COURSE SYLLABUS

Latin American Women, Religions and Politics, through Latin American history

ABC-1234-RVC-REL 4064
Combined with RVC-RLG5388

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

| Instructor: | Prof. Ana Maria Bidegain | Phone: | (305) 348-0000 |
| Office: | Building Room # (MMC or BBC) | Fax: | (305) 348-0000 |
| Office Hours: | By appointment | Email: | Please use Blackboard course messages |
| Website: | Professor's Website |

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This course focuses on women’s religious experience, associated with their political practices, in particular, their historic and geographic contexts in Latin America and the Caribbean. This course analyzes religious history, taking into account the all too often invisibilized and marginalized narratives reflecting the forces of colonialism and the dominating forces of socioeconomic standing, race and gender, inherent in religious discourse and its associated practices. As the course will demonstrate, religions have been a rich resource for liberation and resistance to counter various forms of oppression, as well as an instrument of legitimization and domination throughout the Latin American and Caribbean history. This course discusses and posits theoretical and methodological tools that engage an alternative: moving away from a top-down perspective, to one that is grounded in the particular, and of lived experiences. It will recast events and historical narratives, in which women have played significant, central roles within fashioning and participating in their religions, rather than being seen as passive, subjugated members. We will analyze both the production of women’s religious discourses and also, the production of religious discourse on women that specifically justifies and promotes their invisibility, legitimizing women’s sociocultural standing and political underrepresentation.

Until the 1970s, women's presence and their visibility in history have been resolutely dismissed, particularly in recorded religious history and associated narratives, as well their political practices. This course fills this gap: aiding students with tools and concepts to better understand how women of Latin America and the Caribbean have been instrumental in actively shaping the religious and political landscape of their countries of origin.

This is a combined course for upper undergraduate and graduate student level. Requirements are similar except the final research paper. Undergraduates have to produce a 10 pages final
paper and graduate 20 pages. Graduates also have access to more information through PPP and readings.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will be able to have:
1) A new and nuanced understanding of Latin American and Caribbean religious experience by examining female-centered perspectives of gender, class and ethnicity.
2) A better understanding of the interplay of Religion, Politics and Economics in the engendered Latin American Societies.
3) A comprehension on the importance of Christian churches’ role in the colonization and acculturation process of Southern Regions of the world and the development of globalization from a gender perspective

**MAJOR & CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES TARGETED**

This course will help to develop a thorough understanding of how Latina women have contributed in shaping the religious landscape of the Americas. The course will be arranged around five specific themes:
1) Gender and the structure and formation of power.
2) Women's bodies; "mestizaje"; syncretism/hybridity; popular expressions of religion, and understanding the connection of colonialism to three forces of domination: socioeconomic standing, race and gender,
3) Women’s involvement and contributions to education and the development of gendered and feminist approaches to religious thought.
4) Women’s religiosity, resistance to oppression and social justice
5) Analysis of women’s religious experiences, their development, social transformation and political participation.
6) Compare and complements different research approaches through the analysis of materials written in English, Spanish and Portuguese, for those students who has the privilege to read these different languages.

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

This is a course on-line which seeks active participation of the students. Students have to participate presenting their comments and viewpoints through the discussion board each week. The professor will introduce the course material and give a general overview as well as teach and steer discussions when required. The required reading will be in English however those students with enough Spanish or Portuguese language skills, will have the opportunity to read and include bibliography on these languages.

Each student will be required to deliver a research paper on one aspect of the material covered in class according to a list given by the professor. Essays can be written in English or Spanish. The final paper will consist of a 15 page, double-spaced essay in Times New Roman 12-type font. References and citations are expected, in a recognized format (MLA, Chicago, APA, etc.) and consistent throughout the text.

The Final Grade will be determined by a total of points scored throughout the semester. These points will be converted into percentages [that is, points scored by student/total number of points [200] x 100]. Please keep printed copies of all assignments and graded material. If you cannot produce your class
material in a grade dispute, the grade recorded in the instructor's grade book will take precedence. Students are required and responsible for all assigned text readings and material from Blackboard.

