

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."

Catalina de Erauso, *The Nun Ensign*, excerpts.

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:

Behar Ruth, Sexual Witchcraft, Colonialism, and Women's Powers: Views from the Mexican Inquisition.

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:

James M. Córdoba, "Aztec Vestal Virgins and the Brides of Christ: The Mixed Heritage of New Spain's Monjas Coronadas"

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.*

Flora Tristan, *Women of Lima.*

Juana Manuela Gorriti, *Women in the Fatherland.*

Mariquita Sanchez de Thompson, *The First British Invasion.*

Recommended readings:

Joan Meznar, Carlota Lucia de Brito: *Women, Power, and Politics in Northeast Brazil.*

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:

Lauderdale Graham, Sandra, *Private Lives in Public Spaces.*

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.

Robert Walsh, *Life on a Slave Ship*

Recommended readings:

Bush, Barbara, "Daughters of injur'd Africk': African women and the transatlantic slave trade."

Week 7

Mid term essay due

Female education. The Enlightenment and its consequences. Women in the sciences and in the arts. The emergence of female professions. Higienismo. Puericultura. Journalism.

Required readings:

Francesca Miller, Women and Education, in *Latin American women*.

Dorothea Scott Whitten, Arts of Amazonian and Andean Women Alfonsina 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

Politics, Suffrage and Feminisms. Women organize: Social motherhood and feminist militancy. The evolution of female political rights and suffrage in the 20th century.

Required readings:

Buck, Sarah A. "New Perspectives on Female Suffrage."

Alfonsina 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:

Barbara Weinstein, "They don't even look like women workers":

Femininity and Class in Twentieth-Century Latin America.

Daniel James, *Doña María's Story*.

Renee Mendez Capote, *Memories of a Cuban Girl*.

Recommended readings:

Farnsworth Alvear, Introduction, in *Dulcinea and the factory* (2000)

Week 11

Challenging Patriarchy. Women and political, social, and military activism. The Mexican and Cuban revolutions.

Required readings:

Andrés Reséndez Fuentes, "Battleground Women: Soldaderas and Female Soldiers in the Mexican Revolution."

Margaret Randall, *Women of the Swamps*, Oscar Lewis, *The Literacy Campaign*.

Oscar Lewis, *The "Rehabilitation" of prostitutes*.

Recommended readings:

Shirlene Soto, *Igniting the flames of revolution*

Week 12

Silent revolutions. Female organizations and silent resistance. The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo.

Required readings:

Marguerite Bouvard, Introduction and chapter 3.

Hebe de Bonafini and Matilde Sanchez, *The Madwomen at the Plaza de Mayo*.

Recommended readings:

Marjorie Agosin, Irma Muller in *The Human Tradition*.

Week 13

Ethnicity and violence. Civil wars and the gendered consequence of violence.

Required readings:

Julia Shayne, "Gendered Revolutionary Bridges."

Maria Teresa Tula, *Hear my Testimony*.

Guatemalan Women in the Revolution.

Recommended readings:

Cymene Howe, *Gender, Sexuality and Revolution in Nicaragua*, in *Gender, Sexuality and Power in Latin America*.

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

Joan Scott, "Gender, a useful category of analysis," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 91, No. 5. (Dec., 1986), pp. 1053-1075

Susan Socolow, Introduction, *The Women of Colonial Latin America* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000), pp. 1-4

Laura A. Lewis, "The 'Weakness' of Women and the feminization of the Indian in colonial Mexico," *Colonial Latin American Review* 5 (1), June 1996. pp. 73-94.

Behar Ruth, Sexual Witchcraft, Colonialism, and Women's Powers: Views from The Mexican Inquisition, *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*, edited by Asunción Lavrín, (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1989), pp. 178-206

Twinam, Ann, Precedents and Mothers: Pregnant virgins, abandoned women and the public and private price of sexuality, *Public Lives, Private Secrets: Gender, Honor, Sexuality, and Illegitimacy in Colonial Spanish America* (Stanford: Stanford UP, 1999), pp. 35-55 and 59-88

Lauderdale Graham, Sandra, Private Lives in Public Spaces, *House and Street: The Domestic World of Servants and Masters in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988), pp. 59-88

Maria Eugenia Chaves, Slave Women Strategies for Freedom in the Late Spanish Colonial State, in Elizabeth Dore, Maxine Molyneux (eds.), *Hidden histories of gender and the state in Latin America* (2000)

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

- search for social justice*, (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1991), pp. 35-67
- 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)
- Andrés Reséndez Fuentes, "Battleground Women: Soldaderas and Female Soldiers in the Mexican Revolution," *The Americas*, 51:4, (Apr., 1995)
- Marguerite Bouvard, Introduction and The Mothers Come Together, *Revolutionizing motherhood: the mothers of the Plaza de Mayo*, (Wilmington, DL: Rowman and Littlefield, 1994), pp. 1-17 and 65-91
- Julia Shayne, "Gendered Revolutionary Bridges," *Latin American Perspectives*, 26: 3 (May 1999)
- Karen Kampenwirth, Also a women's rebellion, in *Women and Guerrilla Movements* (2006), pp.83-115.
- Kate Hardy, Incorporating Sex Workers into the Argentine Labour Movement, *International and Working Class History* 77 (Spring 2010)
- Francesca Miller, Conclusion, *Latin American women and the search for social justice*, (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1991), pp. 239-250

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 Diaz 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.
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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

James M. Córdoba, "Aztec Vestal Virgins and the Brides of Christ: The Mixed Heritage of New Spain's Monjas Coronadas", *Colonial Latin American Review*, 1466-1802, 18: 2 (2009)
Burns, Kathryn, "Nuns, kurakas, and credit: The spiritual economy of seventeenth-century Cuzco," *Colonial Latin American Review* 6. 2(1997).
Joan Meznar, Carlota Lucia de Brito: Women, Power, and Politics in Northeast Brazil, in J. Ewell & W. Beezley (eds.) *The Human Tradition in Latin America: 19th C.* (1989)
Boyer, Richard, Women, La Mala Vida and Politics of Marriage, in Asunción Lavrin (ed.), *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America* (1989).
Arnold Bauer, Civilizing Goods, in *Goods, power, history: Latin America's material culture* (2001).
Bush, Barbara, "Daughters of injur'd Africk': African women and the transatlantic slave trade," *History Review*, 17:5 (2008)
Donna Guy, Gabriela and Emilio Coni, in J. Ewell & W. Beezley (eds.) *The Human Tradition in Latin America* (1989)
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)
Donna Guy, Tango, Gender, Politics, in *Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires: Prostitution, Family, and Nation in Argentina* (1991).
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, The Women's movement in Yucatan, in *Emergence of the Modern Mexican Woman: Her Participation in Revolution and Struggle for Equality, 1910-1940* (1990)
Susan Besse, Pagu: Patricia Galvao – Rebel, in J. Ewell & W. Beezley (eds.) *The Human Tradition in Latin America* (1989)
Farnsworth Alvear, "Introduction," in *Dulcinea and the factory* (2000)

Shirlene Soto, Igniting the flames of revolution in *The Emergence of the Modern Latin American Woman* (1990)

Marjorie Agosin, Irma Muller in in J. Ewell & W. Beezley (eds.) *The Human Tradition* (1997)

Cymene, Howe. Gender, Sexuality and Revolution in Nicaragua, in *Gender, Sexuality and Power in Latin America* (2007).

Kate Hardy, Incorporating Sex Workers into the Argentine Labour Movement, *International and Working Class History* 77 (Spring 2010).