

## **Women in Latin American History (HIST 3XX)**

Spring 2008, Truman State University

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### **Description**

This course assesses the continuities and changes in the lives of Latin American women through the lens of gender. We will examine concepts that have structured Latin American beliefs about gender including of honor and shame, and machismo and marianismo, and examine issues of gender relations, sexuality, and political involvement. How do beliefs about gender and gender roles relate to social structures including race, class and political structures, and how have these beliefs changed over time? By the end of the course students should have a clearer understanding of how gender influences historical change and historical continuity in Latin America.

This course also meets the Intercultural Perspectives requirement of the Liberal Studies Program. As such, it will provide you with a greater knowledge and appreciation of cultural diversity through the study of encounters of Indigenous, European, and African women in Latin America. Hopefully this course will make you more aware of how culture has been used for political and social ends, including confronting sexism, racial discrimination, economic exploitation, and social injustice.

### **Requirements**

Our goal in this class is to challenge existing assumptions, engage alternative viewpoints, and encourage critical thinking. Through the study of history, we seek to empower ourselves to be better citizens, and to provide ourselves with the skills necessary to play a positive and educated role in society. We need to be active constituents rather than mere recipients of our education. To accomplish those tasks, we should strive to create an open and supportive learning environment. Regular attendance and active participation are also necessary. Please drop me a note if you are unable to attend, or if you have any concerns or suggestions for improving the class.

### **Readings**

Following are the required books for this class. Read the assignments before class so that you are prepared to carry on an intelligent discussion of the material in class. Lectures will complement the readings and assume the base level of knowledge which they present, so it is critically important that you keep up with the readings. Do not wait until the last minute to buy these books since about half-way through the semester the bookstore will return unsold copies to the publisher.

French, William E and Katherine Elaine Bliss, ed. *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. ISBN:

0742537439

Kellogg, Susan. *Weaving the Past: A history of Latin America's indigenous women from the prehispanic period to the present*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. ISBN: 0195183282

Powers, Karen Vieira. *Women in the Crucible of Conquest: The gendered genesis of Spanish American society, 1500-1600*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005. ISBN: 0826335195

Socolow, Susan Migden. *The Women of Colonial Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. ISBN: 0521476429

Townsend, Camilla. *Malintzin's Choices: An Indian woman in the conquest of Mexico*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006. ISBN: 0826334059

### Assignments and grades

Course grades will be based on the following assignments. You can check your grade progress on the class Blackboard web page (there is a total of 1000 possible points in the class). More detailed information on the written assignments will be posted to the Blackboard web page. I do not accept "drop and run" papers. Grades on late assignments will be penalized 10 percent for each day that they are late. Successful completion of all assignments is required to receive credit for this class.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Reaction papers (5 x 70 pts ea)	350 pts
Research paper proposal (Feb 5)	50
Secondary source analysis (Feb 19)	50
Primary source analysis (March 4)	50
Research paper (May 1)	200
Final exam (May X)	200
Participation	100

**Reaction papers:** Critique the argument in each of the books that we are reading in this class. The essays should be three to five pages long, typed, double spaced, follow good essay form (have an intro, thesis, conclusion, etc.) and include citations, a bibliography, and page numbers (70 pts).

**Research paper:** Each student is required to write a research paper on a topic related to women in Latin American history. The paper must be 10 to 15 pages long, be typed, double spaced, and include page numbers, citations and a bibliography. The format should follow Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. In addition, you must use a minimum of six scholarly sources (books and journal articles) and one primary source. This project will be developed in a series of stages. Keep each of these assignments in a portfolio or folder, and hand in the entire portfolio with each subsequent assignment. ***You MUST meet every one of these deadlines. Failure to do so will result in no credit for the research paper (40 percent of the course grade). Please do not even think of testing me on this point.***