Students are expected to check the Announcement and Assignment sections of Blackboard for this class at least every other day. Students who take this course are expected to have the skills necessary to complete all assignments. Essay Assignments must not be sent as attachments to the professor. They must be posted in the Assignment drop box. I will not grade them if you send them to me as attachments. If you have computer technology questions during the semester, you should contact the FIU Computer Help Desk.

Note: *Professor reserves the right to alter this syllabus if and whenever necessary.*

**ASSURANCE OF LEARNING**

The College of Business cares about the quality of your education. For more information please visit the [Assurance of Learning](#) website to learn more on the College’s commitment to this initiative.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**POLICIES**

Please review [FIU's Policies webpage](#). The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/SKILLS**

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer’s operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the [What’s Required](#) page to find out more information on this subject.

This course utilizes the following tools:

1) Discussion board - weekly
2) Adobe connect –
3) PPP
4) Videos and films

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.
ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

This course utilizes the following tools:

1. Discussion board
2. Adobe Connect
3. PPP
4. Videos and films

Please visit our ADA Compliance webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course. Please visit Blackboard’s Commitment to Accessibility webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU’s Disability Resource Center.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

PROCTORED EXAM POLICY

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student’s responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our Proctored Exam Resources webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

TEXTBOOK

MARYSA NAVARRO, VIRGINIA SÁNCHEZ KORROL, KECIA ALI – Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: restoring women to history.

Indianan University Press (1999)- 128 pages


You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

FRANCESCA MILLER  Latin American women and the search for social justice.

UPNE, 1991 - Social Science - 324 pages

You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

RECOMMENDED FURTHER READING


https://www.amazon.com/Ana-Mar%C3%ADa-Bidegain/e/B005GB8IE8

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

This is an on-line seminar, meaning that the course work will be conducted online. The class will meet as a seminar course, through adobe connect, to present the development of their research papers three times through the semester.

You have to be very active on the discussion board each week. All students will be expected to interact online. In the course content portion of blackboard; power-point notes on some of the topics are posted. Also some required readings are posted in this portion of blackboard. Power points are not substitutes for readings. The readings and the Power Points are mutually complementing. Students need to be familiar with the material from both sources if they expect to do well in this course and have a good participation on the weekly discussion board.

Students are expected to:

- Review the how to get started information located in the course content
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- Interact online with instructor/s and peers through discussion forum
- Review and follow the course calendar
- Log in to the course several times per week
- Respond to discussion boards, blogs, and journal postings each week
- Respond to [emails/messages] ASAP
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline
The instructor will:

- Log in to the course each week
- Respond to discussion boards, blogs, and journal postings within 10 days
- Respond to [emails/messages] within 10 days
- Grade assignments within 10 days of the assignment deadline

COURSE DETAILS

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via blackboard Messages. Occasionally the professor will send messages if something unexpected occur.

Messages is a private and secure text-based communication system which occurs within a course among its Course members. Users must log on to Blackboard to send, receive, or read messages. The Messages tool is located on the Course Menu, on the left side of the course webpage. It is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

The Email feature is an external communication tool that allows users to send emails to users enrolled within the course. Emails are sent to the students' FIU email on record. The Email tool is located on the Course Menu, on the left side of the course webpage.

Visit our Writing Resources webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

ASSIGNMENTS

DISCUSSION FORUMS OR DISCUSSION BOARDS

Keep in mind that other members of the course will likely see your discussion forum postings. Care should be taken when determining what to post. Students have to participate presenting their comments and viewpoints through the discussion board each week.

Discussion Forum Expectations:

1. Discussions topics are listed for the semester. You are expected to post your initial response on Wednesday (by 23:55 for the week listed; you should respond to at least 3 others posts by Sunday at 23:55 of the same week. (Possible total score, 10 points).

2. The approximate length of a response (100 words, 10 lines)

3. Participation and discussion board each week: 50% (10 x 5%)
ADOBE CONNECT MEETINGS AND RESEARCH PAPER

Adobe Connect is an online meeting room where you can interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, sharing files, chatting, broadcasting live audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct research papers’ the presentations.

Students must develop the final research paper in three stages: Each student will be required to deliver a research paper on one aspect of the material covered in class according to a list given by the professor. Essays can be written in English or Spanish.

