

## What is the Tango?

The Tango is the most successful cultural export of Argentina and Uruguay. It is a genre of music and a style of dance that incorporates melodic and rhythmic influences from diverse areas of the world, such as Cuba, Spain, Southern Italy, Eastern Europe, Africa, and rural South America. The Tango is a musical melting pot whose history is inextricably tied to the waves of mass immigration that changed the ethnic composition of the River Plate region from the 1880s, making the people of Buenos Aires and Montevideo the most Europeanized of all Latin Americans.

A lesser known aspect of the Tango is its poetry. Improvised words to accompany the music were always present, but they have been mostly lost to time. Around 1900 lyricists began committing their creations to paper. Tango songs reveal a universe unlike any other, miniature melodramas featuring tough guys with broken hearts, former tough guys reminiscing about the good old days, and guys of every age philosophizing about life while nursing their drinks. You are invited to discover the exotic and beautiful world of the Tango.

Irene Jacobsen

## Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (Since 1963)



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## Summer 2017 Latin American Studies Educators' Workshop

[clacs.illinois.edu/Outreach](http://clacs.illinois.edu/Outreach)

## Latin America '17 June 5 – June 9

Organized by the  
**Center for  
Latin American and Caribbean Studies,  
University of Illinois**

Developed under a grant from the Department of Education. Materials do not necessarily represent Department of Education policy nor are they endorsed by the Federal Government

## The Poetry and Movement of Tango: A Window to South America

### DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

- One-week Professional Development workshop for Middle School, High School, and Community College Educators and Librarians interested in Latin American Studies
- Contact hours: 36 total hours (Monday to Thursday: 8 hours, Friday: 4 hours)
- Discussion of the three aspects of the Tango: music, dance, and lyrics, in the context of the socio-historical developments in the River Plate area (Buenos Aires/Montevideo) between ca. 1880 and 1955
- Activities featuring authentic aural/written/visual materials (original music, lyrics in Spanish and in translation, and film clips)
- Instructor will create original materials to share with participants
- Participants will be able to create, revise and share their own materials
- Some knowledge of Spanish and Latin America is desirable, but not required
- Enrollment limited to 30 participants
- Full-Day Workshop
- Daily extracurricular cultural activities
- University Dorm lodging available

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Feature film followed by discussion
- Lecture by Visiting Scholar on the history of the region
- Tango dance instruction
- Final reception featuring South American culinary specialties

### COURSE OUTCOMES

- Learn about the artistic and cultural diversity of the River Plate region of South America
- Acquire a basic understanding of the cultural and social underpinnings of the Tango
- Create course materials based on music and song lyrics in order to understand the region's social history
- All participants will receive copies of the materials used in the workshop

### APPLICATION MATERIALS

Information: [clacs.illinois.edu/outreach](http://clacs.illinois.edu/outreach)

- Electronic Registration Form
- Registration Fee: \$ 75.00
- Registration opens: February 23, 2017
- Deadline: May 1, 2017

## OUR INSTRUCTOR



**Prof. Irene Jacobsen**

Associate Professor of Spanish,  
Eastern Illinois University

Originally from Córdoba, Argentina, Prof. Jacobsen has degrees in Sociology from McGill University, and Spanish from the University of Pennsylvania. Her early research focused on 19th century Argentine women writers and the strategies they used to navigate a male-dominated literary world. Currently, she is working on a project involving the poetry of the Tango. She has been teaching undergraduates for fifteen years. Beside reading and writing, she enjoys listening to music, baking, cooking, and all things dog.

