

Contemporary Latin American Contributions to Feminism

Syllabus

Course Description

This course provides a broad overview of ideas, discussions and recent debates of feminism and women's social mobilization from Bravo River to Patagonia. We will focus on providing an explanation of the origin of feminism in the XXth century. We will examine the intellectual background, preliminary ideas and ask how the political claims of feminism emerged in several countries. We will study the development of feminism over the last 40 years, and its relationship with political regimes, giving particular attention to women's resistance of repressive governments. Finally, we will consider the critiques developed in Latin America to white feminism, imperialist feminism and colonialism. To that end, we will review examples of indigenous and black organizations and their ongoing erosion of colonial patriarchy and indigenous patriarchy.

Learning Objectives

The course aims to introduce students to the specific forms of feminism developed in Latin America, including the main contributions and problems confronted, and enhance students' understanding of how intellectual movements result from particular social contexts. (As many materials are untranslated, a minimum of reading-level Spanish is a course requisite.)

Class Schedule and Readings

Background Works

Class 1: Review of two of the most important figures in the consolidation of modern feminism in Latin America, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and Rosario Castellanos.

- DE LA CRUZ Sor Juana, y Góngora, Luis, *Soledades y Primero Sueño*, Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2009.
- TENORIO, Marta Lilia, "Prologue", in DE LA CRUZ, Sor Juana, *Ecos de mi pluma, antología prosa y verso, Echoes From My Pen: Antology Prose and Verse*, Penguin, 2018.
- CASTELLANOS Rosario, *Sobre cultura femenina*, Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2005.
- LAMAS, Marta, Rosario Castellanos, feminista en sus propias palabras, *LiminaR*, No 15. Vol. 2, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Jul/Dic 2017.

The History of Recent Decades

Class 2: Will analyze the last decades of feminism in South America in the context of organization against dictatorship.

- ANZOREMA, "De ciudadanas a administradoras. Reflexiones en torno a la relación entre mujeres y Estado en los últimos 25 años en Argentina. Experiencia de la dictadura", en *Aproximaciones críticas a las prácticas teórico-políticas del feminismo latinoamericano*, Yuderky Espinosa Miñoso (Coord.), Buenos Aires. En la frontera. 2010.

- FISCHER, Amalia, “Los complejos caminos de la autonomía”, en *Feminas*, María Luisa (comp.) *Perfiles del feminismo latinoamericano*, Catálogos, Buenos Aires, 2002.

Class 3: Will analyze recent decades of feminism in Central America and Mexico.

- MENDOZA Breny, “Los feminismos y la otra transición a la democracia en América Latina”, en *Ensayos de crítica feminista Nuestroamericana*, Herder, México, 2014.
- GARGALLO, Francesca, “Making Feminist Selves: Self-Authority, Affect, and Narrative”, en *Theories of the Flesh*, MEDINA, Jose, PITTS, Adriana and ORTEGA, Mariana (coord.) (Forthcoming 2019).

Violence and Femicide

Class 4: Will study femicide and assess arguments about its recent increase.

- BERLANGA, Mariana, *Una Mirada al feminicidio*, UNAM/Ítaca, México, 2018. (Prologue)
- GUTIERREZ, Griselda, “Violencia sexista, de la violencia simbólica a la violencia radical”. *Debate feminista*, no. 37, Abril 2008.

Latin American War and Violence Against Women

Class 5: We will discuss two works about the relation between drug trafficking, war and cruelty against feminized bodies.

- SEGATO, Rita Laura, *Contra-pedagogías de la crueldad*. Traficantes de sueños, Madrid, 2018.
- ----, *Las nuevas formas de la guerra y el cuerpo de las mujeres*. Pez en el árbol, México, 2014.

Memory and Mourning

Class 6: The topic of mourning is crucial for reflection on contemporary processes of reconciliation and forgiveness. We will read two works; one about the disappearance and torture of people that followed Uruguayan dictatorship, and the other about some exhumation processes within different countries in Latin America.

