

CLASSES



Educating the mind without educating the heart, is no education at all. - Aristotle

WHAT IF I CAN'T ATTEND CLASSES REGULARLY?

It's fine, and you will still be able to learn a lot and enjoy many of the benefits. You can drop-in to classes, but keep in mind that consistency will shorten the total time in your learning process. With drop-in classes you receive a fragmented education, and you create many knowledge gaps. Later you will pay for these gaps. Education that isn't continuous isn't effective.

“Ok, I know what you're going to say:

“Everyone knows repetition always works!” Well... are you sure? Because if everyone knows, it means everyone uses it. How many times have you actually used the repetition method to learn something?

In 2018, 2 university classmates came to one of my group classes in Toronto to learn the tango dance. Both had the same age, physical capacity, cognitive ability, will, and enthusiasm to start. My classes differ completely from

Gentlemen: The right arm gently embraces the lady's upper back area, behind her chest. This arm is parallel with the floor and semi-relaxed, to help the lady breathe. The left arm isn't stretched too far from the body or shortened. The left hand creates a relaxed place for the lady's hand.

Ladies: The left arm gently embraces the gentleman's upper back area behind his chest. The left arm is semi-relaxed, to help the gentleman maintain his balance and posture. The right hand goes inside the gentleman's hand.



Image. A close embrace variation in the tango dance, by Educator X and Anastasia Mustafina.

“When I arrive to an airport from a trip, I always stop to observe the people. It's another way for me to re-verify that humans still express their love to each other. At the departures, the sad love of separation, and at the arrivals, the exciting love of reunion. There are lots of

his engagement of the form can be sensed in the inclination his work shows—like the lyrics and melancholy strains of tango’s most famous songs—toward the narrative and, occasionally, the nostalgic. Gelman’s work establishes a connection between the literary and the popular tradition of the tango, between the historical and the sentimental.

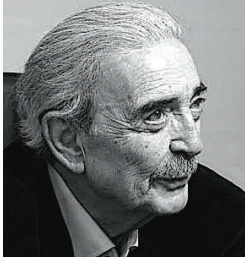


Image. The Argentine poet, Juan Gelman.

2014: In Uruguay, Carlos Páez Vilaró (90 years old), a self-trained painter, sculptor, screenwriter, musician, and architect, died. He championed Afro-Uruguayan Candombé music and dances, created colorful murals in dozens of cities around the world, and built a huge living sculpture that became an iconic 50-room hotel.

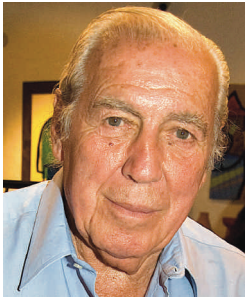


Image. The Uruguayan artist, Carlos Páez Vilaró.

2015: In Argentina, around 400,000 people marched in silence to the presidential palace in Buenos Aires, to protest the January 18th death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman.

2015: In Uruguay, Tabaré Vázquez (75 years old) became president, returning to office after a decade.

2015: In Uruguay, author Eduardo Galeano died at 74, in Montevideo. His works included “The Open Veins of Latin America”, a classic of leftist literature.

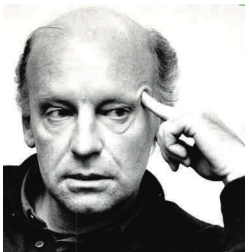


Image. The author, Eduardo Galeano.

2015: Argentine President Mauricio Macri was sworn in. Inflation was about 30%, and the budget deficit was 5.4% of the GDP.

2016: President Barack Hussein Obama began a 2-day visit to Argentina. He praised the new center-right President Mauricio Macri for the swift pace of reforms to create a stronger economy, and said the U.S. was ready to help

the South-American country.

total population of these areas would amount to some 25–30 million, depending on the definition and expanse.

Rioplatense vocabularies diverge from Peninsular Spanish. Rioplatense Spanish is highly influenced by Italian and borrows technical words from American English. Peninsular Spanish tends to calque them from French and other European languages instead.



Graphic. Approximate area of Rioplatense Spanish (Patagonian variants included).

What is the voseo?

One feature of the Argentine and Uruguayan speaking style is the *voseo*²: The usage of the pronoun *vos* for the second person singular, instead of *tú*. In other Spanish-speaking regions, such as Chile and Colombia, the use of *voseo* has been considered as a nonstandard, lower-speaking style, whereas in Argentina and Uruguay, it’s a standard.

Person/Number	Peninsular	Rioplatense
1 st singular	yo amo	yo amo
2 nd singular	tú amas	vos amás
3 rd singular	èl ama	èl ama
1 st plural	nosotros amamos	nosotros amamos
2 nd plural	vosotros amáis	ustedes aman ¹
3 rd plural	ellos aman	ellos aman

Graphic. The conjugation table for the verb *amar* (to love) in the present tense, indicative mode.

The second-person plural pronoun, which is *vosotros* in Spain, alters with *ustedes* in Rioplatense, as in most other Latin-American dialects. While *usted* is the formal second-person singular pronoun, its plural,

Melody. Most tangos begin in a minor key reflecting the serious nature of the dance. Melodies also use lots of chromatic notes. Rhythmically, melodies can move either with the bass line, or they can play flowing straight notes to contrast the dotted rhythms in the other instruments.

Harmony. Tangos use relatively simple harmony, which contrasts with the more complicated rhythms and melodies. Also, the harmony comes out through the bass line or a piano accompaniment.

Why can we find classic tango in 2/4 or 4/8 time?

And why is tango sometimes referred to as *dos por cuatro* (2/4)? Why is the old tango sheet music written in 4/8? Musically, it doesn't make a difference, and if you're not a musician you might not care. Yet, it's nice to know why. In the *guardia vieja*, or "old guard" period, tango was played with a *habanera* feel. It makes sense to notate that feel in 2/4, as it sounds. Over time, tango groups started marking 4 beats per measure. It no longer made sense to use 2/4, so they started notating in 4/8. I guess, someone decided 4/8 was a silly time signature and started using 4/4, which is easier on the eyes, maybe because it's considered "common time".



Image. The "Orquesta Típica Criolla Greco".