

(PEAL 320) Gender Studies in Latin America
PROGRAM OF ARGENTINE AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
UNIVERSIDAD DE BELGRANO

Course Syllabus

Course Information

Contact Hours: 60

Semester

Course Description

The course focuses on critical and analytical thinking of social representations of gender and sexual identity, and their symbolic effects in contemporary Latin American cultures. In the globalized world, cultural artifacts aimed at mass culture are a way of influence, manipulation and/or negotiation in the construction of social and personal identity, in public, private and intimate spaces.

In this course, canonical theoretical texts are analyzed in the construction and discussion of genre theory in Latin America; Latin American literary texts, interviews, testimonies and other expressions of culture (popular music, documentaries, TV, films, current news, social networks) that protect, question, subvert, interpret and/or represent femininity, masculinity and sexuality.

In short, this course encourages students to think critically about the narratives, images, and practices that perpetuate, negotiate, and/or politically confront gender and sexuality norms both in Buenos Aires and in the rest of Latin America.

Students are expected to enrich their abilities both to observe their socio-cultural environment and to establish open and assertive relationships with it, also to interpret, evaluate, listen, read, think, speak and write critically.

Course Requirements and students' responsibility

Read the assigned texts carefully before coming to class; consult new vocabulary; have elaborate questions about their concerns or doubts; participate actively and respectfully in group discussions; Maintain an academic environment of tolerance in the class.

Attend at least 75% of the classes to meet the basic objectives of the course.

Unexcused absences will affect the students' participation grade, the exams and individual or group assignments evaluated in class during their absence.

The attendance control system is electronic and mandatory.

Academic requirements of the course:

During the academic semester, students:

- Will write a short essay (5-6 pages, double spaced).
- Will have two in-person exams (Mid-term and Final Exam)
- They will have 6 individual and random reading controls.
- They will have group activities on the Course Reading texts assigned.
- They will conduct two presentations on the topic of their essay.

Assignments will be delivered on the assigned deadline. This may be modified at the professors' discretion. Students are expected to consult the digital library (Jstor / Wilson Web) to support their required readings, and the final

essay.

Plagiarism: It is the policy of the university to suspend for two years any student who commits plagiarism. This decision will affect not only the course in which the plagiarism occurred but also the other courses of the semester that the student is taking. **Wikipedia is excluded** as an authorized source of consultation.

Important Note: The cell phone and/or iPod should be turned off during class, to avoid distractions or interruptions.

Grading Pollicy

Participation in class (preparation, collaborative attitude, respect, dialogue, commitment)	10 %
Exams, individual/group reading controls & written reflections	10%
Individual presentations	20%
Essay (first and second draft)	20%
Mid – Term exam	20%
Final exam	20%

Required Textbooks

In addition to the critical texts assigned in Course Reading and the audiovisual materials, students will read four short novels:

"*Hay que sonreír*" by Luisa Valenzuela

"*Memoria de mis putas tristes*" by Gabriel García Márquez

"*El azul de las abejas*" by Laura Alcoba

"*Libro de cuentas y otras historias*" by Sofía Villarreal (Fragment sent by email)

Course Reader: Can be purchased it at the photocopier at the University of Belgrano. Provide the following information: course (PEAL 320) and name of the professor.

Audiovisual material: Except for "*Mía*", film that will be seen in class, the other films must be seen before class.

"*XXY*", (2007, 86 min.). Argentina, Lucía Puenzo.

"*Mía*" (2011, 98 min.) Argentina, Javier Van de Couter. (*Class Screening*)

"*El cuarto de Leo*", (2009, 95 min.) Unruguay, Enrique Buchichio.

"*Perras*" (2011, 100 min.) Mexico, Guillermo Ríos (obra de teatro del mismo guionista y director, 2008)

Soap opera "*Sin senos no hay paraíso*" (Movie show, Episode 1 & 37, 2006). Basada en la novela homónima del colombiano Gustavo Bolívar, (2005).

Academic Calendar

The professor reserves the right to make modifications to the calendar to facilitate the fulfillment of the course objectives.

