(PALAS 380) Gender History in Latin America
Professor Ma. Patricia Anderson
Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies
Universidad de Belgrano
Course syllabus 2013

Course Information
Tuesday & Thursday 1- 3 PM
Instruction in English

Contact Information
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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.

Grading Policy
Participation: 10%
Oral presentation: 30%
Mid-term essay: 40%
Final exam: 20%
Required Textbooks and Materials
Patricia Anderson (ed.), Course Reader
Patricia Anderson (comp.), Primary sources for gender history

Class schedule

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
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.
No class on Thursday

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:**
Burns, Kathryn, “Nuns, kurakas, and credit: The spiritual economy of seventeenth-century Cuzco.”

**No class on Tuesday**

**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 LateSpanishColonialState in *Hidden histories of gender.*
FrancesCalderon de la Barca, *Life in Mexico.*

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

**Recommended readings:**
Boyer, Richard, *Women, La Mala Vida and the Politics of Marriage.*
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:**
FrancesCalderon 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* 
Juana Manuela Gorriti, Cookbook excerpt.

**Recommended readings:**

*(PALAS 380) Gender History in Latin America*
DonnaGuy, Gabriela and Emilio Coni.

**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:**
Pablo Ben, Plebeian masculinity and sexual comedy in Buenos Aires

**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.”
AlfonsinaStorni, Modern Women.
Carolina Freyre de Jaimes and Violetasdel Anahuac, Women’s reform issues in late 19th century Peru and Mexico Reform.
Eva Peron, My mission in life
**Recommended readings:**
SusanBesse, 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:**
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:**

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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.** Neoliberal reactions: The Zapatista movement, the maquiladoras and prostitutes organizations (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.

**Final exam**

**Week 15**
Final Grade Sheet and signature of *Hoja desituación* (attendance is mandatory)

**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
Alfonsina Storni, Modern Women
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Margaret Randall, The Family Code
Oscar Lewis, The Literacy Campaign
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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
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)
Plotkin, Mariano, The peronization of women and youth, in Mañanaes San Peron (2000)
Julia Shayne, “Gendered RevolutionaryBridges,” 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)