

HISTORY 4365
FALL 2006
PROFESSOR KELLOGG
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Office: 520 AH
Off. hours: by
appointment

Women in Latin America

This course examines the important aspects of Latin American women's history from the prehispanic period to the present day. We will cover women's experiences in a variety of Latin American countries and at different time periods. We will consider both historical and methodological issues, examining how historians have approached the study of women and gender and what they have learned about women's lives and how these have changed over time. Asking such questions about Latin America **inevitably** entails thinking about whether the models and explanations developed for women in the U.S. or Europe are appropriate and useful for understanding women's historical experiences in Latin America. Another issue has to do with comparing the varying experiences of women of different classes, races, and ethnicities, from rural and urban areas, during ordinary times and during periods of extreme social upheaval and change.

If you are new to Latin American history, I welcome particular questions that will clarify your understanding and suggest you read a general introduction to Latin American history. *Latin America: A Concise Interpretive History* by E. Bradford Burns and Julie Charlip offers an insightful overview. Textbooks by Benjamin Keen, James Lockhart and Stuart Schwartz, or Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith will also prove rewarding.

Required Reading

Roderick J. Barman, *Princess Isabel of Brazil*
Marguerite Bouvard, *Revolutionizing Motherhood*
Carolina Maria de Jesus, *Child of the Dark*
Catalina de Erauso, *Lieutenant Nun: Memoir of a Basque Transvestite in the New World*
Linda Green, *Fear as a Way of Life*
Susan Kellogg, *Weaving the Past*

Course Requirements

This class is a 4000 level (senior) history and capstone course in which the emphasis is less on the rote memorization of facts (though plenty of such material will be presented during the lectures) and more on exploring women's history in a variety of ways. Capstone courses are intended to include discussions of methodology and an intensive research and writing experience. Through lectures, reading, writing, films, class activities, a variety of **LEARNING OUTCOMES** will be met. These include:

1. gaining a comprehensive overview of Latin American women's history thus emphasizing a non-US area of the world;
2. reinforcing students' reading, critical thinking and writing

skills;

3. emphasizing gaining research skills using primary and secondary sources.

There will be 4 short assignments relating to the reading, of which 1 will be done in groups. Each is worth 20 points. The grades on these will be added up in conjunction with the attendance grade and will be worth 50% of your grade. The other 50% of your grade will be based on a research paper about which I will hand out more information by the end of September.

The short papers should be 3-4 printed pages and should deal with 4 of the 6 books (except for the first paper which will be done in groups the choice is yours). As to attendance, everyone gets two absences. After that, for each absence, I will deduct 2 points from the attendance grade.

Please note that you are free to cite additional sources (books, articles, web-based materials) in your short papers, but you **must** cite all sources used. I do check for plagiarism which is against university rules. Information about plagiarism and academic honesty can be found in the 2005-7 Undergraduate catalog. The information is also available online at <http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/general/acade2.html#honesty>. These rules will be followed in dealing with any cases.

Also note that we will all benefit from appropriate classroom decorum. That means that we need to respect each other's right to voice our opinions without interruption even when there is disagreement. Please either turn off or put on silent mode cell phones, beepers, or pagers. If you are expecting an emergency phone call, please inform me before class.

Calendar of Topics and Reading Assignments

August	21	Introduction
	23	Studying Women; Studying Gender Begin Erauso
	28	Women in Iberia
	30	Indigenous Women Finish Erauso; chs.1-2 Kellogg
September	4	NO CLASS/LABOR DAY
	6	Group discussion for writing assignment
	11	Women, Conquest, and Colonization
	13	Indigenous and Spanish Women in the Colonial Period Begin Jesus; ch.3 Kellogg Group writing assignment due
	18	African Women in Colonial Latin America
	20	Sor Juana film Finish Jesus and discuss

25 Sor Juana film
 27 Library Day
 Begin Barman

October 2 Women in the 19th Century
 4 NO CLASS
 Finish Barman

9 Women and Work
 11 Women and Work
 ch.4, Kellogg
 2nd short paper due
 Statement of research topic due—must include 4
 academic articles

16 Women and the State
 18 Film on Eva Perón
 ch.5, Kellogg

23 Film on Eva Perón
 25 Women and Revolution
 Start Green

November 30 Women and Revolution
 1 Women, the Family, and Sexuality
 Finish Green

6 Film on Frida Kahlo
 8 Discussion of Sexuality and Women and the Arts

November 13 Women and Political Terror
 15 Film on Dirty Wars
 Start Bouvard
 3rd short paper due
 Outline of paper due, with 6-8 academic sources

20 Women and Migration
 22 NO CLASS/THANKSGIVING
 Finish Bouvard

27 Contemporary Issues for Women
 29 Meetings to Discuss Papers
 ch.6, Kellogg
 4th short paper due

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Points for Writing Short Papers

For the group discussions and all the short papers, I would like you to consider the following questions. Not all issues may fit all the books; 3 are books in women's own voice; 3 are analyses of specific historical issues or groups. You are also free to develop your own question or questions as long as you identify it/them clearly and they are in the spirit of trying to understand the book analytically and by considering historical context.

1. When was the book written?
2. What is some of the important historical context?
3. What is the author's purpose in the text?
4. What is the author's argument?
5. What kind of data does he/she use?
6. How does the book try to persuade, influence, or move you?
7. What more would you like to know about the topic?