Course Name: Gender History in Latin America

- Hours of Instruction per Week: 4
- Total weeks: 15
- Total Hours of Instruction: 60
- Courses transferable to ECTS
- Courses transferable to U.S. System
- Recommendation: Advanced written and spoken English

Course Description:
The course provides a brief introduction to the history of gender in Latin America from the time of Columbus to the 20th century. Focusing on the multiple manners in which womanhood has been constructed and experienced, the course explores the role that categories such as racial origins and social class play in mediating and defining experience. The course seeks to understand the complexity of the process of finding women’s own voices. Labor, family relations, sexuality, religion, education, and the evolution of political and civil rights will be discussed in order to demonstrate that women have actively shaped their own destinies. The course will use case studies, such as Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Manuela Saenz, Clorinda Matto de Turner, Eva Perón, Rigoberta Menchú, and Frida Kahlo and the weekly readings will be completed with primary source material, such as memoirs, accounts, films, photographs, and images.

Attendance policy:
Each class will consist of two sections. During the first, the instructor will provide a brief historical background of the weekly topics. During the second, students will engage in active participation by discussing and evaluating the weekly readings. In addition, each week a small group of students will prepare a short oral presentation and a brief written summary on one of the recommended readings. The requirements also include a midterm and final exam, as well as class attendance.

Evaluation Methods:
- Participation: 20%
- Oral presentation: 20%
- Mid-term essay: 30%
- Final exam: 30%
**Academic Calendar**

**Week 1**  
**Introduction.** Gender history in Latin America. Objectives, subjects, and relevance.  
Joan Scott, “Gender, a useful category of analysis.”  
Susan Socolow, Introduction.

**Week 2**  
**Contact.** The conquest. Mestizaje or race mixture. The racialization of gender.  
Required readings: Laura A. Lewis, “The 'Weakness' of Women and the feminization of the Indian in colonial Mexico.”  
Isabel Guevara, “The men became so weak that all the tasks fell on the poor women.”  
Ruy Diaz de Guzman, Women Captives.  
Jose Barreiro, Survival Stories.

**Week 3**  
**Religion.** Catholicism, acculturation, and alternative religious practices. Convents and the religious life. The Inquisition in the Americas.  
Required readings:  
Ricardo Fernandez Guardia, *Brotherhood of the Virgin.*  
Olga Portuondo Zuñiga, *The Virgin of Cobre, Cuba’s Patron Saint.*  
Juana Ines de la Cruz, *On Men’s Hypocrisy.*  
Recommended readings:  
Burns, Kathryn, “Nuns, kurakas, and credit: The spiritual economy of seventeenth-century Cuzco.”
Week 4
**Women and Patriarchy.** Family structure. Marriage and motherhood.
Civil and political rights during colonial times.
**Required readings 3**
Twinam, Ann, *Precedents and Mothers: Pregnant virgins, abandoned women and the public and private price of sexuality.*
Juana Manuela Gorriti, *Women in the Fatherland.*
Mariquita Sanchez de Thompson, *The First British Invasion.*
**Recommended readings:**
Boyer, Richard, *Women, La Mala Vida and the Politics of Marriage*.

Week 5
**Private and public spheres.** The family home and the streets. Urban and rural life. Entertainment. Female labour during colonial times.
**Required readings:**
Frances Calderon de la Barca, *Women and War in Mexico.*
Mary Weismantel, *Cities of Women.*
Evelyn M. Cherpak, “Reminiscences of Brazilian Life, 1834-1848, Selections from the Diary of Mary Robinson Hunter.”
**Recommended readings:**
Arnold Bauer, *Civilizing Goods.*

Week 6
**Slavery.** Women’s differing worlds: slaves, servants, and elite women.
Challenges and resistance.
**Required readings:**
Maria Eugenia Chaves, *Slave Women Strategies for Freedom in the Late Spanish Colonial State in Hidden histories of gender.*
Frances Calderon de la Barca, *Life in Mexico.*
Cirilo Villaverde, Cecilia Valdes.
**Recommended readings:**
Bush, Barbara, "Daughters of injur'd Africk': African women and the transatlantic slave trade.”
Week 7
Mid term essay due
Required readings:
Francesca Miller, Women and Education, in Latin American women.
Dorothea Scott Whitten, Arts of Amazonian and Andean Women Alfonsoina Storni, Modern Women.
Juana Manuela Gorriti, Cookbook excerpt.
Recommended readings:
Donna Guy, Gabriela and Emilio Coni.
Jocelyn Olcott, "Take off that streetwalker's dress": Concha Michel and the Cultural Politics of Gender in Post revolutionary Mexico.

Week 8
Sexualities. The female body in the medical discourse. Deviancy: prostitution, homosexuality.
Required readings:
Lavrin, Feminism and sexuality: An uneasy relationship, in Women, Feminism, and Social Change.
Luisa Gonzalez, Women of the barrio.
Cartoons, Enrique Santos Discepolo, Esta noche me emborracho.
Recommended readings:
Donna Guy, Tango, Gender, Politics, in Sex and Danger.
Katherine Bliss, The science of redemption, Syphilis, Sexual Promiscuity and Reformism in Revolutionary Mexico City.”

