

History 475
History of Women in Early Latin America
Dr. Chad Black
Fall 2006

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Office Hours: M 11-12:30; W 11-12; 4-5:30

Hear me one moment—
I'm all set to sing
of a moment that stood
outside of time!

Un instante me escuchen
que cantar quiero
un instante que estuvo
Fuera del tiempo!

-Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz [1689]

Scholars and activists frequently claim that the current status of women in Latin America stems from a colonial legacy of gender oppression. And yet, the status of women has changed substantially, not always for the better, since the colonial period. This course examines the sources, methodologies, and theoretical approaches that shape the history of women in early Latin America. A variety of interdisciplinary approaches and concerns are considered from an historical perspective. The readings represent ethnic, racial, and class-based distinctions among women and emphasize the importance of using diverse approaches in the reconstruction of women's history and culture, particularly for indigenous and African women. The course finishes with an analysis of how female figures from the colonial period, such as La Malinche and the Virgin of Guadalupe, have been incorporated into modern political agendas by intellectuals and political activists. Students will read, analyze, and discuss both primary and secondary sources to understand how history is conceived and written.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Reading. Each week's assigned readings should be completed at the beginning of the week.

2. Participation. Learning is an interactive process and I strongly encourage students to participate in lecture meetings by providing comments and questions based on readings or previous lectures. Class time will be regularly devoted to discussion. Student participation in those discussions, in addition to regular attendance, is the basis for the participation portion of the grade. (10%)

3. Written Assignments. Students are asked to write two interconnected papers for the course. Each paper is worth 20% of the final grade. Suggested topics and guidelines for these assignments will be distributed in class.

Paper #1: In this first assignment students will choose a topic that relates to our course and write a short (4-5 pages) analysis of two articles from different journals.

Paper #2: In this assignment students will write a research paper of 6-8 pages based on information from the first assignment, one book, and at least one primary source.

4. Exams. There will be a Latin American geography quiz the second week of the semester worth 5% of the final grade. The course will have a mid-semester exam, worth 20% of the final grade, and a final exam, worth 25% of the final grade. Exams must be in my hand or email in-box by 5pm the day they are due. Late exams will be penalized.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Please Note: If any special accommodations are needed to complete the course requirements, please come see me at the beginning of the semester.

Absences: Multiple absences will be noted and will affect the student's participation grade.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism occurs when someone knowingly or unknowingly presents another person's words or ideas as his or her own. Any work turned in for this class must meet University standards for academic honesty. Any students unsure about how to apply these rules are urged to consult with me *prior* to turning in any written work.

Deadlines: Assignments that are due in class must be turned in at the start of class. If you anticipate problems, please contact me before the assignment is due, not after!

Office Hours: Students are strongly encouraged to speak with me outside of class. I am available during office hours on a first-come, first-served basis. If you cannot come during office hours, please contact me via email or phone to schedule an appointment.

REQUIRED READINGS

The following books have been ordered for your purchase:

Kimberly Gauderman, *Women's Lives in Colonial Quito: Gender, Law, and Economy in Spanish America*. University of Texas Press, 2003.

Susan Schroeder, Stephanie Wood, and Robert Haskett, *Indian Women of Early Mexico*. University of Nebraska Press, 1997.

All other readings for this course are on reserve.

SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week #1 Women and Gender

- 8/23 Introduction to the Course
8/25 The Study of Women in History

READ: Reserve Week 1

1. Scott, Joan Wallach. *Gender and the Politics of History*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 1988. (Chapter 1 “Women’s History,” Chapter 2 “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis”)
 2. Handout on the use of primary and secondary sources.
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Week #2 Spanish Gender Norms

- 8/28 Marriage, Family Structure
8/30 Cross-Cultural Comparison of Gender Norms
9/1 **Map Quiz**, Discussion

READ:

1. Gauderman, Kimberly. *Women’s Lives in Colonial Quito: Gender, Law, and Economy in Spanish America*. Austin: UT Press, 2003. Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1.
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Week #3 Spanish Women

- 9/4 Legal System: Property and Crime
9/6 Women as Economic Agents
9/8 Discussion

READ:

1. Gauderman, Kimberly. *Women’s Lives in Colonial Quito: Gender, Law, and Economy in Spanish America*. Austin: UT Press, 2003. Chapters 2-4.

