

**From Private to Public: Women in Latin America**

LAS4935/6938

Spring 2017

MAT 014

F: 7-9

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**Course Description**

Gender and gender roles cut across all facets of social life as integral elements to the human experience. In this course, we will explore Latin American and Caribbean nations have shaped and been shaped by women—as individuals and as mobilized collectives. Latin America is often described as having “traditional” gender roles and “patriarchal norms” that elevate macho men to positions of authority and characterize women as either vixens or virgins. In this vision, men concern themselves with “street” matters and women with the household—in the bedroom, the kitchen, and the playroom. However, this characterization stands at odds with a region that has elected eight female heads of state, has seen *guerrilleras* and *soldaderas* fight to shape their nations, and is increasingly grappling with LGBTQ rights and reproductive choice in ways that belie the region’s Catholic roots. If women were supposed to rule the hearth, how is it that some of them came to rule their nations?

This course concerns itself with the various ways in which women expanded their spheres of influence from those of social and biological reproduction (as mothers, caregivers, and teachers) to those of production (of goods, nations, and policies). Readings cover ethnographies focusing on traditional female occupations in reconfigured economies as well as readings on different forms of mobilization. Throughout the semester, we will attend to how imaginaries about gender and gender roles intersect with race and ethnicity, social class, and sexuality in a range of topics from women’s activism to tourism and globalized labor.

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- ❖ Examine the ways in which gender and sexual identities can aid or hinder mobilization
- ❖ Analyze gender as a social construct and be attuned to hierarchies of power that privilege certain expressions over others
- ❖ Identify and define the intersections of gender in both public and private spheres, examine resistance to the status quo, but also the push to maintain and reproduce it
- ❖ Develop analytical writing and critical thinking skills in an interdisciplinary context

**Additional FOR GRAD STUDENTS:**

- ❖ Engage critically with scholarly dialogue on identity politics, feminist critical theory, and globalization
- ❖ Hone professional skills in keeping with becoming experts

## Course Requirements

Text and Readings:

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to class.

Required Texts:

*What's Love Got to Do with It? Transnational Desires and Sex Tourism in the Dominican Republic*. 2004. Denise Brennan.

*Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantytown*. 2013. Donna Goldstein.

*Women's Activism in Latin America and the Caribbean: Engendering Social Justice, Democratizing Citizenship*. 2010. Elizabeth Maier and Nathalie Lebon, Eds.

\*\*Other readings as posted.

## Course Evaluation:

### All Students

**Attendance and participation:** Attendance is mandatory. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence. It is imperative that each student arrive to class on time and ready to learn and participate actively in discussions. Students will be called on randomly to summarize readings or answer questions. As a seminar, discussions are an integral part of the learning process. These will take place both in regular meetings and in formalized Discussion Cafés\*. Unannounced quizzes also count as part of your attendance and participation grade.

*\*Please note:* one of the discussion cafés requires you to attend at least 3 Latin America/Caribbean/Latinx-focused academic or cultural events. Attendance at each event must be documented with an **event attendance form** within 48 hours of the event. These take place throughout the semester and will be regularly announced through Canvas and in class. We are not able to provide an exhaustive list of events, so students are encouraged to find events of interest and obtain the instructor's approval. Failure to complete the form within the required time will affect your grade.

**Discussion Lead with News Briefs:** Each week, 2 students will be asked to share relevant news items (1 each) to the assigned readings, providing a brief summary and rationale for how it relates to or dialogues with the reading, and propose discussion questions to the class. News items must be from no earlier than 2015 and do not have to be about Latin America per se. Guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

### Undergraduates

**Midterm:** A mixed-format exam will be given to assess your assimilation of course content.

**Final Project:** Students must submit a two-part final project consisting of a 10-12 minute screen capture presentation (or video) and a short paper (5-6 pages). Allowable topics must conform to one of the following and be selected in consultation with the instructor:

- A social movement focused on women's issues/rights
- Women's roles in a specific revolution/armed struggle
- A biographical sketch of a notable Latin American woman
- An in-depth exploration of one particular published *testimonio*

Guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

Attendance and participation:	20%
Discussion Lead:	10%
Midterm:	30%
Final project:	40%
Total:	100%

**Grading Scale:**

A 93-100 A- 90-92 B+ 87-89 B 83-86 B- 80-82 C+ 77-79 C 73-76 C- 70-72 D+ 67-69 D 63-66  
D- 60-62 E 59 and below

**Graduate students only:**

**Exam Prep:** Prior to the midterm, graduate students will create a study guide and facilitate a review session for the undergraduate students outlining major concepts, devising possible questions, and fostering synthesis of the material.

