

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of History  
Semester I, 1982-83

History 573-3

Florencia E. Mallon

Woman and Man in Latin America

Course Description

This seminar will examine the changing nature of gender relationships in Latin America across time periods and cultures. We will treat recent issues in the literature on women in a specific context of social, cultural, and historical transformation. Some of the issues to be discussed are: the nature and content of patriarchal relations; the historical functions of patriarchy; the effect of industrialization, migration, and agrarian transition on women, and whether or not these experiences are comparable across cultural and social boundaries; and the role of women in twentieth-century revolutions. Special attention will be paid to the interaction of gender, class, and race issues in defining the situation and oppression of women.

Office Hours

Tuesday, 9:30-10:30  
Thursday, 2-3  
4116 Humanities, 263-1822

Course Assignments

- 1) To keep up with the readings on a weekly basis, and to participate actively in discussion. The importance of this requirement cannot be overemphasized, since the entire focus and success of the course depends on your participation.
- 2) Two 5-8-page papers, based on the reading already assigned. Your task is to select a topic or issue from the week's reading and discussion that most interests you, and write a thought paper on it. The paper will be due the Friday after the reading is discussed in class. One paper must be done in the first half of the semester, and another in the second half.
- 3) Grading: Papers, 40% (20% each); Class participation, 60%.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

(\*Means available at the Bookstore and on Reserve at Helen C. White; #Means part of a xerox packet available at Poly U Communications, and on reserve in the History Library)

Week 1- Aug. 31: Introduction

UNIT I- Women and Colonialism

Week 2- Sept. 7: Women and Conquest

Reading: #Elinor C. Burkett, "Indian Women and white society: the case of sixteenth-century Peru," Asunción Lavrín (ed.), Latin American Women (Westport, CT., 1978), 108-28.

#Colin MacLachlan, "The Eagle and the Serpent: Male over Female in Tenochtitlán," Proceedings of the Pacific Council on Latin American Studies, 5 (1976), 45-56.

#June Nash, "Aztec Women: The Transition from Status to Class in Empire and Colony," Mona Etienne and Eleanor Leacock (eds.), Women and Colonization: Anthropological Perspectives (New York, 1980), 134-48.

#Irene Silverblatt, "Andean Women Under Spanish Rule," in Etienne and Leacock (eds.), Women and Colonization, 149-85.

Week 3- Sept. 14: Traditional Women in a Context of Culture Contact and Colonization

Reading: \*Yolanda and Robert F. Murphy, Women of the Forest (New York, 1974).

Week 4- Sept. 14: Race, Class, and Gender in the Spanish Colonial System

Reading: \*Verena Martínez-Alier, Marriage, Class, and Colour in Nineteenth-Century Cuba (New York, 1974).

#### UNIT II- Women and Development

Week 5- Sept. 28: Growing Up Female at the Turn of the Century

Reading: \*Elizabeth Bishop (ed.), The Diary of "Helena Morley" (New York, 1977).

Week 6- Oct. 5: Women and Agrarian Transformation (I)

Reading: \*Ester Boserup, Women's Role in Economic Development (New York, 1975).

Week 7- Oct. 12: Women and Agrarian Transformation (II)

Reading: #Carmen Diana Deere, "Women's Subsistence Production in the Capitalist Periphery," The Review of Radical Political Economics 8:1 (1976), 9-17.

#Carmen Diana Deere, "Changing Social Relations of Production and Peruvian Women's Work," Women in Latin America: An Anthology from Latin American Perspectives (Riverside, CA, 1979), 26-46.

#Anna Rubbo, "The Spread of Capitalism in Rural Colombia: Effects on Poor Women," in Rayna R. Reiter (ed.), Toward an Anthropology of Women (New York, 1975), 333-57.

Week 8- Oct. 19: Women and Agrarian Transformation (III)

Reading: \*Mary Lindsay Elmendorf, Nine Mayan Women: A Village Faces Change (Cambridge, MA, 1976).

Week 9- Oct. 26: Women and Agrarian Transformation (IV)

Reading: \*Susan C. Bourque and Kay B. Warren, Women of the Andes: Patriarchy and Social Change in Two Peruvian Towns (Ann Arbor, MI, 1981).

Week 10- Nov. 2: Women, Migration, and Urbanization

Reading: #Lourdes Arizpe, "Women in the Informal Labor Sector: The Case of Mexico City," Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, III:1 (Autumn, 1977), 25-37.

\*Carolina Maria de Jesus, Child of the Dark (New York, 1962).

#Elizabeth Jelin, "Migration and Labor Force Participation of Latin American Women: The Domestic Servants in the Cities," Signs, III:1, 129-41.

#Neuma Aguiar, "The Impact of Industrialization on Women's Work Roles in Northeast Brazil," June Nash and Helen I. Safá (eds.), Sex and Class in Latin America (New York, 1976), 110-28.

Week 11- Nov. 9: Women, Workplace, and Industrialization

Reading: \*Domitila Barrios de Chungara, Let Me Speak! Testimony of Domitila, a Woman of the Bolivian Mines (New York, 1979).

UNIT III- Women and Revolution

Week 12- Nov. 16: Women and Revolution in Cuba (I)

Reading: #Carrollee Bengelsdorf and Alice Hageman, "Emerging From Underdevelopment: Women and Work in Cuba," Zillah R. Eisenstein (ed.), Capitalist Patriarchy and the Case for Socialist Feminism (New York, 1979), 271-95.

#Susan Kaufmann Purcell, "Modernizing Women for A Modern Society: The Cuban Case," Ann Pescatello (ed.), Female and Male in Latin America (Pittsburgh, 1978, paperback edition), 273-90.

\*Oscar and Ruth M. Lewis, Susan M. Rigdon, Four Women: Living the Revolution, An Oral History of Contemporary Cuba (Chicago, 1977), ix-125.

Week 13- Nov. 23: Women and Revolution in Cuba (II)

Reading: Lewis, Lewis, and Rigdon, Four Women, 129-433.

Week 14- Nov. 30: Women and Revolution in Central America

Reading: #Norma Stoltz Chinchilla, "Women in Revolutionary Movements: The Case of Nicaragua," MS, 1981.

#Luz Alicia Herrera, "Testimonies of Guatemalan Women," Latin American Perspectives, VII: 2 and 3 (Spring and Summer, 1980), 160-68.

\*Margaret Randall, Sandino's Daughters (Vancouver, B.C., 1981).

Week 15- Dec. 7: Women's Experience in Revolution, Overview and Summing Up

No new reading: just (?) pull together the relevant materials from the course.