Reserve Week 3

2. Primary Documents:
 - a) Selected letters from Lockhart and Otte, eds., *Letters and People of the Spanish Indies: The Sixteenth Century*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 1976.
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Week #4 Indigenous Women in the Andes

- 9/11 Gender and Class in Peru
9/13 Andean Women in the Documentary Record
9/15 Discussion

READ:

1. Gauderman, Kimberly. *Women’s Lives in Colonial Quito: Gender, Law, and Economy in Spanish America*. Austin: UT Press, 2003. (Chapter 5).

Reserve Week 4

2. Burkett, Elinor. “Indian Women and White Society: The Case of Sixteenth-Century Peru.” In *Latin American Women: Historical Perspectives*, ed. Asunción Lavrin. Conn: Greenwood Press, 1978, pp100-128.

3. Salomon, Frank. "Indian Women of Early Colonial Quito as Seen through Their Testaments." *The Americas* 44:3 (1988), 325-341.
 4. Primary Sources. Selections from:
 - a) Garcilaso de la Vega, El Inca. *Royal Commentaries of the Incas and General History of Peru*. Translator: Harold V. Livermore. Austin: UT Press, 1989 [1609].
 - b) Guaman Poma de Ayala. *El primer nuevo crónica y buen gobierno*. Translators: John V. Murra, et. al. Mexico: Siglo Veintiuno, 1992 [1615].
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Week #5 Introduction to Mesoamerica

- 9/18 Movie: Five Suns: A Sacred History of Mexico"
- 9/20 Finish Movie, Preconquest Nahua Society
- 9/22 Discussion

READ:

1. Schroeder, et. al. *Indian Women of Early Mexico*, pp. 3-15 plus Chapters 1-2.
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Week #6 Indigenous Women in Mesoamerica

- 9/25 Indigenous Societies and Gender in Mesoamerica
- 9/27 Nahua Women in the Documentary Record
- 9/29 Discussion

READ:

1. Schroeder, et. al. *Indian Women of Early Mexico*, Chapters 6, 9, 11.

Reserve Week 6

2. Primary selections from:
 - a) "Nahuatl Speeches and Dialogues": Selections from the "Tetzco Dialogues" and the Florintine Codex, Book VI.
 - b) "Mesoamericans." A selection of indigenous language documents.
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Week #7 African Women

- 10/2 African Societies
- 10/4 African Women in America
- 10/6 Discussion; **Paper #1 DUE.**

READ: Reserve Week 7

1. Lane, Kris. "Captivity and Redemption: Aspects of Slave Life in Early Colonial Quito and Popayan." *The Americas* 57.2 (200), 225-246
 2. Townsend, Camilla. "Angela Batallas: A Fight for Freedom in Guayaquil." *The Human Tradition in Colonial Latin America*, ed. Kenneth J. Andrien. Wilmington, DE: SR, 2002, pp293-306.
 3. Thornton, John. "Slavery and African Social Structure." In *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800* (2nd Ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998, pp. 72-97.
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Week #8 Review and Exam

- 10/9 Review
10/11 No class; take home due by 5pm.
10/13 Fall Break.
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Week #9 Sexuality and Society

- 10/16 Sexuality and social control
10/18 Honor, shame, and the slightly sullied
10/20 Discussion

READ: Reserve Week 9

1. Lauderdale Graham, Sandra. "Honor among Slaves." In, *The Faces of Honor: Sex, Shame, and Violence in Colonial Latin America*. Johnson and Lipsett-Rivera, eds. Albuquerque: UNM Press, 2000. (201-228)
 2. Lavrin, Asunción. "Sexuality in Colonial Mexico: A Church Dilemma." In, *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*. Lavrin, ed. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1992. (47-95)
 3. Twinam, Ann. "The Negotiation of Honor: Elites, Sexuality, and Illegitimacy in Eighteenth-Century Spanish America." In, *Faces of Honor*. 68-102.
 4. Primary sources from Boyer, ed., *Colonial Lives*:
 - a) "Catarina María Complains that Juan Teioa Forcibly Deflowered Her"
 - b) "Dn Manuel Valdiviesos y Carrión Protests the Marriage of His Daughter to Dn Teodoro Jaramillo, A Person of Lower Social Standing."
 - c) "Scandal at the Church: José de Alfaro Accuses Doña Theresa Bravo and Others of Insulting and Beating His *Castiza* Wife, Josefa Cadena."
 - d) "Wife of my Soul and Heart, and All My Solace": Annulment Suit Between Diego Andrés de Arenas and Ysabel Allay Suyo.
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Week #10 Witchcraft and Women's Culture

- 10/23 Delusion, Fraud, or Diabolic Inspiration
10/25 Under the Spell of Women
10/27 Discussion