1- First paper: Due the third week It has to be uploading through Turnitin Assignments no later than September 7 to be graded by the professor. On the four-week you have to presented in the first paper through an Adobe connect meeting on Thursday Sep.15 at 6:00 pm This paper must present: a) THE FINAL PAPER RESEARCH TOPIC b) The justification and interest on the topic selected -among a list proposed by the professor-, to be developed into a final paper c) the particular aspects, problems, research questions that will be analyzed and d) list of principal sources to be used to develop this paper. It will be presented and discussed to the seminar through a special first paper presentation through Adobe Connect meeting on Thursday Sep.15 at 6:00 pm

2- Second paper: Due on the seven week. It has to be uploaded through Turnitin Assignments no later than October 9 to be graded by the professor.
It is a continuation of the first, with a deeper analysis of the sources, (primary sources, bibliography, articles and book chapters) that will be used and a further development toward the final paper. It will be discussed in the seminar through a second Adobe Connect meeting on the eight-week on Thursday October13 at 6:00 PM

3- Third and Final Research Paper (10 pages undergraduates) (20 pages graduates)
It will be discussed in the seminar through a special third paper discussion through adobe connect and peer review tools (10/27-12/3) 15th Week on Thursday December 1st. at 6:00PM After the peer review comments the paper should be revised. It has to be uploaded through Turnitin Assignments no later than December 5 to be graded by the professor.

The adobe connect meeting will allow the student to present the advancement of their research toward the final paper. Participation in on-line meeting seminar (three times) and discussion board each week: 50% (10 x 5%)

1)- Research proposal presentation: 10 % (Week 4 on Thursday Sep.15 at 6:00 pm
2)- Literature review presentation: 15% (Week 8 on Thursday October13 at 6:00 PM
3)-Research finding discussion 15% (Week 15 on Thursday December 1st. at 6:00PM

The final paper will consist of a 15 page, double-spaced essay in Times New Roman 12-type
font. References and citations are expected, in a recognized format (MLA, Chicago, APA, etc.) and consistent throughout the text.

Final paper 10 % (Last Week)

Requirements for using Adobe Connect:
1. Disable any window pop-up blocker.
2. Adobe Flash Player is required to successfully run your Adobe Connect meeting. You can test your computer to make sure your computer and network connections are properly configured to provide you with the best possible Adobe Connect meeting experience.
3. Use of a combination headset and microphone with USB connection is recommended to ensure quality sound and reduce technical difficulties

Reference Adobe Connect (Tutorials & Help) to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting rooms and recordings.

