

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Department of History
Semester I, 1986-87

History 573-002

Florencia E. Mallon

Woman and Man in Latin America

Course Description

Though this seminar will examine the changing nature of gender relations in Latin America across time periods and cultures, it will tend to concentrate most on recent history--that is, the last thirty to forty years. In doing so, we will focus on the most interesting and innovative approaches to Latin American women, and on the events and processes that have had the most dramatic effect on women's lives and experiences. 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 interaction of gender, class, and race in defining women's subordination; the effect of industrialization, migration, and agrarian transition on women; the role of women in revolution; women's resistance against dictatorship and repression; and the "new feminism" in Latin America.

Office Hours

Tuesday, 12:30-1:30 (Walk-in)

Thursday, 9:30-10:30 (Walk-in)
12:30-2:00 (By Appointment)

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 cannot be overemphasized, since the entire focus and success of the course depends on your participation.
- 2) Two short papers: a 3-5-page book review on a book from the supplementary lists included in the syllabus and its presentation to the class; and a 10-page paper whose main task is to explore an issue emerging from seminar discussion at greater depth, using a limited amount of outside reading.
- 3) Grading: Papers, 50% (20% for the shorter; 30% for the longer); Class Participation, 50% (including 10% for class presentation).

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

(* Means available at Room of One's Own and on Reserve at Helen C. White;
Means part of a xerox packet from Bob's Copy Shop).

Week 1 - Sept. 2: Introduction

UNIT I WOMEN IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Week 2 - Sept. 9: The Universal in Woman's Condition: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz

Reading: *Margaret Sayers Peden (ed.), A Woman of Genius: The Intellectual Autobiography of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (Salisbury, CT: Lime Rock Press, 1982).

#Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Selected poems in translation, in Aliko and Willis Barnstone, A Book of Women Poets from Antiquity to Now (New York: Schocken Books, 1980), especially "She Attempts to Refute..." and "She Proves the Inconsistency..."

#Octavio Paz, "Juana Ramírez" (including Translator's Note), Signs, 5:1 (Autumn 1979), 78-97.

#Electa Arenal, "Comment on Paz's 'Juana Ramírez'", Signs, 5:3 (Spring 1980), 552-55.

Week 3 - Sept. 16: Women, Culture Contact, and Colonization

Reading: *Yolanda and Robert Murphy, Women of the Forest (New York: Columbia University Press, 1974).

Week 4 - Sept. 23: Women and the Transition to Capitalism

Reading: #Ramon Gutiérrez, "Honor Ideology, Marriage Negotiation, and Class-Gender Domination in New Mexico, 1690-1846," Latin American Perspectives, 12:1 (Winter 1985), pp. 81-104.

#Florencia E. Mallon, "Patriarchy and the Transition to Capitalism in Central Peru, 1860-1950," Feminist Studies, forthcoming.

UNIT II - WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

Week 5 - Sept. 30: Women and Development: An Overview and Panel Discussion

Common Reading:

#Lourdes Benería and Gita Sen, "Accumulation, Reproduction, and Women's Role in Economic Development: Boserup Revisited," Signs, 7:2 (Winter 1981), 279-98.

#Carmen Diana Deere and Magdalena León de Leal, "Peasant Production, Proletarianization, and the Sexual Division of Labor in the Andes," Signs, 7:2 (Winter 1981), 338-60.

#Helen I. Safá, "Runaway Shops and Female Employment: The Search for Cheap Labor," Signs, 7:2 (Winter, 1981), 418-33.

Book Review Reading:

A) Women in Agriculture

- 1) Laurel Herbenar Bossen, The Redivision of Labor: Women and Economic Choice in Four Guatemalan Communities (Albany: SUNY Press, 1984).
- 2) Susan C. Bourque and Kay B. Warren, Women of the Andes: Patriarchy and Social Change in Two Peruvian Towns (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1981).
- 3) Carmen Diana Deere and Magdalena León de Leal, Women in Andean Agriculture (Geneva: ILO, 1982).

- B) Indigenous Women
- 1) Audrey Bronstein, The Triple Struggle (Boston: South End Press, 1983).
 - 2) Mary Lindsay Elmendorf, Nine Mayan Women: A Village Faces Change (Cambridge, Mass.: Schenkman Publishing Co., 1976).
 - 3) Jane Holden Kelley, Yaqui Women: Contemporary Life Histories (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1978).
- C) Women and Work
- 1) Ximena Bunster and Elsa M. Chaney, Sellers and Servants: Working Women in Lima, Peru (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1985).
 - 2) June Nash, Helen Safa and Contributors, Women and Change in Latin America (South Hadley, Mass.: Bergin and Garvey Publishers, 1986), Parts I and III.
 - 3) Nash and Safa, Parts I, II, and IV.

Week 6 - Oct. 7: Women Household, and Industrialization

Reading: *Domitila Barrios de Chungara, Let Me Speak! Testimony of Domitila, a Woman of the Bolivian Mines (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1978).
Book Reviews From Week 5 Are Due On Friday, Oct. 10

Week 7 - Oct. 14: Women in the Labor Force: The Export Industries

Reading: *María Patricia Fernández Kelly, For We Are Sold, I and my People: Women and Industry in Mexico's Frontier (Albany: SUNY Press, 1983).

UNIT III - WOMEN AND REVOLUTION

Week 8 - Oct. 21: Women and Revolution: Overview and Panel Discussion

Common Reading: #Lourdes Arguelles and B. Ruby Rich, "Homosexuality, Homophobia, and Revolution: Notes Toward an Understanding of the Cuban Lesbian and Gay Male Experience," Parts I and II, Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, 9:4 (Summer 1984), pp. 683-99, and 11:1 (Autumn 1985), pp. 120-36.

