

Gender in Latin American History

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Office Hours: Mon 1:30 – 3

Books Ordered at House of Our Own (3920 Spruce St.)

Alan Trueblood, A Sor Juana Anthology

Asunción Lavrín, Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America.

María Odila Silva Dias, Power and Everyday Life

Don Kulick, Travesti

I expect full participation in (and before) class, meaning that each person is responsible for not only doing the reading but also thinking critically about it. Anybody having trouble accessing blackboard readings or any other problems of access should email me—so please do not make the mistake of waiting to the last minute. By Monday or Tuesday you've looked at the reading to assess how long it will take, by Thursday you've finished it, by Friday at 10 am you've uploaded a 250-word response to our BB site, using the Blog tool. The idea, of course, is that we'll be able to begin each discussion with a loosely-defined agenda, an idea of what questions have been raised in people's minds by the readings. Your in-class participation, together with your blog-post contributions, will count for half of your final grade in the course. Note you are expected to post every week. Missing more than one will mean you can be graded down one full letter grade on that portion of the course. Late posts are not accepted, as the point is to stimulate discussion.

You will be able to do a paper on a topic of your choice. This should be a critical discussion of the scholarly literature on in particular sub-field of gender history in Latin America. A prospectus is due 2/3, a revised bibliography is due xxx, and a fully annotated bibliography should be submitted by xxx. If you would like written feedback on a first draft I need to receive that by the last class meeting.

Model your paper on the **review essays** that appear in journals like Hispanic American Historical Review, Latin American Research Review, Feminist Studies, Signs, Journal of the History of Sexuality, or Gender and History. We'll discuss the form and goals of this assignment in more detail in class.

Note on the prospectus, due 2/3. This is graded separately. Requirements: 250 double-spaced words as a topic description. Working bibliography of at least 12 items.

Enrolling in this course means making a commitment to do the reading and to arrive armed with questions, ideas, and opinions. This is a seminar; we have a tremendous opportunity to learn from one another as well as from the texts and films we'll look at together. Grading: Participation - 25%, Thoughtfulness of blog-posts - 25%, Final Paper - 40%, What sort of job you do on the 2/3 Prospectus - 10%.

Part I: Intimacy and Power

-----Week 1: 13 Jan. *Introductory discussion. In-class reading.*

-----Week 2: 20 Jan *Starting with the exceptional.*

Please read the Trueblood introduction and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, "Hombres necios..."; "Señor: para responderos"; and read fully her famous "Respuesta." This is the "Reply to Sor Filotela," in Trueblood, trans. A Sor Juana Anthology. Please focus on the "Respuesta" for your blogpost. You may read it easily in the Trueblood edition, or in another English translation. There are also multiple Spanish editions. A beautiful facsimile of the posthumous volume published in Madrid is available online from the Bielefeld University Library. Visit <http://www.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/diglib/delacruz/fama/>. You want Akt. Position: 78 (von 182), so just type 78 in the box. Check the Wikipedia entry, of course, and please also visit: this excellent site: <http://www.latin-american.cam.ac.uk/culture/SorJuana/index.html>.

***In class:** Yo, La Peor de Todas A 1990 film by an Argentine feminist, about Sor Juana.

-----Week 3: 27 Jan. *Gender and Daily Life in Colonial LA*
Reading: Essays by Lavrín, Twinam, and Boyer in Asunción Lavrín, ed. Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America (Lincoln: Nebraska University Press, 1989), pp. 1-29, 118-155, 178-206, 252-286.

-----Week 4: 3 Feb. *Rethinking Sexuality through the lens of ethnography*
Reading: Ward Stavig, "Living in Offense of Our Lord": Indigenous Sexual Values and Marital Life in the Colonial Crucible, (BB). Also, Behar, in Lavrín, ed. ***Prospectus due.**

Part II: Gender in Class-Stratified and Race-Stratified Contexts

-----Week 5: 10 Feb. *19th C. Brazil*
Reading: Maria Odila Silva Dias, Power and Everyday Life: the Lives of Working Women in 19th Century Brazil, with Lauderdale Graham, House and Street.

-----Week 6: 17 Feb. *Guest speaker: Ana María Bidegain*
Readings on Catholicism (TBA)

-----Week 7: 24 Feb. *Class politics and Radicalism in the 1920s-1950s*
Reading: Farnsworth-Alvear, "The Mysterious Case of the Missing Men" and Michael Wilson, Salt of the Earth (excerpts).

Part III: 20th c. Argentina: motherhood's many meanings

-----Week 8: 10 Mar *Alfonsina Storni*
Reading: Alfonsina Storni, Master of the World (On BB)

-----Week 9: 17 Mar. *Reinas/Peronistas*
Reading: Navarro, "Eva Perón" & Karush, ed, New Cultural History of Peronism

***In class:** Todas ibamos a ser reinas, film by Feminist historians at Univ. de Buenos Aires

-----Week 10: 24 Mar *Las Madres de Plaza*
Reading: Diana Taylor, Disappearing Acts (excerpts)
T. Kaplan, Women, Youth, and Direct Democracy (excerpts)

***In class:** Madres de Plaza de Mayo, film by Lourdes Portillo and Susana Muñoz

Part IV: Evolving Scholarship on Sexuality and Selfhood in LA

-----Week 11: 31 Mar *Sex, Romance and Political Geography*
Reading: Schaeffer-Grabiell and Kempadoo, ed. Sun, Sex, and Gold

-----Week 12: 6 April *Ethnography of Travesti life.*
Reading: Kulick, all.

-----Week 13: 13 April Reading TBA (student choice)
suggestions: Jaime Manrique, Legs and Latin Moon in Manhattan, (semi-autobiographical writing by an important gay Latino writer) -or- Rafael de la Dehesa, Queering the Public Sphere in Mexico and Brazil -or- excerpted sections of Gay Latino Studies.

-----Week 14: 20 April. Presentations of Student Research