GRADING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Points for Each</th>
<th>Total Points Available</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adobe Connect Participation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>First Paper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Second Paper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>10%</td>
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<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Above 93</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81-83</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-70</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>91-92</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-80</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-90</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>61-63</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71-73</td>
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<td>&lt; 61</td>
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COURSE CALENDAR
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st week</td>
<td><strong>Introduction, Theoretical and Methodological Approaches.</strong></td>
<td>J.W. SCOTT <em>Gender A useful category in the study of history</em> (available on-line)</td>
<td><em>(Self-introduction instructor and students)</em></td>
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<td>(8/22-28)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Week</td>
<td><strong>Women in an ethnical and religious hybrid society.</strong></td>
<td>NAVARRO MARYSA <em>(Part I – pag.5- 57)</em></td>
<td>Weekly Discussion Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8/29-9/4)</td>
<td>-Women’s place in Amerindian religions.</td>
<td>SOCOLOW (on-line)</td>
<td>Comments until Sunday midnight</td>
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<td></td>
<td>-Biological and cultural hybridization and syncretism. The popular religion’s roots.</td>
<td>PEREZ en AQUINO Reader CH. 3 <em>(53-79)</em></td>
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<td>-Women resisting slavery through religions: Vodou, Santería, Candomblé.</td>
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<td>3rd week</td>
<td><strong>White and Creole Women in colonial society and Christendom development. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.</strong></td>
<td>LAVRIN ASUNCION <em>(Available on-line)</em></td>
<td>Weekly Discussion Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>(9/5-9/11)</td>
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<td>Comments until Sunday midnight</td>
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<td><strong>Research proposal Presentation 2-3 pages Paper due</strong></td>
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<td>First paper have to be uploading through Turnitin on Sep.7</td>
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<td>4th week</td>
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<td>(9/12-9/18)</td>
<td><strong>Women, Nation State and Religions</strong></td>
<td>MILLER (CH. 3)</td>
<td>Seminar meeting through Adobe Connect Thursday Sep.15 at 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>Women facing the crises of the Catholic Church under Liberal States since the Independence -Soledad Acosta de Samper</td>
<td>VALENZUELA (on-line) <em>(Suffrage and citizenship)</em></td>
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<td>5th week</td>
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<td>(9/19-9/25)</td>
<td><strong>Women, Politics, Religions and Modernization.</strong></td>
<td>MILLER (CH. 4)</td>
<td>Weekly Discussion Board</td>
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<td>-Women’s Education</td>
<td>SANCHEZ in Navarro Part II</td>
<td>Comments until Sunday midnight</td>
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<td>-Women and Social Justice.</td>
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<td>-Religious Orders and congregations.</td>
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<td>6th week</td>
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<td>(9/26-10/2)</td>
<td><strong>Protestant women’s leadership and migration to South America. Women in the History of Latino Protestantism. Case: Ana Armand Ugón de Tron</strong></td>
<td>D. MACHADO en AQUINO Reader Chap. 8 <em>(161-176)</em> LOZANO en AQUINO Chap. 10 <em>(204-216)</em></td>
<td>Weekly Discussion Board</td>
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<td>Comments until Sunday midnight</td>
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<td>7th week</td>
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<td>(10/3-10/9)</td>
<td><strong>Protestant women’s leadership and migration to South America. Women in the History of Latino Protestantism. Case: Ana Armand Ugón de Tron</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8th week</td>
<td><strong>Literature review Presentation</strong></td>
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<td>Seminar meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Text Notes</td>
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| 9th  | (10/17-10/23) | **Religions, Women’s Rights and Welfare States.**  
- Women Rights to vote and work  
  Case: María Cano | MILLER (CH. 5 & 6)  
Film Maria Cano | Weekly  
Discussion Board  
Comments until Sunday midnight |
| 10th | (10/24-10/30) | **Catholic Feminine Orders & Congregations. Base communities and Political Participations.**  
- The Religious Women as Parrish head. | BIDEGAIN (on-line) | Weekly  
Discussion Board  
Comments until Sunday midnight |
| 11th | (10/31-11/6)  | **Political and Ecclesiastical Repressions. “Resilient” Women and Human Rights issues.**  
Christian Women’s Martyrdom.  
The cases of Maryknoll Sister’s in El Salvador. Madres Plaza de Mayo Argentina | PETERSON, ANNA –  
Martyrdom and Politics  
e-book Film: El Salvador: the seed of Liberty  
MILLER (CH. 7)  
- Film: “Sur les pas des disparus d’Argentina” | Weekly  
Discussion Board  
Comments until Sunday midnight |
| 12th | (11/7-11/13)  | **Latin American Jews and Muslim Women.** | PowerPoint (available on-line)  
Valeria Schindler  
Stephanie Londoño | Weekly  
Discussion Board  
Comments until Sunday midnight |
| 13th | (11/14-11/20) | **Nature, Social Class, Ethnicity and Gender in Feminist L.A. Theology.**  
- Maria Clara Bingemer | AQUINO  
A Reader, CH. 7 (133-160)  
AQUINO Intercultural theology (9-28) | Weekly  
Discussion Board  
Comments until Sunday midnight |
| 14th | (11/21-11/27) | **Latinas in Charismatic and Pentecostal Churches**  
Latin American Pentecostal Feminine Leaders  
- Ma Luisa Piraquive | Bibiana Ortega’s online presentation | Weekly  
Discussion Board  
Comments until Sunday midnight |
| 15th | (11/28-12/4)  | Research Week | Research Week | Research finding discussion  
Thursday December 1st. at 6:00PM |
| 16th | (12/5-12/11)  | **FINAL PAPER DUE 12/5** | **FINAL PAPER DUE 12/5** | to be uploaded through Turnitin  
Assignments no later than December 5 |