Institut des Hautes Études de l'Amérique latine (IHEAL)  
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3  
History of Women, Masculinities and Machismo in Latin America  
HYSP013  
Tuesdays, 16h – 18h  
Classroom 16  
Language of the Course: English  

Professor Martha S. Santos  
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Office hours: Tuesdays, 14:00 – 15:00; Wednesdays, 11:40 – 12:40, and by appointment  
Office: 5 cours des Humanités - Bâtiment recherche sud - Bureau 5.051  

Course Description:  
This course examines changes and continuities in the lives and experiences of Latin American women and men over five hundred years of history, through the lens of gender. Rather than being a survey of the history of gender in Latin America, four major themes will guide the course: First, we will analyze some of the concepts that have structured beliefs, norms, and expectations about femininity and masculinity since the colonial period until the present and how these concepts were related to social and power structures including gender, race, and class, and to changing political contexts. In this sense, this course will explore how ideas and practices of womanhood and manhood were created historically and in relation to each other. Second, focusing on women and men as a category, as a group, and as individuals, we will explore how historical subjects approximated, challenged, and transformed gender definitions in their lives and in their societies. Third, the course will examine the meanings and uses of one common stereotype of Latin American masculinity: machismo. Taking Mexico as a case study, we will analyze when, how, and why machismo became the most common way to characterize Mexican men. We will question the usefulness of the machismo stereotype to understand the historical realities of masculine identity and behavior among men from different groups. Finally, we will reflect on the roles that sexuality has played in the definition of ideas and practices of femininity and masculinity and will analyze how the construction of masculinities is connected to issues of domination, power and difference in the Latin American region.

Course Objectives:  
To improve reading skills and the ability to locate and learn the significant aspects of the material read;  
To improve writing skills through papers and essay exams;  
To improve, through class discussion and debate, skills in orally presenting information and in critical thinking;
To develop a general understanding of the history of gender and sexuality in Latin America and to think critically about notions of masculinity and femininity in the region;
To understand the role of gender in the development of Latin American history;
To compare the experiences of women and men of different races, ethnicities, and social classes.
To develop a sense of how historians of Latin America examine primary sources to understand the past and to write gendered histories of women and men;
To develop an understanding of some of the debates that scholars of gender history and the history of sexuality in Latin America engage in and of the theoretical approaches that influence their work.

**Required Course Readings:** The required primary sources, articles and book chapters will be available in the icampus platform. Students need to print their own copies of these materials and bring them to class on the day when we discuss them. Students can also bring a laptop computer to have access to the readings during class.

Additional readings might be assigned throughout the semester. In such cases, you will get plenty of advanced notice as to the due dates for such readings.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

**Attendance:** Students are required to attend class regularly. A maximum of two (2) absences are allowed. Once a student reaches three (3) absences he or she will lose 5 points towards the final grade for each absence. Students who miss class are still responsible for all discussion and reading material.

**Participation (25%):** Full participation in each class session is essential to make this class a success. To participate effectively in classroom activities, students need to come prepared to class by having done the readings, taken notes, thought about questions, interpretations or other issues related to the texts or other assignments. You will also need to actively contribute to discussions and other activities in class. During the semester, you might be asked to write short answers, comments, or take unannounced pop quizzes on the assigned readings during class. These exercises also make up part of your participation grade.

**Take-home mid-term exam (30%):** There will be a take-home mid-term exam which will consist of an essay question in response to a pre-circulated question based on assigned readings. Instructions to prepare this essay will follow in a separate handout and will be provided to students two weeks before its due date.

**Pop Culture Scavenger Hunt, Paper and Presentation (45%)** Students will be required to complete an assignment that extends our consideration of the representation of Latin American women and men beyond the classroom (primary and secondary sources, films, lectures). You will be collecting data and analyzing how women and men from Latin American countries are represented in the material culture of Paris in the 21st century. I will provide specific instructions in advance of the due date for this assignment.

**Technical Guidelines for Written Assignments:** All written assignments should be typed, double spaced, and use a 12 size, “Times New Roman” or similar font. Use standard margins (1 inch
margins at top and bottom, 1 to 1.25 inches on the sides). All written work should be checked for grammar and spelling mistakes. All quotes and paraphrases in your papers must be attributed to their author(s).

**Late Policy:** All written assignments are to be turned in on the due dates and times established by the instructor in the syllabus. The standard penalization for unexcused late assignments is 5 points (1/2 a grade) per day that a paper is late. I will allow for an extension on a deadline only when students can document illnesses or other crisis and when they contact the instructor regarding their particular situations before the time to turn in the assignment.

**Plagiarism and academic dishonesty:** Plagiarism consists of using (copying or paraphrasing) words, ideas or materials from another person, or from the internet, without giving proper credit to the source, thus, representing them as your own. Plagiarism in written assignments or blog entries will result in a grade of an F (0/100) for that assignment. In severe cases of plagiarism or academic dishonesty, a student may receive a grade of an F for the course.

**Instructor Email Contact and Reply Policy:** Please email me at martha.santos@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr with any questions or concerns regarding the course, course materials, assignments, etc, and for any questions that are not already explained in the syllabus. I would be happy to answer any of your questions. Typically, I will reply to your email within 24 hours on a weekday or 48 hours on a weekend or holiday.

### Activities, Readings, and Assignments Schedule

Please note that, on occasions, there might be changes to the schedule of readings. Such changes will be announced with plenty of time in advance.

**Tuesday, September 21. Introduction to the Course: What is Latin America?**

**Tuesday, September 28. Theories of Gender and Sexuality**

**Tuesday, October 5. Gender before and after Conquest: The Mexica Case**
* Malintzin, Primary Source Packet, pp. 1-17.

**Tuesday, October 12. Gender and Colonization**
* Catalina de Erauso, “Petition”
Tuesday, October 19. Honor, Sexuality and the Colonial Church

Tuesday, October 26. Religious Women

Tuesday, November 2. No Class
Take-home mid-term paper due online on Friday, November 5, by 17:00.

Tuesday, November 9. Slavery and Gender

Tuesday, November 16. National Identity and Masculinity: Argentina

Tuesday, November 23. National Identity and Masculinity: Mexico

Tuesday, November 30. Stereotypes of Latin American Women Abroad


**Tuesday, December 7.** Presentations, Pop Culture Scavenger Hunt

**Tuesday, December 14.** Presentations, Pop Culture Scavenger Hunt  
**Pop Culture Scavenger Hunt Paper due on Wednesday, December 14, in class**

**Selected Bibliography:**


______. “Mothering Slaves, Labor, and the Persistence of Slavery in Northeast Brazil: A Non-Plantation View from the Hinterlands of Ceará, 1813-1884,” *Women’s History Review*, online (June 2017): 1-18