**Final Project:** Graduate students will select a research topic broadly addressing the focus of the class, i.e., women in Latin America and prepare a mini-lecture (25-30 minutes) to be presented to the class as well as a short paper (6-8 pages). Mini-lectures differ from presentations as they must place the topic within the broader framework of the course overall. Papers must have at least six academic sources, at least one of which must be a book or monograph.

**Reading Group:** Graduate students will meet outside of class six times for 2-hour reading groups with in-depth discussion and analysis. Once during the semester each of you is expected to select a reading relevant to your mini-lecture topic and to facilitate the reading group discussion on that reading.

Attendance and participation:	20%
Discussion Lead:	5%
Exam Prep:	5%
Reading Group:	30%
Final project:	40%
Total:	100%

**Grading Scale:**

A 93-100 A- 90-92 B+ 87-89 B 83-86 B- 80-82 C+ 77-79 C 73-76 C- 70-72  
D+ 67-69 D 63-66 D- 60-62 E 59 and below

## COURSE POLICIES

**DECORUM:** This course will cover controversial subjects in a frank and open manner. Some of the material encountered may be offensive to some of you on personal, moral, or religious grounds. Readings may contain graphic descriptions or pictures. Students are expected to be able to discuss the material as mature adults. Students are free to express opinions, but the course is not a forum for extreme positions and personal attacks against others will not be tolerated.

**ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION:** Being present and engaged count as an important part of your grade. During the class time, students have the instructor's undivided attention. The same is expected in return. It will be impossible for you to get an "A" if you are repeatedly absent or disengaged from the course.

**TARDINESS:** Tardiness is extremely distracting. If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so very quietly. No extra time will be allotted to complete quizzes if you are late.

**COMMUNICATION:** I do my best to include information in the syllabus, on powerpoints, and discussed verbally in class as well as Canvas announcements; sometimes a notice only goes out in one of these settings. Please stay on top of all modes of communication but feel free to seek clarification and keep me honest when I forget.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT FORMAT:** All written assignments are due by the beginning of the class period on which they are due. Unless otherwise specified, all written assignments should be typed in Times New Roman 12 with default margins and can be submitted through Canvas or brought as a hard copy to class.

### LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Meeting deadlines is an important personal and professional skill. Discussion Café assignments and Discussion Leads will not be accepted late. Final Projects will receive a 10% penalty every 24 hours.

**THE COMPUTER ATE MY HOMEWORK:** Problems with technology are not an acceptable excuse for late submission of your assignments. You should assume that technology will fail you at some point. It is incumbent upon you to PLAN AHEAD and not leave your work for the last possible moment.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Students can earn up to 2 points on their final average by tagging (when appropriate) the Center for Latin American Studies on social media using #UFLAS. Each post is worth a ½ point and up to 4 posts can count (submit relevant screenshot to EC tabs in Canvas).

**TECHNOLOGY POLICY:** Given the scientific evidence (see: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/05/16/why-smart-kids-shouldnt-use-laptops-in-class/?utm\\_term=.22a14bdaea9f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/05/16/why-smart-kids-shouldnt-use-laptops-in-class/?utm_term=.22a14bdaea9f)) showing that technology in the classroom tends to hinder learning, laptops, tablets, and cell phone use is banned during class time. Students requiring exceptions to this rule must obtain the instructor's permission.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** Unannounced quizzes cannot be made up. For the midterm, only university-approved documented excuses will be accepted. Make-up exams are a different format than the original, combining an oral and written essay portion.

**INCOMPLETES:** In accordance with UF policies, an incomplete may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor as an interim grade for a course in which:

- 1) the student has completed a major portion of the course with a passing grade,  
AND
- 2) been unable to complete course requirements before the end of the term  
because of extenuating circumstances, AND
- 3) obtained written agreement from the instructor and arranged for resolution of  
the incomplete grade.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

**Academic Honesty:**

Anyone caught cheating on exams or submitting work authored by another will receive an “E” grade, and be referred to the dean’s office. For the University’s policy on academic honesty, please visit <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php#3>

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, who will provide documentation to the student. This documentation must be presented to the Instructor as soon as possible in order to arrange for the accommodations.