Week 9
Required readings:
Buck, Sarah A. “New Perspectives on Female Suffrage.”
Alfonsoina Storni, Modern Women.
Carolina Freyre de Jaimes and Violetas del Anahuac, Women’s reform issues in late 19th century Peru and Mexico Reform.
Eva Peron, My mission in life
Recommended readings:
Shirlene Soto, The Women’s movement in Yucatan in Emergence of the Modern Mexican Woman.
Susan Besse, Pagu: Patricia Galvao – Rebel.

Week 10
Class in the 20th century: Class composition. Emergence of the working class.
Required readings:

**Week 11**

**Week 12**

**Week 13**
**Week 14**

*Contemporary Activism.* The Zapatista movement: women and the EZLN. The piqueteras and AAMAR.

Required readings:
Karen Kampenwirth, *Also a women’s rebellion.*
The Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle.
EZLN Women’s Revolutionary Law.

Recommended Readings:
Kate Hardy, *Incorporating Sex Workers into the Argentine Labour Movement.*

**Week 15**

Final exam
Sylvia Chant, *Men in Crisis?*
Francesca Miller, Conclusion.

**Bibliography**

**Required Readings I: Course Reader**


Francesca Miller, *Women and Education, Latin American women and the*


Lavrin, Feminism and sexuality: An uneasy relationship, Women, Feminism, and Social Change in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay, 1890-1940 (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1995), pp.125-158
Buck, Sarah A. “New Perspectives on Female Suffrage,” History Compass, (Vol. 3, June 2005), pp. 1-16
Barbara Weinstein, “They don’t even look like women workers”: Femininity and Class in Twentieth-Century Latin America,” ILWCH 69 (Spring 2006)
Julia Shayne, “Gendered Revolutionary Bridges,” Latin American Perspectives, 26: 3 (May 1999)
Kate Hardy, Incorporating Sex Workers into the Argentine Labour Movement, International and Working Class History 77 (Spring 2010)

Required Readings II: Primary sources
Catalina de Erauso: The Nun Ensign
Isabel Guevara: The men became so weak that all the tasks fell on the poor women
Ruy Díaz de Guzman: Women Captives
Jose Barreiro: Survival Stories
Ricardo Fernandez Guardia: Brotherhood of the Virgin
Olga Portuondo Zuñiga: The Virgin of Cobre, Cuba’s Patron Saint
Juana Ines de la Cruz, On Men’s Hypocrisy
Flora Tristan, Women of Lima
Juana Manuela Gorriti, Women in the Fatherland
Mariquita Sanchez de Thompson, The First British Invasion
Flora Tristan, Women of Lima
Juana Manuela Gorriti, Women in the Fatherland
Frances Calderon de la Barca, Women and War in Mexico
Mary Weismantel, Cities of Women
Frances Calderon de la Barca, Letter 19
Cirilo Villaverde, Cecilia Valdes
Robert Walsh, Life on a Slave Ship
Francesca Miller, Women and Education
Dorothea Scott Whitten, Arts of Amazonian and Andean Women
Alfonsina Storni, Modern Women
Juana Manuela Gorriti, Cookbook excerpt.
Luisa Gonzalez, Women of the barrio
Cartoons
Enrique Santos Discepolo, Esta noche me emborracho
Carolina Freyre de Jaimes and Violetas del Anahuac, Women’s reform issues in late 19th century Peru and Mexico Reform
Eva Peron, My Mission in Life
Daniel James, Doña María’s Story
Renee Mendez Capote, Memories of a Cuban Girl
Margaret Randall, Women of the Swamps
Oscar Lewis, The Literacy Campaign
Oscar Lewis, The “Rehabilitation” of prostitutes
Hebe de Bonafini and Matilde Sanchez, The Madwomen at the Plaza de Mayo
Tununa Mercado, In a State of Memory
Maria Lupe, Testimony of a Guatemalan Revolutionary
Maria Teresa Tula, Hear my Testimony
EZLN: The Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle
EZLN: Women’s Revolutionary Law
Sylvia Chant, Men in Crisis?

**Recommended Readings**

Jocelyn Olcott, "Take off that streetwalker's dress": Concha Michel and the Cultural Politics of Gender in Post revolutionary Mexico,” *Journal of Women's History* 21: 3 (Fall 2009)
Katherine Bliss, The science of redemption, Syphilis, sexual promiscuity and Reformism in Revolutionary Mexico City,” *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, 79: 1 (Feb., 1999)
Shirlene Soto, Igniting the flames of revolution in *The Emergence of the Modern Latin American Woman* (1990)
Kate Hardy, Incorporating Sex Workers into the Argentine Labour Movement, *International and Working Class History* 77 (Spring 2010).