#Carlos Alberto Montaner, "Comment on Arguelles and Rich's 'Homosexuality, Homophobia and Revolution...'", and Reply by Arguelles and Rich, Signs, 11:2 (Winter 1986), pp. 415-16.

#Isabel Largaña and John Dumoulin, "Women's Equality and the Cuban Revolution," in Nash and Safa, Women and Change, pp. 344-68.

#Maxine Molyneux, "Mobilization Without Emancipation? Women's Interests, the State, and Revolution in Nicaragua," Feminist Studies, 11:2 (Summer 1985), pp. 227-54.

Book Review Reading:

A) Cuba

- 1) Margaret Randall, Cuban Women Now: Interviews with Cuban Women (Toronto: The Women's Press, 1974).
- 2) Margaret Randall, Women in Cuba: Twenty Years Later (New York: Smyrna Press, 1981).
- 3) "Packet" on Cuba:

Lourdes Casal, "Revolution and Conciencia: Women in Cuba," in Carol R. Berkin and Clara M. Lovett, Women, War, and Revolution (New York: Holmes and Meier, 1980), 183-206.

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

Elizabeth Croll, "Rural Production and Reproduction: Socialist Development Experiences," in Eleanor Leacock and Helen Safa (eds), Women's Work: Development and the Division of Labor by Gender (South Hadley, Mass: Bergin and Garvey Publishers, 1986), pp. 224-52.

Geoffrey E. Fox, "Honor, Shame, and Women's Liberation in Cuba: Views of Working-Class Emigre Men," in Ann Pescatello (ed.), Female and Male in Latin America (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1978), pp. 273-90.

4) Allen Young, Gays under the Cuban Revolution (San Francisco: Grey Fox Press, 1981).

B) Nicaragua

1) Margaret Randall, Doris Tijerino: Inside the Nicaraguan Revolution (Vancouver, B.C.: New Star Books, 1978).

2) "Packet" on Nicaragua:
Norma Stoltz Chinchilla, "Women in Revolutionary Movements: The Case of Nicaragua," ms., 1981.

Susan Ramírez-Horton, "The Role of Women in the Nicaraguan Revolution," in Thomas W. Walker (ed.), Nicaragua in Revolution (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1982), pp. 147-59.

Jane Deighton, Rossana Horsley et al., Sweet Ramparts: Women in Revolutionary Nicaragua (London: War on Want and the Nicaraguan Solidarity Campaign, 1983).

Week 9 - Oct. 28: Women in Cuba

Reading: *Oscar and Ruth Lewis and Susan Rigdon, Four Women: Living the Revolution (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1977), pp. 3-433.

Week 10 - Nov. 4: Women in Nicaragua

Reading: *Margaret Randall, Sandino's Daughters (Vancouver, B.C.: New Star Books, 1981).

Book Reviews From Week 8 Are Due On Friday, Nov. 7

Week 11 - Nov. 11: The New Feminine Testimonial: Women Revolutionary Poets

Reading: #Electa Arenal, "Two Poets of the Sandinista Struggle," Feminist Studies, 7:1 (Spring 1981), 19-27.

#Gioconda Belli, "To Commandante Marcos," FS, 34-36.

#Claribel Alegría, "Flowers from the Volcano" and "It's Growing Late, Doctor," in Claribel Alegría, Flowers from the Volcano, trans. Carolyn Forché (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1982), 44-51, 56-61.

#From Margaret Randall, Breaking the Silences: Twentieth Century Poetry by Cuban Women (Vancouver, B.C.: Pulp Press, 1982):

Georgina Herrera, "Street of the Women of the World," 119-23, and biographical sketch, 112-13.

Lourdes Casal, "In Cuba," 130-31, and biographical sketch, 124-25.

Milagros González, "First Dialogue," 170-77, and biographical sketch, 169.

Excilia Saldaña, "Autobiography," 200-203, and "Obba (a patakin)," 203-214; and biographical sketch, 196-99.

Soleida Ríos, "Difficult Hour," 252-53; "Of the Sierra," 252-55; "I Also Sing of Myself," 254-59; "Autumn Rains," 258-61; and biographical sketch, 250-51.

Nancy Morejón, "Black Woman," 150-53; "Woman in a Tobacco Factory," 144-45; and biographical sketch, 140-41.

UNIT IV - WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS, FEMINISM, REPRESSION, AND EXILE

Week 12 - Nov. 18: Indigenous Women and Dictatorship

Reading: I...Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Women in Guatemala (London: Verso Books, 1984).

Week 13 - Nov. 25: Latin American Feminism

Reading: *Carol Andreas, When Women Rebel: The Rise of Popular Feminism in Peru (Westport, CT: Lawrence Hill & Co., 1985).

#Marianne Schmink, "Women in Brazilian Abertura Politics," Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, 7:1 (Autumn 1981), pp. 115-34.

#Angela Neves-Xavier de Brito, "Brazilian Women in Exile: The Quest for an Identity," Latin American Perspectives, 13:2 (Spring 1986), pp. 58-80.

Week 14 - Dec. 2: Women and Torture

Reading: #Ximena Bunster-Burotto, "Surviving Beyond Fear: Women and Torture in Latin America," in Nash and Safa, Women and Change, pp. 297-325.

*Alicia Partnoy, The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival in Argentina (San Francisco: Cleis Press, 1986).

Week 15 - Dec. 9: Women, Repression, and Dictatorship (Or: Women as the Bedrock of Life)

Reading: *Manlio Argueta, One Day of Life (New York: Vintage Books, 1983).

*Ariel Dorfman, Widows (New York: Vintage Books, 1984).

Long Paper Due by Monday, Dec. 15