**Confidentiality:**

Student records are confidential. Only information designated "UF directory information" may be released without your written consent. Please see University Regulation 6C1-4.007 for a list of the categories of information designated as "UF directory information." UF views each student as the primary contact for all communication. For more information: [www.registrar.ufl.edu.ferpahub.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu.ferpahub.html)

**Counseling and Wellness:**

A variety of counseling, mental health and psychiatric services are available through the UF Counseling and Wellness Center, whose goal is to help students be maximally effective in their academic pursuits by reducing or eliminating emotional, psychological, and interpersonal problems that interfere with academic functioning. The Center can be found online at <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc> or reached by phone at 392-1575.

**NOTE:** Please see the following page for the class calendar. Readings, guest lectures, and assignment dates are subject to change.

## Course Outline

- Week 1  
Jan 6 Course Overview and Expectations  
*Topic: Doing and Undoing Gender*
- Week 2  
Jan 13 Setting the Stage  
Maier and Lebon pp. 3-43  
Adren: Gender Studies and Prehispanic Archaeology  
*Topic: What is Public? What is Private?*  
DUE: Sign Up for Discussion Leads
- Week 3  
Jan 20 Women, Work, and Families  
Maier and Lebon pp. 47-91  
Ehlers: Debunking Marianismo  
\*You should have attended at least one LAS-themed event and submitted an event attendance form by the end of this week.  
*Topic: Double Shift*
- Week 4  
Jan 27 Intersecting Race, Class, and Gender  
Goldstein pp. xix-101  
*Topic: Domestic Labor in Latin America*
- Week 5  
Feb 3 Intersecting Race, Class, and Gender  
Goldstein pp. 102-173  
*Topic: Race and Sex in Latin America*  
DUE: Project Topics
- Week 6  
Feb 10 Intersecting Race, Class, and Gender  
Goldstein pp. 174-274  
*Topic: Poverty*  
\* You should have attended at least two LAS-themed events and submitted event attendance forms for each by the end of this week.
- Week 7  
Feb 17 Women's Agency for Plural Democracy and Full Citizenship  
Maier and Lebon pp. 95-156  
*Topic: Women and Armed Conflict*  
**Discussion Café:** Meeting Women's Needs. For women wanting change in Latin America, there have been three main avenues: taking up arms, working within the state apparatus, or mobilizing through NGOs. For this Café, you will share a brief account of two of these three ways in the same country. Make sure to highlight important distinctions such as aims, goals, and target populations of the organization or program, as well as specific challenges and notable accomplishments.
- Week 8  
Feb 24 MIDTERM

- Week 9  
Mar 3 Broadening the Circle of Women's Activism  
**No class meeting**  
Maier and Lebon pp. 159-218  
DUE: Project Bibliography  
\*\*\*Spring Break: March 4-12\*\*\*
- Week 10\*  
Mar 17 Globalization, Sex, and Tourism  
Brennan pp. 1-87  
DUE:  
*Topic: Imagining the Tropics*  
\*You should have attended at least three LAS-themed events and submitted event attendance forms for each by the end of this week.
- Week 11  
March 24 Globalization, Sex, and Tourism  
Brennan pp. 91-182  
*Topic: Sex Work*
- Week 12  
Mar 31 Globalization, Sex, and Tourism  
Graduate Presentations  
Brennan pp. 185-219  
*Topic: Crossing Borders*  
DUE: Project/Paper Outlines
- Week 13  
Apr 7 Shaping Public Policy with a Gender Perspective  
Graduate Presentations  
Maier and Lebon pp. 221-288  
**Discussion Café:** Manifesting Latin America. In order to complement what you are learning about Latin America in this course, you have been required to attend three local cultural or academic events focusing on Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinx communities in the U.S. Gather your three EVENT ATTENDANCE forms into one document and write a brief reflection (300-400 words) connecting the events to content or ideas raised in our course or your project study research.
- Week 14  
Apr 14 Course Wrap Up  
Graduate Presentations  
Maier and Lebon pp. 319-351
- APR 20 \* Final Projects/Papers are due on Canvas by 11:59 p.m.**