

San Francisco State University
History 535 - History Of Women In Latin America

Prof. Julyana Peard

Spring 2007: Tu-Th. 2:10-3:25; HSS 152

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Office Hours: T-TH 1:00-2:00, and by appointment

This course is on the history of gender and women in Latin America from the colonial period to the present. We will compare and contrast the roles of women from different classes, ethnic groups, and regions. We will consider women's history through individual life stories and by looking at the social, cultural, and institutional contexts of their lives. The focus will be on women as historical actors, influenced by history and influencing history.

There are four required books and a **Reader**.

It is essential that you do the required reading every week. A good deal of the class will be dedicated to a discussion of the readings, so **the course will only be successful to the extent that you contribute to it.**

Required books:

1. Patricia Owen Steiner, Trans & ed., *Victoria Ocampo: Writer, Feminist, Woman of the World*
2. María de los Reyes Castillo Bueno, *Reyita*
3. Nikki Craske, *Women and Politics in Latin America*
4. *A Reader*, which you can access on-line. The password will be given in class.

Course requirements and due dates:

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|------------------------|----------------------|
| -In class essay (20%) | Tuesday, Mar 6 |
| -Paper (35%) | Thursday April 26 |
| -Take home final (35%) | Due Thursday, May 17 |
| -Participation (10%) | |

A NOTE ON DUE DATES AND INCOMPLETE POLICIES:

Consideration of work not handed in on the due dates will be given *only* if the student presents a written excuse from a physician, counselor, or sports team coach. **An incomplete** means you have completed **all** the course requirements except one. If you cannot complete the course requirements by the end of term, **it is your responsibility to withdraw** from the course.

INTRODUCTION TO COURSE

Week One/Two: Why study the history of women and gender?

Jan 25, 30, Feb 1 The construction of a Latin American feminine/feminist identity

Reader: Evelyn Stevens, "Marianismo: The Other Face of Machismo," in Marguerite

Yeager, *Confronting Change, Challenging Tradition: Women in Latin Amer. History*.

Craske, Chaps 1-2

TO GO FURTHER: Tracy Ehlers, "Debunking Marianismo: Economic Vulnerability and Survival Strategies Among Guatemalan Wives," *Ethnology* (Jan 1991), 1-16.

Josefina Zoraida Vasquez, "Women's Liberation in Latin America," in Marguerite Yeager, *Confronting Change, Challenging Tradition: Women in Latin American History*.

COLONIAL PERIOD (c. 1492-1824)

Week Three: **Gender in Pre-Hispanic Mesoamerica and South America**
Feb 6-8 **Reader: Inga Clendinnen**, "Yucatec Maya Women and the Spanish Conquest: Role and Ritual in Historical Reconstruction," *Journal of Social History*, 15 (1992), 427-441.

Reader: Susan Kellogg, "From Parallel and Equivalent to Separate but Unequal: Tenochca Mexica Women, 1500-1700," in Susan Schroeder, et. al., eds., *Indian Women of Early Mexico*

Week Four: **Indian women in Conquest and colonial society**
Feb 13-15 **Film: "Blossoms of Fire"**

Reader: Karttunen, Frances, "Rethinking Malinche," in Susan Schroeder, et. Al., *Indian Women of Early Mexico*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997, pp. 291-312

TO GO FURTHER: Look at other essays in Schroeder book (above). Rosemary Joyce, *Gender and Power in Pre-hispanic Mesoamerica*. Karen Bruhns, *Women in Ancient America*; Irene Silverblatt, *Moon, Sun, and Witches*; Karen Viera Powers, *Women in the Crucible of Conquest*.

On Virgen de Guadalupe: S. Poole, *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Origins and Sources of a Mexican National Symbol, 1531-1797* (1995); Woodrow Borah, "Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas: La Guadalupana of Teyepec," *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, 12, 2 (summer 1996), 327-339; Eric R. Wolf, "The Virgin of Guadalupe: A Mexican National Symbol," *Journal of American Folklore*, 71, pp. 34-39; William B. Taylor, "The Virgin of Guadalupe in New Spain," *American Ethnologist*, 14, 1, pp. 9-.

Week Five: **Nuns and other religious women in colonial society**
Feb 20-22 **Reader: Selections from Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz**, "The Answer" in *Poems, Protest, and a Dream: Selected Writings*. Also some poems.

Reader: Josephine Holler, "Spiritual and Physical Ecstasies of a 16th century *beata*," in Richard Boyer, ed., *Colonial Lives*.

