

(PALAS 380) Gender History in Latin America
Professor Patricia Anderson
Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies
Universidad de Belgrano
Course syllabus 2020

Course Information

Monday-Wednesday 1-2.30
Instruction in English

Contact Information

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Course Description

The course will provide an introduction to the history of gender in Latin America. It focuses on the multiple manners in which masculinities and femininities have been constructed and experienced since the conquest until today. 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 learn how the gendering of identities has contributed to the historical process. We will also discuss how other categories, like race, class, and ethnicity have shaped the experience of gender. The course incorporates the use of a variety of primary and secondary sources, as well as in-class presentations and discussions in order to further the understanding of how gender has become a crucial category for historical analysis.

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 an essay, a brief in-class source analysis, and final exam, as well as class attendance.

Grading Policy

Participation: 10%
Oral presentation: 25%
Source analysis 20%
Research essay: 30%
Final exam: 15%

Required Textbooks and Materials

Patricia Anderson (ed.), *Course Reader for Gender History in Latin America*

Class schedule

Week 1

Introduction. Gender history in Latin America. Objectives, subjects, and relevance.

Required readings:

Joan Scott, "Gender, a useful category of analysis" available online *The American Historical Review* 91: (1986)

Bliss and French, Introduction, in *Gender, Sexuality and Power in Latin America* (2007)

Week 2

Contact. The conquest. Mestizaje or race mixture and 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*.

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*.

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.

Recommended readings:

John Charles Chasteen, Maria Antonia Muniz: Frontier Matriarch, in the Human Tradition in modern Latin America

Week 5

Slavery. Women's differing worlds: slaves, servants, and elite women. Challenges and resistance.

Required readings:

Evelyn M. Cherpak, "Reminiscences of Brazilian Life, 1834-1848, Selections from the Diary of Mary Robinson Hunter."

Frances Calderon de la Barca, *Life in Mexico*. Letter 19.

Recommended readings:

Aurea Toxqui, Breadwinners or entrepreneurs? Women's involvement in the pulqueria world of Mexico city

Week 6

Private and public spheres. The family home and the streets. Urban and rural life. Entertainment. Female labour during colonial times.

Required readings:

Mary Weismantel, Cities of Women.

Recommended readings:

Erica Windler, Madame Durocher's performance: Cross-dressing, Midwifery, and Authority"

Week 7

Female education. The Enlightenment and its consequences. Women in the sciences and in the arts. The emergence of female professions: health reform, childcare, teaching and journalism.

Required readings:

Sarah Chambers, Republican Friendship: Manuela Saenz writes women into the Nation 1835-1856

Dorothea Scott Whitten, Arts of Amazonian and Andean Women

Juana Manuela Gorriti, Cookbook excerpt.

Recommended readings:

Donna Guy, Gabriela and Emilio Coni.

Week 8

Sexualities. The body in the medical discourse. Deviancy: prostitution, homosexuality. Sports and gender.

Required readings:

Pablo Ben, Plebeian masculinity and sexual comedy in Buenos Aires

Cartoons

Enrique Santos Discepolo, Esta noche me emborracho (tango)

Recommended readings: Gydosch and Dickson, "Every girl had a fan: Puerto Rican women's dress," in The Latin American Fashion Reader (ed. Regina Root)

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:

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 (excerpts)

Recommended readings:

Jeffrey Pilcher, Many chefs in the national kitchen: cookbooks and identity in 19th century Mexico," in Latin American Popular Culture (ed. Beezely and Nagy)

Week 10

Class in the 20th century: Populism, peronism and the working classes.

Required readings

Plotkin, Mariano, The peronization of women and youth

Recommended readings:

Natalia Milanesio, "A man like you: Juan Domingo Peron and the Politics of Attraction"

Week 11

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

Required readings:

Maxine Molyneux, State, Gender and Institutional Change: The Federacion De Mujeres Cubanas

Margaret Randall, The family code

Oscar Lewis, The "Rehabilitation" of prostitutes.

Recommended readings:

Gabriela Cano, Amelio Robles Transgender Masculinity in the Mexican Revolution

Week 12

16

Mid term essay due

Silent revolutions. The emergence of youth culture. Body politics. The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo.

Required readings:

Sara Eleanor How, Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo: Asserting Motherhood, Rejecting Feminism?

