discussion is essential and only possible if students do the readings.

A student who is late or not in class cannot take an active part in learning; lateness or unexcused absences will reduce his or her grades.

This course involves exhibition visits so as to reflexively consider the components that together configure an art show and its impact. After each visit, students must write brief responses (9 visits; 9 two-page responses; plus a two-page response paper on the story “The Aleph”). Each response is due on the next Monday following the visit (September 12; September 19; October 3; October 10; October 17; November 7; November 14; November 21; December 5; December 6). Further details on the written responses can be found on NYUClasses.

There will also be a final paper (8-10 pages) in which students will examine an exhibition of their choosing currently on view in the city and develop a critical interpretation based on that specific case study. Students will be encouraged to put all of their intellectual and creative energy into this longer paper, drawing on some of the things they will have learned during the course about problems of interpretation, aesthetics, politics, and context. On December 2, students will do an individual oral presentation on their chosen exhibition.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Please refrain from using your cell phone in class, and restrict laptop usage to course-related purposes.

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** Work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However,
the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

**Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

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**Exams and Submission of Work**

Final Exam dates cannot be changed under any circumstance.

Mid term exam dates will be scheduled with each professor and it must be before the break. Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from examination (with authorization, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

**Final essays must be submitted to the professor in print and electronic copy.** If the student is not in Buenos Aires, he / she must send a printed copy via express postal mail (i.e. FedEX, DHL, UPS, etc) to the NYU Center in Buenos Aires - Anchorena 1314 - (C1425ELF) Argentina. This copy must arrive before or on the date of established deadline.
Attendance Policy

- NYU's Global Programs (including NYU Buenos Aires) must adhere to a **strict policy regarding course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted.**
- Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 1% from the student’s final course grade.
- Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies.
- Absences due to illness or mental health issues must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs, María Pirovano Peña **within one week** of your return to class.
- A doctor’s note excusing your absence is mandatory.
- **The date on the doctor’s note must be the date of the missed class or exam**
- Being absent to any kind of examination must be informed at or before the time of said examination via email to the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, Maria Pirovano Peña (mpp6@nyu.edu).
- Requests to be excused for non-illness purposes must be discussed with your professors prior to the date(s) in question. (If you want the reasons of your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please contact the Assistant Director of Academics Affairs, Maria Pirovano Peña mpp6@nyu.edu.)
- If students have more than four unexcused absences, they will fail the course.
- Each class lasts one hour and half or two hours. **Missing one class represents one absence. For those courses that meet once a week (three-hour block), missing one class represents two absences.**
- Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.
- NYU BA also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. Three late arrivals or early departures (10 minutes after the starting time or before the ending time) will be considered one absence. Missing more than 20 minutes of a class will count as a full absence.
- Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.
- Make-up classes for Holidays are mandatory as regular scheduled classes.
- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-and-wellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

Late Submission of Work

Late work should be submitted **in person** to the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs **during office hours** (Mon – Fri, 9.30 am to 5 pm), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.
Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

**Plagiarism Policy**

**Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity is intimately related to the teaching and learning process. When writing research papers, you need to keep in mind that plagiarism includes the use of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally. It also includes presenting and/or paraphrasing discourse or ideas from a published work (in print or on internet) without quotation marks and clear without acknowledgment of the original source.

For formatting in your papers, refer to MLA guidelines.

On matters regarding academic integrity, refer to the section “Academic Standards and Discipline” in the College of Arts and Science Bulletin [http://bulletin.cas.nyu.edu/page/academic.policies#STANDARDS](http://bulletin.cas.nyu.edu/page/academic.policies#STANDARDS) and to “Statement on Academic Integrity” in NYU Expository Writing Program: Policies and Procedures: [http://www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/policies___procedures.html#statementacademicintegrity](http://www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/policies___procedures.html#statementacademicintegrity)

All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor.

It is expected that the student follow the rules on academic honesty and intellectual integrity established by NYU University.

**Required Text(s)**

The instructor will provide you with copies of required book chapters, as permitted by relevant copyright law, as well as links to electronically available journal articles and other material.
# Course Introduction I

**1 Sept.**

# Course Introduction II

**8 Sept.**
3:30 - 4:55:
4:55 - 5:30: Class will travel to the National Museum of Fine Arts, MNBA
5:30 - 6:35: Exhibition discussion on site

# The Roles of the Curator

**15 Sept.**
3:30 - 4:55:
4:55 - 5:30: Class will travel to Móvil
5:30 - 6:35: Exhibition discussion on site

# Exhibiting Latin American Art II

**22 Sept.**
Dr. Malbrán will be unavailable. Make-up session TBA.

**29 Sept.**
(Mexican muralism. The Mexican Revolution and José Vasconcelos’ new educational program (1920-1924). Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros)
3:30 - 4:55:
4:55 - 5:30: Class will travel to Museo del Bicentenario to visit the mural Plastic Exercise in Buenos Aires, by David Alfaro Siqueiros, Antonio Berni, Lino Eneas Spilimbergo, and others [Ejercicio plástico]
5:30 - 6:35: Exhibition discussion on site
**Week 6**

**6 Oct.**

3:30 - 5:00:

5:00 - 6:45: Visit to Museo Xul Solar

**Week 7**

**Collections and Chronologies**

3:30 - 4:55:

4:55 - 5:30: Class will travel to Malba (Museo de Arte Latinoméricano de Buenos Aires - Fundación Costantini).

5:30 - 6:35: Exhibition discussion on site

**Week 8**

**Challenging the White Cube. From Art to Life and Back I**

27 Oct.

Week 9

Challenging the White Cube. From Art to Life and Back II

3:30 - 4:55:

4:55-6:35: Exhibition discussion on site (Museo de Arte Moderno or show TBA)

Week 10

Museums by Artists. Reinventing the Museum

3:30 - 4:55:

10 Nov.

4:55-6:35: Exhibition visit TBA (Barro Gallery or Ignacio Liprandi Gallery or Ruth Benzacar Gallery).

Week 11

Exhibitions and Socioeconomic Contexts

3:30 - 4:55:

17 Nov.

4:55-6:35: Exhibition visit TBA (Barro Gallery or Ignacio Liprandi Gallery or Ruth Benzacar Gallery or Nora Fisch Gallery).

Week 12

Exhibiting Latin American Art III

24 Nov.

Week 13

Audience development, planning, sustainability

(How are curators responsible for interpretation and learning programs? What are the financial constraints of exhibitions and how to seek economic support?)

1 Dec.

Exhibition visit TBA

Week 14

Curating and Brokering Identities

2 Dec.
Open forum discussion on final paper.

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<th>Week 15</th>
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Final paper due.

15 Dec.