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 will provide a brief introduction to the history of gender in Latin America by focusing on the multiple manners in which womanhood has been constructed and experienced from the Conquest up to the twentieth century. Placing a special emphasis on how categories such as race and social class have mediated and defined their experiences, the course will explore some of the differences between women as well as their attempts to bridge these differences. We will examine a variety of issues such as labour and family relations, sexuality, religion, education, and the evolution of political and civil rights in order to demonstrate that women have actively participated in and shaped their own historical destinies. By using a variety of primary sources the course will seek to explore and understand some of the challenges that women have faced over time and the manners in which they have actively contributed to shape Latin American history.

Course Requirements:
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.
Attendance policy:
In accordance with University policies, students are required to have 75% percent attendance in order to take the final exam and have an opportunity to pass the class. Any absences incurred during trips or excursions not organized by the University fall within the 25% limit of absences. An electronic system keeps track of attendance. Students have to slide an electric card every class to comply with attendance policy.

Evaluation Methods:
- Participation: 10%
- Oral presentation: 30%
- Mid-term essay: 40%
- Final exam: 20%

For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading: check the conversion table for the numerical scale (in orientation kit packet).

Required Textbooks and Materials
Patricia Anderson (comp.), Primary sources for gender history

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 Guerara, “The men became so weak that all the tasks fell on the poor women.”
Ruy Diaz de Guzman, Women Captives.
Jose Barreiro, Survival Stories.
Include casta paintings

Week 3
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:
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
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:
Boyer, Richard, Women, La Mala Vida and the Politics of Marriage.

**Week 5**

**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*.
Biography of a runaway slave
Robert Walsh, Life on a Slave Ship

Recommended readings:
John Charles Chasteen, The drums of epiphany (African roots)
Frank Trey Proctor, Gender and the Manumission of Slaves in New Spain

**Week 6**

**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:
Erica Windler, Madame Durocher’s performance: Cross-dressing, Midwifery, and Authority”

**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
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 Discépolo, Esta noche me emborracho.
Recommended readings:
Pablo Ben, Plebeian masculinity and sexual comedy in Buenos Aires
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:
Charity Coker Gonzalez, Agitating for their rights: The Colombian women’s movement,”
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:
Maxine Molineux, No God No Boss No Husband: Anarchist Feminism in 19th Century Argentina.
Plotkin, Mariano, The peronization of women and youth

**Week 11**
Challenging Patriarchy. Women and political, social, and military activism. The Mexican and Cuban revolutions.
Required readings:
Margaret Randall, Women of the Swamps
Margaret Randall, The family code
Oscar Lewis, The Literacy Campaign.
Oscar Lewis, The “Rehabilitation” of prostitutes.
Recommended readings:
Gabriela Cano, Amelio Robles Transgender Masculinity in the Mexican 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:

**Week 13**
Ethnicity and violence. Civil wars and the gendered consequence of violence.
Required readings:
Maria Teresa Tula, *Hear my Testimony.*
Guatemala: Women in the Revolution.
Recommended readings:
Julia Shayne, “Gendered Revolutionary Bridges.”

**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.
Lynn Stephen, Rural Women’s activism, 1980-2000

**Week 15**

**Challenges and Conclusion**

**Final exam**

**Bibliography**

**Required Readings I: Course Reader**


Lavrin, Feminism and sexuality: An uneasy relationship, *Women, Feminism, and Social Change in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay, 1890-1940* (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1995)

Buck, Sarah A. “New Perspectives on Female Suffrage,” *History Compass*, (3: June 2005)

Barbara Weinstein, “They don’t even look like women workers” : Femininity and Class in Twentieth-Century Latin America,” *ILWCH* 69 (Spring 2006)


Maria Teresa Tula, Hear my Testimony, (1994)

Karen Kampenwirth, Also a women’s rebellion, in *Women and Guerrilla Movements* (2006)

**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
Robert Walsh, Life on a Slave Ship
Biography of a Runaway Slave
Evelyn Cherpak, Reminiscences of Brazilian Life
Francesca Miller, Women and Education
Dorothea Scott Whitten, Arts of Amazonian and Andean Women
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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
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Margaret Randall, The Family Code
Oscar Lewis, The Literacy Campaign
Oscar Lewis, The “Rehabilitation” of prostitutes
Hebe de Bonafini and Matilde Sanchez, The Madwomen at the Plaza de Mayo
Guatemala: women in the Revolution
EZLN: The Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle
EZLN: Women’s Revolutionary Law

**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)


Plotkin, Mariano, The peronization of women and youth, in Mañana es San Peron (2000)


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)