

**(PALAS 380) Gender History in Latin America**  
**Professor Ma. Patricia Anderson**

Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies  
Universidad de Belgrano  
Course syllabus 2015

---

**Course Information**

Tuesday & Thursday 1- 3 PM  
Instruction in English

**Contact Information**

[patricia.anderson@utoronto.ca](mailto:patricia.anderson@utoronto.ca)

**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 and 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*.

### **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:

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:  
Susan Socolow, *Acceptable Partners: Marriage Choice in Colonial Argentina*

### **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

Recommended readings:

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:

Susan Socolow, *Women and social deviance: crime, witchcraft and rebellion*

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**

**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:

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.

Required readings:

Pablo Ben, Plebeian masculinity and sexual comedy in Buenos Aires

Cartoons

Enrique Santos Discepolo, Esta noche me emborracho.

Recommended readings:

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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:

Susan Besse, Pagu: Patricia Galvao – Rebel.

### **Week 10**

**Class in the 20<sup>th</sup> century:** Class composition. Emergence of the working class.

Required readings:

Plotkin, Mariano, The peronization of women and youth

Recommended readings:

Eduardo Archetti, Playing styles and masculine virtues in Argentine football

### **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 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.

Recommended readings:

Valeria Manzano, The Blue Jean Generation

## **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.** Neoliberalism: The Zapatista movement, the maquiladoras. Resistances.

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**

**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 I: Course Reader

- Joan Scott, "Gender, a useful category of analysis," *The American Historical Review* 91: 5 (Dec. 1986)
- Susan Socolow, Introduction, *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)
- 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)
- Francesca Miller, Women and Education, *Latin American women and the search for social justice*, (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1991)
- Lavrín, 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)
- 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)
- 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  
 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  
 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**

Burns, Kathryn, "Nuns, kurakas, and credit: The spiritual economy of  
 seventeenth-century Cuzco," *Colonial Latin American Review* 6: 2 (1997)  
 Boyer, Richard, Women, La Mala Vida and Politics of Marriage, in Asunción  
 Lavrin (ed.), *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America* (1989).  
 John Charles Chasteen, The Drums of Epiphany, in *National Rhythms, African  
 Roots* (2004)  
 Frank Trey Proctor, "Gender and the Manumission of Slaves in New Spain,"  
*HAHR* 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)  
 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)
- Pablo Ben, Plebeian masculinity and sexual comedy in Buenos Aires, *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 16:3 (2007)
- Charity Coker Gonzalez, Agitating for their rights: The Colombian women's movement," *Pacific historical Review* 69:4 (2000)
- Susan Besse, Pagu: Patricia Galvao – Rebel, in J. Ewell & W. Beezley (eds.) *The Human Tradition in Latin America* (1989)
- 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)
- Plotkin, Mariano, 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)
- Julia Shayne, "Gendered Revolutionary Bridges," *Latin American Perspectives*, 26: 3 (May 1999)
- Valeria Manzano, "The Blue Jean Generation: Youth, Gender, and Sexuality in Buenos Aires 1958-1975," *Journal of Social History* 42:3 (2009)
- Cymene, Howe. Gender, Sexuality and Revolution in Nicaragua, in *Gender, Sexuality and Power in Latin America* (2007) in Elizabeth Dore, Maxine Molyneux (eds.), *Hidden histories of gender and the state in Latin America* (2000)
- Lynn Stephen, Rural Women's activism, 1980-2000, in *Sex in Revolution* (2006)
- Kate Hardy, Incorporating Sex Workers into the Argentine Labour Movement, *International and Working Class History* 77 (Spring 2010)