- VIÑAR, Maren y Marcelo, *Fracturas de memoria, crónicas para una memoria por venir*, Ediciones Trilce, Uruguay, 1993. (Chapters: Reflexiones sobre la tortura, El tiempo del terror, Violencia política)
- PÉREZ-SALES Pau, NAVARRO, Susana, *Resistencia contra el olvido, trabajo psicosocial en procesos de exhumaciones en América Latina*. Gedisa, España, 2007. (Chapter: Balance global, exhumaciones en América Latina: estado actual y retos pendientes)

Indigenous Women

Women and Zapatism

Class 7: We will explore how Zapatism, as an independent organization, has enabled the exploration of innovative new social forms in which, in different senses, patriarchy could be both criticized and overcome.

- MILLÁN, Márgara. *Des-ordenando el género, des-centrando la nación, el zapatismo de las mujeres indígenas y sus consecuencias*. México, UNAM, 2015. (Chapter 2: Los nuevos horizontes de visibilización de las mujeres indígenas)
- CORNEJO, Amaranta, “La insumisión a lógicas patriarcales”, en *Emergencia feminista, Memoria Revista de critica militante*, no. 262, 2017-2.
- MARCOS, Sylvia, *Actualidad y cotidianidad: La ley revolucionaria de mujeres del EZLN*, CEDECI, Univesidad de la Tierra, Chiapas, 1993. (Chapters 10-14)

Bolivian Women Organizations

Class 8: Discusses further examples of community feminism, in which women have been the main characters in the emergence of new modes of life and of engagement of nature and the environment.

- RIVERA CUSICANQUI, Silvia, “Mujeres y estructuras de poder en los Andes: De la etnohistoria a la política”, en: Rivera Cusicanqui, Silvia, *Violencias (re)encubiertas en Bolivia*, Editorial piedra rota, La Paz 175-199.
- GUTIERREZ, Raquel, *Desandar el laberinto. Introspección en la feminidad contemporánea*, Tinta Limón, Pez en el árbol, Buenos Aires, 1999. (Prologue, Chapter 1 Nosotras hoy)

Contrasts, Differences, Disagreements

Class 9: This class will ask how indigenous women movements have criticized a number of intellectual traditions, including those foregrounding an interest in indigeneity. Representative works from intellectuals in Guatemala and México will be considered.

- CUMES, Aura Estela, “Multiculturalismo, género y feminismos: mujeres diversas, luchas Complejas”, en *Participación y política de mujeres indígenas en América Latina*, PEQUENO, Andrea (comp.) Flacso, Ecuador, 2009.
- HERNANDEZ CASTILLO, Rosalva Aida, “Entre el etnocentrismo feminista y el esencialismo étnico. Las mujeres indígenas y sus demandas de género” en *Debate feminista* no. 24, 206-224, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 2001.
- CABNAL, Lorena, “Acercamiento a la construcción de la propuesta de pensamiento epistémico de las mujeres indígenas feministas comunitarias de Abya Yala. Feminismos diversos: el feminismo comunitario” en *Feminismos diversos: el feminismo comunitario*, 924, Madrid, ACSUR, 2010.

Black Feminism

Class 10: This class will review some of the main concerns of black feminism, and its critical interrogation of both the exclusion and the integration of race. We will consider the articulation of important divides from other forms of contemporary feminism.

- CARNEIRO, Sueli, *Racismo, Sexismo E Desigualdade No Brasil*. Sao Paolo, Selo Negro, 2011. (Chapter 7: Sexismo-Brasil)
- CURIEL, Ochy, *Crítica poscolonial desde las prácticas políticas del feminismo antiracista*, *Nómadas*, No. 26, Universidad Central, Colombia, 2007.
- SEGATO, Rita Laura, *La crítica a la colonialidad en ocho ensayos y una antropología por demanda*, Prometeo Libros, Argentina, 2013. (Chapter: Edipo negro, colonialidad y forclusión de género y raza)