- Feb 5:** Research paper proposal, including a paragraph describing your project, the research questions you seek to address with the project, a hypothesis of what you expect to find (the thesis statement of your research paper), and a preliminary bibliography of sources that you plan to use (50 pts).
- Feb 19:** Analyze one of the major secondary sources you will use in the writing of your research paper. This paper should be typed, double-spaced, and about 3-5 pages long, and include citations a bibliography, and page numbers (50 pts).
- March 4:** Select a primary sources related to your research topic from the microfilm collection ([http://library.truman.edu/microforms/subject\\_list.htm#Latin%20American%20History](http://library.truman.edu/microforms/subject_list.htm#Latin%20American%20History)). First have me approve the source, and then write a paper (typed, double-spaced, about 3-5 pages, citations, bibliography, page numbers) analyzing the document and its historical significance for your research topic. Attach a copy of the document to the essay (50 pts).
- Beginning March 18:** Oral presentations. In your presentation, tell us what questions you addressed in your research project, what you expected to find (your thesis), a summary of your actual findings, and your conclusions. Naturally those who present earlier will have more tentative conclusions than those who present at the end of the semester. Please feel free to include visuals and other materials in your presentation.
- April 22:** Peer review of research papers. Bring a draft of your research paper to exchange with another student. Read and comment on the other student's paper and return by the next class period.
- May 1:** Final research papers due. When handing in your final draft, please be sure to include copies of *all* of the previous assignments including the peer-reviewed draft.

**Final exam:** The final exam is cumulative (200 pts).

## **Class Schedule**

Week 1 (Jan 15/17) Intro & Theory

**Read:** Scott, Joan W. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis." *American Historical Review* 91, no. 5 (December 1986): 1053-75.

Powers, *Women in the Crucible of Conquest*, Introduction

Socolow, *The Women of Colonial Latin America*, Introduction

Kellogg, *Weaving the Past*, Introduction

French/Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America*, Introduction

Week 2 (Jan 22/24) Indigenous America

**Read:** Powers, *Women in the Crucible of Conquest*, ch. 1

Socolow, *The Women of Colonial Latin America*, chs. 1-2

Kellogg, *Weaving the Past*, ch. 1

Week 3 (Jan 29/31) Conquests

**Read:** Start Townsend, *Malintzin's Choices*

Powers, *Women in the Crucible of Conquest*, ch. 2

Socolow, *The Women of Colonial Latin America*, ch. 3  
Kellogg, *Weaving the Past*, ch. 2

Week 4 (Feb 5/7) Malintzin

**Read:** Finish Townsend, *Malintzin's Choices*

**Assignment due:** Research paper proposal

Week 5 (Feb 12/14) Marriage and Family

**Read:** Powers, *Women in the Crucible of Conquest*, ch. 3

Socolow, *The Women of Colonial Latin America*, chs. 4-6

Kellogg, *Weaving the Past*, ch. 3

Week 6 (Feb 19/21) Nuns

**Read:** Powers, *Women in the Crucible of Conquest*, chs. 4-5

Socolow, *The Women of Colonial Latin America*, ch. 7

Kellogg, *Weaving the Past*, ch. 4

**Assignment due:** Secondary source analysis

Week 7 (Feb 26/28) Work

**Read:** Powers, *Women in the Crucible of Conquest*, ch. 6

Socolow, *The Women of Colonial Latin America*, chs. 8-9

Kellogg, *Weaving the Past*, ch. 5

Week 8 (March 4/6) Reforms

**Read:** Powers, *Women in the Crucible of Conquest*, ch. 7

Socolow, *The Women of Colonial Latin America*, chs. 10-11

Kellogg, *Weaving the Past*, ch. 6

**Assignment due:** Primary source analysis

Week 9 (March 18/20) Independence

**Read:** French/Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America*, ch. 1

Week 10 (March 25/27) Midwifery

**Read:** French/Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America*, ch. 2

Week 11 (April 1/3) Suffrage

**Read:** French/Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America*, ch. 3

**Assignment due:** Begin oral presentations of research papers

Week 12 (April 8/10) Violence

**Read:** French/Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America*, chs. 4-5

**Assignment due:** Peer review of research papers

Week 13 (April 15/17) Labor

**Read:** French/Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America*, chs. 6-7

Week 14 (April 22/24) Gender and Nation

**Read:** French/Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America*, chs. 8-9

**Assignment due:** Peer review of research papers

Week 15 (April 29/May 1) Revolutionary Motherhood

**Read:** French/Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America*, chs. 10-11

**Assignment due:** Research papers

Final Exam: