

## Proposed Study and Methods:

This undergraduate research project will be a quantitative investigation of both the scale of petitioning and the types of petitions submitted during the years of 1800-1810 and 1850-60 in Argentina. In addition to this, the project will also focus on examining the social effects of the wars during the early independence period and will explore the social makeup of the soldiers in Córdoba. This research will require work locating documents in the archives, organizing information into databases, and analyzing the information found. My main role in this project will be to work with both Dr. Meisel and the other two students to locate documents, organize, and analyze them in order to draw conclusions about the past.

This project will require a lot of outside preparation. I have already taken the class, History 342: Colonial Latin America, which explores the history of Latin America up until the independence period. This project will require me to pick up where that class ended. Over the summer months I will meet with Dr. Meisel and the two other students to educate myself about the independence period. During this time I will be responsible for doing readings regarding the historiography of this subject, exploring some sample documents and learning general information about this time period. I will work with Dessa, John and Dr. Meisel to create the database we will use to organize our findings. In addition to this, I find it very important that I continue to improve my Spanish language skills over the summer. This will allow me to better understand the documents themselves and improve my ability to effectively communicate with people during our stay in Argentina. Due to this, I plan on studying Spanish extensively over the summer.

When we arrive in Argentina my main role will be to locate documents. The documents in the archives are organized by year and do not contain a guide. With the help of the others, I will work through thousands of documents in order to find the documents that are useful in this project. When we

return from Argentina I will work with the others to organize the documents we collected and enter the information into the databases that we will have created earlier in the summer. I will work with the others to analyze and interpret the documents. In the fall the two other students and I will write the first drafts of our research papers. To conclude our project we will present our findings at North Central Council of Latin Americanists, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's Undergraduate Research Day, and the NCUR Conference in April of 2010.

#### Anticipated Significance of Results:

The results of this research will aid in the explanation and understanding of the impact that Argentina's wars had on people, help to explain how the military was formed, and it will provide valuable information about how the wars affected the lives of soldiers. The study is essential because there is no other study about this topic for any Latin American Country. It provides essential information about the social history of this period in Argentina. Not only will this study significantly aid in people's understanding of a country's history, it also gives three students a hands on experience with the past. This project will allow me to work in an archive for the first time, learn how to organize information and it will give me an opportunity to analyze and interpret primary documents and write a paper about my findings. The skills I gain from conducting this research will not only make me a better historian and teacher, but they also will make me a more knowledgeable and understanding person.