

# Sexuality and Gender in Latin America

Course number: LAS 366, HIS 363K, WGS 340

Meets: MWF 12-12.50 pm. SHR Room 1.320

Instructor: Pilar Zazueta

Office hours: **By appointment MWF** Office: SHR Room 1.322 Office phone: [512-232-2418](tel:512-232-2418)

E-mail: pzazueta@utexas.edu

Sexuality and gender are very useful analytical tools to understand social organization, power relations and inequality. The goal of this class is to explain how different binary representations of the masculine and the feminine have shaped political, scientific, and legal ideologies and practices in Latin America. We will study the ways gender conditioned state formation and how, in turn, the state regimented sexuality and gender relations. The class will focus mostly on nineteenth and twentieth-century Latin America and will emphasize historical research, but we will also use scholarship from other disciplines. The course will include discussion of topics like masculinity and war; nineteenth-century honor and citizenship; the gender asset gap and inequality; feminist and sexual-rights movements; the body and the intersections between gender, race and class; and health and reproductive rights.

\*\*\*This syllabus might be subject to change. Check for updates on Canvas.

## Global Cultures

**This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.**

## Course Requirements

The course will require a short research paper, class participation and a final exam.

### 1. Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory.

### 2. Grading:

1) Class participation and reading report (two presentations, one report and general participation):

a) Reading presentation and report (**10%**)

You will have to present a reading in class. The text will be randomly assigned during the second week of class. The presentation should be 15-20 minutes and it should include:

- A general analysis of the text (not a summary but an explanation of the argument and the structure of the text)
- A PowerPoint, Prezi or an outline that you can place in the projector.

- Comments (if you liked the text or not, if something was not clearly explained, if you have any questions for the author).
- Questions for the class. You are supposed to organize a general class discussion about the reading.
- You are not supposed to read the presentation but if you must do so, practice it at home so the reading is at least professional and on point.
- The reading report should be 600 to 700 words and should be based on the presentation. The report should be in essay format (no lists or notes).
- In addition to your presentation you will also be a commentator or discussant of someone else's presentation (one presentation). You are expected to read and be prepared to comment. Each presentation might have one or more discussants.

b) Paper proposal presentation (**pass/fail**)

You send me your paper proposal via e-mail at the end of September. (Date TBA).

If you fail to present a proposal I will deduct 10 points of your final paper grade.

(You can change the topic of your paper after the presentation pending previous discussion with the professor).

c) Final paper presentation (**pass/fail =5%**)

You should present your paper project in class before the deadline (10 minutes). The presentation should include a visual or audiovisual component. You can use PowerPoint, Prezi, photos, video or audio. The goal is to receive comments from the professor and the students before the paper deadline.

d) General participation and class assignments (**15%**)

**You should at least participate in 50% of the reading discussions either with questions or comments. In addition to the readings there will be in class assignments (2 -3 times per semester) as well as participation research assignments.**

2) Paper (**30% of the grade**).

**Written Assignment:** You will write one 1500-2000 word assignment during the semester (not counting graphs and figures). We will discuss the research paper assignments during class on the following dates:

***TBA: Research paper information session***

You will receive a handout with information about the research paper and how to present a paper proposal.

***October 17th: Research paper proposal deadline***

**You should submit a short research topic proposal to me via e-mail or hardcopy (100-300 words).** The proposal will be graded as pass/fail. Late proposals will be penalized with 10% of the maximum number

of points that the research paper is worth, per day (example: in a paper worth 30 points, you lose 3 points each day that you are late).

***Starting Nov 19<sup>th</sup>: Paper presentations***

***Monday December 8<sup>th</sup> at noon (Send paper via Canvas or e-mail): Research paper deadline***

No extensions will be granted. Late papers will be penalized with 10% of the maximum number of points, per day (example: in a paper worth 30 points, you lose 3 points each day that you are late). Assignments will not be accepted past 72 hours after the deadline. Please check spelling and grammar before submitting assignments.

3) October 10<sup>th</sup> Midterm exam (20%) and December 5<sup>th</sup> end of semester exam (20%).

We will have an exam in the middle and at end of the semester consisting of at least two essay form questions. I will let you know in advance the readings and/or materials covered in the exam.

Early exams will not be given. The examinations may be made-up if missed for medical reasons but you must have a note from a doctor. Unless there is an emergency, please contact me before the exam. If you contact me during or after the exam, you will not be allowed a make-up exam or alternative assignment. Rescheduling the make-up exam is not allowed. If you miss the make-up exam you will be given an alternative assignment.

At the end of a course, total percentages will be converted to letter grades as shown in the table below.

Rounding will be as follows:

79.5 = 80 (B-)

BUT 79.4 = 79 (C+)

In other words, when rounding is performed, nn.5 is always rounded UP.

Points	Grades	Description
96-100	A	<b>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent</b> performance. Usually achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
90-95	A-	
87-89	B+	<b>Very good, good and solid</b> performance. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
83-86	B	
80-82	B-	
77-79	C+	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory</b> . These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
73-76	C	
70-72	C-	
67-69	D+	<b>Marginal Performance</b> . A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
63-66	D	
60-62	D-	

Under 60	F	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> performance.

### 3. Readings

Scans of the readings or links to electronic books will be available on Canvas on the Modules section. You can also download the PDFs directly from the Files section on Canvas.

Remember that:

- 1) The books are available at the Benson library in the reserves section. You can also buy the required book at the Co-op bookstore and other booksellers.
- 2) Most readings are available online via Canvas but you have to print them out on your own.
- 3) If the link to an electronic book does not work on Canvas, search the title of the book directly on the library website. You can access the electronic book there.

You will find in the schedule an indication of the source for each reading.

The following book is required (not on Canvas):

Gutmann, Matthew C. 2007. *Fixing men: sex, birth control, and AIDS in Mexico*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

### 4. Other course information

#### **Emergencies**

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Other important Emergency Information: <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/preparedness/>

#### **Commitment to Inclusiveness and Diversity**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone).

## **Honor Code**

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

## **Academic Honesty**

Any instance of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism) will not be tolerated. University of Texas at Austin's policies on academic integrity will be strictly followed in any of such instances. If you have not seen it, please take a moment to read these policies:

[http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint\\_what\\_is.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint_what_is.php)

If you have doubts about citation procedures or if you are not sure if something constitutes plagiarism or not, please consult with me or the teaching assistant. You may also take a look at this guide:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/files/pdf-4/ai2012.pdf>

## **Academic Policies and Procedures**

For information about adding and dropping classes, changing pass fail registration and other academic matters please refer to UT's general academic policies and procedures:

<http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/academic-policies-and-procedures/>

## **Student Support Services**

These are very important resources to have in mind:

The Writing Center <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Sanger Learning Center <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc>

Career Services <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc>

<http://www.utexas.edu/academics/career-services-offices>

Health Services <http://healthyhorns.utexas.edu/>

Counseling and Mental Health Services <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>

Services for Students with Disabilities <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>

**\*\*\*\*\* Disclaimer**

*This class covers topics related to human sexuality. If you are easily offended or for whatever reason you prefer not to discuss sex in a public setting this might not be the right course for you.*