Recommended readings:

Valeria Manzano, Poner el cuerpo: the youth body between eroticism and revolution, in *The age of youth in Argentina*

Week 13

Ethnicity and violence. Civil wars and the gendering of violence. Human rights and ethnicity. Christian Base Communities and power from below.

Required readings:

Guatemala: Women in the Revolution.

Recommended readings:

Julia Shayne, "Gendered Revolutionary Bridges."

Week 14

Contemporary Activism. Neoliberalism: The Zapatista movement, the maquiladoras. Indigenous Feminism.

Required readings:

Karen Kampenwirth, Also a women's rebellion.

EZLN Women's Revolutionary Law.

Recommended Readings:

Kate Hardy, Incorporating Sex Workers into the Argentine Labour Movement.

Week 15

Final exam

Note: "Students holding a tourist visa will NOT be allowed to take final exams, they have to go to the 17 Floor to clear the hold"*

Bibliography

Required Readings: Course Reader

Joan Scott, "Gender, a useful category of analysis," *The American Historical Review* 91: 5 (Dec. 1986)

Susan Socolow, Introduction and chapter 10, *The Women of Colonial Latin America* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000)

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

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

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)

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)

Sarah Chambers, Republican Friendship: Manuela Saenz writes women into the Nation 1835-1856," *The Hispanic American Historical Review*: 81 (2001)

Pablo Ben, Plebeian masculinity and sexual comedy in Buenos Aires, *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 16:3 (2007)

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

Eduardo Archetti, Playing styles and masculine virtues in Argentine football, in Marit and Melhius (eds.), *Machos Mistresses and Madonnas* (Verso, 1996)

Maxine Molyneux, "State, Gender and Institutional Change: The Federacion De Mujeres Cubanas," in Dore and Molyneux, *Hidden Histories of Gender and State* (2000)

Marguerite Bouvard, Introduction and The Mothers Come Together, *Revolutionizing motherhood: the mothers of the Plaza de Mayo*, (Wilmington, DL: Rowman and Littlefield, 1994)

Maria Teresa Tula, Hear my Testimony, (1994)

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

Kate Hardy, "Incorporating Sex Workers into the Argentine Labour Movement," *International Labor and Working Class History* 77:1 (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 Diaz de Guzman: Women Captives

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
Dorothea Scott Whitten, Arts of Amazonian and Andean Women
Alfonsina Storni, Modern Women
Juana Manuela Gorriti, Cookbook excerpt.
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
Margaret Randall, The Family Code
Oscar Lewis, The Literacy Campaign
Oscar Lewis, The "Rehabilitation" of prostitutes
Guatemala: women in the Revolution
EZLN: The Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle
EZLN: Women's Revolutionary Law

Recommended Readings

Kathryn Burns, "Nuns, kurakas, and credit: The spiritual economy of seventeenth-century Cuzco," *Colonial Latin American Review* 6: 2 (1997)
Susan Socolow, Acceptable Partners: "Marriage Choice in Colonial Argentina," in Lavrin (ed.). *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America* (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1989)
Frank Trey Proctor, "Gender and the Manumission of Slaves in New Spain," *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, 86:1 (2006)
Erica Windler, Madame Durocher's performance: Cross-dressing, Midwifery, and Authority," in *Gender, Sexuality and Power in Latin America* (2007)
Donna Guy, Gabriela and Emilio Coni, in J. Ewell & W. Beezley (eds.) *The Human Tradition in Latin America* (1989)
Katherine Bliss, The science of redemption, Syphilis, sexual promiscuity and Reformism in Revolutionary Mexico City," *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, 79: 1 (Feb., 1999)
Natalia Milanese, "A man like you: Juan Domingo Peron and the Politics of Attraction" *Gender and History* 26:1 (2014)
Maxine Molineux, No God No Boss No Husband: Anarchist Feminism in 19th Century Argentina, in Elizabeth Dore, Maxine Molyneux (eds.), *Hidden histories of gender and the state in Latin America* (2000)
Mariano Plotkin, The peronization of women and youth, in *Mañana es San Peron* (2000)
Gabriela Cano, Amelio Robles Transgender Masculinity in the Mexican Revolution, in *Sex in Revolution* (2006)
Isabella Cosse, "Infidelities, Morality, Revolution and Sexuality in Left-wing Guerrilla Organizations," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* (23:3, 2014)
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)