TO GO FURTHER: Octavio Paz, *The Traps of Faith*; and many essays on Sor Juana in various journals; Aunci3n Lavrin, "Women in convents: Their Economic and Social Role in Colonial Mexico" in Berenice Carroll, ed., *Liberating Women's History*; Ann Miriam Gallagher, "The Indian Nuns of Mexico City's Monasterio of Corpus Christi, 1724-1821," A. Lavrin, ed., *Latin American Women: Historical Perspectives*, 150-172; Kathryn Burns, *Colonial Habits* (1999); Kathleen Ann Myers, *Neither Saints nor Sinners* (2003). There is a large and growing literature on nuns in Latin America. Film: "Yo, la Peor de Todas." (I, the Worst of All) Film on Sor Juana by Mar3a Luisa Bemberg.

Week Six: **Order and disorder in colonial society**
Feb 27-Mar 1 **Reader: Linda A. Curcio-Nagy**, "Josefa Ord3n3ez: The Scandalous Adventures of a Colonial Courtesan," in Jeffrey Pilcher, ed., *The Human Tradition in Mexico* (2002.)

Reader: Selections from Catalina de Erauso, *Memoir of a Basque Lieutenant Nun: Transvestite in the New World*. Norman: Beacon Press, 1996.

TO GO FURTHER: Patricia Seed, *To Love, Honor, and Obey in Colonial Mexico* (1988); Ann Twinam, *Public Lives, Private Secrets* (1999); selected essays in Asunci3n Lavrin, *Marriage and Sexuality in Colonial Latin America*

(1989), especially one by Ruth Behar on witchcraft; Lyman L. Johnson and Sonya Lipsett-Rivera, eds., *The Faces of Honor: Sex, Shame and Violence in Colonial Latin America* (1998); see essays in Susan Schroeder, et. al., eds., *Indian Women of Early Mexico* (1997); Inez de Suarez (1507-1572) See *Ten Notable Women of Latin America*, James D. Henderson & Linda R. Henderson, eds.; Luis Martin, *Daughters of the Conquistadores*; A.J.R. Russell-Wood, "Female and Family in the Economy and Society of Colonial Brazil," Asunción Lavrin, *Latin Ame. Women: Historical Perspectives*, 60; Susan Socolow, *Women in Colonial Latin America* (a good source for colonial period and good bibliographies.)

NATIONAL PERIOD: The Nineteenth Century

Week Seven: **In-class essay (Mar 6)** **Mar 6-8**

Lecture and discussion: Women in new nations; change or continuity?
Slave women, Indian women, white women after the Wars of Independence

TO GO FURTHER: Elizabeth Dore and Maxine Molyneux, *Hidden Histories of Gender and the State in Latin America*. Duke UP, 2000.

Week Eight: **Nineteenth-Century slave women in urban Brazil** **Mar 13-15**

Reader: Fayette Wimberley, "The Expansion of Afro-Bahian Religious Practices in Nineteenth-Century Cachoeira," Henrik Kraay, ed., *Afro-Brazilian Culture and Politics: Bahia, 1790s to 1990s*. M.E. Sharpe, 1998,

Reader: "Urban Slavery in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil..." Read the introduction by Henry Kraay and the will of Rosa Maria (not the other wills.)

Reader: "A Master Abuses His Adolescent Slave Girl: A Court Case of 1882-1884," Robert E. Conrad, *Children of God's Fire: A Documentary History of Black Slavery in Brazil*.

TO GO FURTHER: Sandra Lauderdale Graham, *House and Street*; ----, *Caetana Says No*; Mary Karasch, "Suppliers, Sellers, Servants, and Slaves," in Louisa Schell Hoberman & Susan M. Socolow, eds., *Cities and Society in Colonial Latin America*; Maria Odila Silva Dias, *Power and Everyday Life: The Lives of Working Women in Nineteenth-Century Brazil* (1995).

Week Nine: **Women writers; women and education** **Mar 22-24**

Reader: selections from Bonnie Frederick, *Wily Modesty: Argentine Women Writers, 1860-1910*. Arizona State University, 1998.

Reader: "Juana Manuela Gorriti: Writer in Exile," Judith Ewell and William Beezley, eds., *The Human Tradition in Latin America*.

Reader: Francesca Miller, "Women and education in Latin America," in *Latin American Women and the Search for Social Justice*.

TO GO FURTHER: Sara Castro-Klarén, et. Al., eds., *Women's Writing in Latin America* (1991); Jean Franco, *Plotting Women*; Silvia Arrom, "Changes in Mexican Family Law in the Nineteenth Century." Yeager, ed., (above); Elizabeth Dore and Maxine Molyneux, *Hidden Histories of Gender and the State in Latin America*. Duke UP, 2000; Asunción Lavrin, *Women, Feminism, and Social Change in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay* (1995).

NATIONAL PERIOD: TWENTIETH CENTURY

Week Ten: Struggle for social justice and suffrage
Mar 27-29

Craske, chap. 4

Reader: Francesca Miller, "The Suffrage Movement in Latin America," in Gertrude Yeager, ed., *Confronting Change, Challenging Tradition*. SR Books, 1994.