READ: Reserve Week 10

1. Behar, Ruth. "Sexual Witchcraft, Colonialism, and Women's Powers: Views from the Mexican Inquisition." In, *Sexuality and Marriage*. 178-206.
 2. Few, Martha. "Women, Religion, and Power: Gender and Resistance in Daily Life in Late-Seventeenth-Century Santiago de Guatemala." *Ethnohistory* 42:4 (1995), 627-637.
 3. Silverblatt, Irene. *Moon, Sun, Witches: Gender Ideologies and Class in Inca and Colonial Peru*. Princeton Univ. Press, 1987. (Chapter 9)
 4. Primary Documents:
 - a) Selections from Guaman Poma.
 - b) "On Her Deathbed, Maria de la Candelaria Accuses Michaela de Molina of Casting Spells," in *Colonial Lives*. 166-177.
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Week #11 Women and the Church

10/30 Convents: Only a Few Good Women...

11/1 An Intellectual: Sor Juana

11/3 Discussion

READ: Reserve Week 11

1. Burns, Kathryn. "Gender and the Politics of Mestizaje: The Convent of Santa Clara in Cuzco, Peru." *HAHR* 78:1 (1998), 5-44.

2. Myers, Kathleen Ann. "The Tenth Muse, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648-1695): Letters and Learning in the Church." In *Neither Saints Nor Sinners: Writing the Lives of Women in Spanish America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. (92-115).

3. Primary Documents:

a) "The Answer," Sor Juana.

b) Selected poetry by Sor Juana.

Week #12 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz

Movie: "I the Worst of All."

READ: Reserve Week 12

1. Ramírez, Susan E. "I, the Worst of All: The Literary Life of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz." In *Based on a True Story: Latin American History at the Movies*, ed. Donald F. Stevens. Wilmington: SR Inc., 1998. 47-62.

Week #13 The Fringes of Sainthood

11/13 Mystical Nuns

11/15 Beatas and Recogidas

11/17 Discussion

READ: Reserve Week 13

1. Myers, Kathleen A. "The Mystic Triad in Colonial Mexican Nuns' Discourse: Divine Author, Visionary Scribe, and Clerical Mediator." *CLAHR* 6:4 (1997), 479-524.

2. van Deusen, Nancy E. "Defining the Sacred and the Worldly: Beatas and Recogidas in Late-Seventeenth-Century Lima." *CLAHR* 6:4 (1997), 441-477.

3. van Deusen, Nancy E. "Ursula de Jesús: A Seventeenth-Century Afro-Peruvian Mystic." In *The Human Tradition*, 88-103.

4. Primary Documents:

a) Selections from the Autobiography of Sor María de San José

b) "The Spiritual and Physical Ecstasies of a Sixteenth-Century Beata: Marina de San Miguel Confesses Before the Mexican Inquisition."

Week #14 The "Virgins" Maria

11/20 The Multiplicity of Mary

11/22 The Virgin of Guadalupe; **Paper #2 DUE.**

READ: Reserve Week 14

1. Curcio-Nagy, Linda A. "Native Icon to City Protectress to Royal Patroness: Ritual, Political Symbolism and the Virgin of Remedies." In, *The Church in Colonial Latin America*, ed. John F. Schwaller. Wilmington: SR, 2000 (183-208).
 2. Miller, Kenneth. "Diego de Ocaña: Holy Wanderer." In, *The Human Tradition*. 121-139.
 3. Peterson, Jeanette Favrot. "The Virgin of Guadalupe: Symbol of Conquest or Liberation?" *Art Journal* 51:4 (1992), 39-47.
 4. Poole, Stafford. "The Woman of the Apocalypse." In, *The Church in Colonial Latin America*. 209-243.
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Week #15 The Malinche Controversy: Gender, Politics, Identity

- 11/27 History in the Making: Doña Marina and the Conquest of Mexico
11/29 "Damn! How it hurts to be Malinche!" The burden of the present on history.
12/1 Discussion

READ:

1. Schroeder, et. al., *Indian Women of Early Mexico*. Chapter 14.

Reserve Week 15

2. Brimingham-Pokorny, Elba D. "La Malinche: A Feminist Perspective on Otherness in Mexican and Chicano Literature." *Confluencia* 11:2 (Spring 1996), 120-136.
 3. Paz, Octavio. *The Labyrinth of Solitude: Life and Thought in Mexico*. New York: Grove Press, 1961. (CH 4 "The Sons of Malinche.")
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Week #16 Exam

- 12/4 Take-home Final Due by 5pm.