TO GO FURTHER: Donna Guy, "Emilio and Gabriela Coni: Reformers, Public Health, and Working Women," in Ewell and Beezley, eds., *The Human Tradition in Latin America*; Lynn Stoner, *From the House to the Streets: The Cuban Women's Movement for Legal Change* (1991); June Hahner, *Emancipating the Female Sex: The Struggle for Women's Rights in Brazil* (1991); Marifran Carlson, *Feminismo: The Women's Movement in Argentina From its Beginnings to Evita Perón* (1987); Ana Macias, *Against all Odds: The Feminist Movement in Mexico* (1982).

Week Eleven: Writers and artists; women of privilege
Apr 3-5

Victoria Ocampo: Writer, Feminist, Woman of the World (pp. 3-132)

Film: "Frida"

*****IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO GIVE ME A DRAFT OF YOUR PAPER THIS IS THE LAST WEEK TO HAND IT IN.*****

TO GO FURTHER: Sara Castro-Klarén, et. Al., eds., *Women's Writing in Latin America* (1991); Elizabeth Horan & Doris Meyer, eds., *This America of Ours: Letters of Gabriela Mistral and Victoria Ocampo* (2003); Myriam Ivonne Jejenson, *Latin American Women Writers* (SUNY, 1995); Hayden Herrera, *Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo* (1983); *The Diary of Frida Kahlo: An Intimate Self-Portrait* (1995.)

Spring Break: April 9-13

Week Twelve: Women and revolution: An Afro-Cuban woman's story
Apr 17-19

Reyita (Read: whole book)

Craske, Chap 7

TO GO FURTHER: Domitila Barrios de Chungara, *Let me Speak*; Carolina Maria de Jesus, *Child of the Dark*; Benedita da Silva, *An Afro-Brazilian Woman's Story of Love and Politics*; Ruth Behar, *Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza's Story*; Daphne Patai, *Brazilian Women Speak; Muchachas No More*; Sarah Levine, *Dolor y Alegría: Women and Social Change in Urban Mexico*.

Week Thirteen: Women and Work
Apr 24-25

Craske, chap 5

Film: "In Women's Hands"

Thursday, April 26: Paper due.

Week Fourteen: Women and political activism

May 1-3 **Craske, chap 6**

Reader: Marysa Navarro, “The Personal is Political: The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo.”

Film: Mothers of Plaza de Mayo

TO GO FURTHER: M. Guzman Bouvard, *Revolutionizing Motherhood: The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo*. (1994); Rita Arditti, *Searching for Life*; some readings from *Nunca Más*; Maria del Carmen Feijoo and M.M.N. Nari, “Women & Democracy in Argentina,” in Jane Jaquette, ed., *The Women’s Movement in Latin America*; Nikki Craske, *Women and Politics in Latin America*; Marjorie Agosin, *Surviving Beyond Fear: Women, Children, and Human Rights in Latin America* (1993); Jo Fisher, *Out of the Shadows: Women, Resistance and Politics in South America*. (1993); Jo Fisher, *Mothers of the Disappeared* (1995); Gaby Koppers, ed., *Compañeras: Voices from the Latin American Women’s Movement* (1994); Valeria Fabj, “Motherhood as Political Voice: The Rhetoric of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo,” *Communication Studies*, 44,1, (Spring 1993)

Week Sixteen: Pulling it all together: where are Latin American women now?

May 15 **Craske, chaps. 8 and 9**

Reader: Sternbach et. al., “Feminisms in Latin America...”

**Questions for Take-Home examination due on Thursday, May 17 by 3 pm
in my mail box in History Dept office.**

On E-Reserve Reader Contents

Reader: Evelyn Stevens, "Marianismo: The Other Face of Machismo," in Marguerite Yeager, *Confronting Change, Challenging Tradition: Women in Latin American History*.

Reader: Inga Clendinnen, "Yucatec Maya Women and the Spanish Conquest: Role and Ritual in Historical Reconstruction," *Journal of Social History*, 15 (1982), 427-441.

Reader: Susan Kellogg, "From Parallel and Equivalent to Separate but Unequal: Tenochca Mexica Women, 1500-1700," in Susan Schroeder, et. al., eds., *Indian Women of Early Mexico* Norman: Oklahoma UP, 1997.

Reader: Kartunnen, Frances, "Rethinking Malinche," in Susan Schroeder, et. al., *Indian Women of Early Mexico*.

Reader: Selections from Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, "The Answer" in *Poems, Protest, and a Dream: Selected Writings*.

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Reader: Marysa Navarro, "The Personal is Political: The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo."

Reader: N. S. Sternbach, et. al., "Feminisms in Latin America."