- Week 1:** Presentation of the course and introduction to gender studies, feminism, social struggles.
"The Second Sex". Simone de Beauvoir (Introduction and clarification of the words "gender and sex", interpretation of "gender" as a homonym and its meaning in different cultures.
Round table: uses and customs of personal terminology in global democratic societies.
The first feminism
"The Second sex". Simone de Beauvoir (Chapters 1-3),
"La mujer más pequeña del mundo" (Story, Brasil), Clarice Lispector.
- Week 2:** Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*, chapter 1. "Subjects of sex/Gender and desire" & "'Women' as subjects of feminism."
Listening activity: Alejandra Pizarnik, *Memoria iluminada*. Recording in this link: <https://link here>
Course Readings: "Letras de Hispanoamérica" (Latin American Letters), by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Alfonsina Storni, Gabriela Mistral, Julia de Burgos (selection of poems).
Group Presentations.
Group analysis: Josefina Ludmer. "Las tretas del débil" ("The tricks of the weak)
- Week 3** *Course Reading:* Elsa Dorlin, *Sexo género y sexualidades: "La historicidad del sexo"* (Sex, gender and sexualities: The historicity of sex) pages 31-42:
Group activity.
"XXY" (film), directed by the Argentine Lucía Puenzo.
Song "Dignificada" (Dignified), Lila Downs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-PZ0hslrv4>
Group activity
- Week 4** Gender in Latin America
Course Reading: Marta Lamas, Feminist anthropology and the category: "Gender" pages 21-47.
Required Texts: "El azul de las abejas" (*The blue of the bees*), Laura Alcoba
"¿Cómo vuelvo?" (How do I get back?), Hebe Uhart
Colloquium
- Week 5** Family life and symbolic violence: the mystique of maternal sacrifice and immolation.
Marta Tronco, Susana Ocaña, "Genero y amor, principales aliados de la violencia" (Gender and love, main allies of violence) pages 63-83.
Listening and analysis activity: Marta Lamas, "Conocimiento, violencia simbólica y ciudadanía" (Knowledge, symbolic violence and citizenship."

Marta Lamas, "De la protesta a la propuesta: escenas de un proceso feminista" (From protest to proposal: scenes from a feminist process) pages 13-28.

"Juana Azurduy", Mercedes Sosa (song)

Group activity

Week 6

From myths to logos: phallocentrism, masculinity and power.

Alba Carosio, "Feminismo latinoamericano: imperativo ético para la emancipación" (Latin American feminism: ethical imperative for emancipation) pages 229-52.

Course Reading: Jacques André, "La dominación masculina" (male domination) pages 35-40 "La mujer peligrosa" (dangerous woman) and "La desvalorización de la mujer" (The devaluation of women) pages 44-50

"Plástico" (Song), Rubén Blades

Group presentations and discussion

Week 7

Popular music in the construction of the genre in Latin America

Course Reading: Eduardo Archetti, "Las masculinidades y la moral en la poética del tango Argentino" (Masculinities and morality in the poetics of Argentine tango", pages 177-216.

Group activity: Listening and interpretation of tango lyrics.

El bolero y la ranchera: Los Tigres del Norte.

Songs: "Business woman," "Sana sana" de Nathy Peluso, "Caliente," Lali Espósito

Group activity

Week 8

Mid – Term exam #1

Individual presentation of the topic of your final essay and the summary of two bibliographical references that support it (read the annex about this presentation)

Week 9

Gender as performance

Mía (class screening)

Marta Lamas, transsexuality, identity and culture, "La nueva mirada sobre el género" (The new look at gender) pages 51-69

Group activity: analysis of *Mía*

Week 10

Social media: symbolic violence and femicide

"Femicide: women in the eye of violence" (Clarín, June 4, 2015)

Analysis and group discussion

Marta Lamas, "Prostitución: ¿trata o trabajo?" (Prostitution: trafficking or work?)

Required texts: "Memoria de mis putas tristes" (Memory of my sad whores), Gabriel García Márquez "Cometierra" (earth eater), Dolores Reyes

"La muerta en su cama" (The Dead Woman in Her Bed) Selva Almada

"Cancion sin miedo" (Song Without Fear) Vivir Quintana.

Colloquium

- Week 11** Difference, inequality, gender violence
 Course Reading: Elsa Dorlin, "Filosofías de la identidad y la praxis queer" (Philosophies of queer identity and praxis), pages 91-105.
 Jacques, André. *La sexualidad masculina: "Homosexualidades"* (male sexuality: Homosexuality) pages 68- 78.
 Group activity about the film "El cuarto de Leo" (Leo's room) directed by Uruguayan Enrique Buchichio.
 The West and Hollywood: Beauty and happiness in global society Barbie dolls as gender shapers Vs Zapatista dolls Marta Lamas, "Mexican dolls: fair or dark?"
 Tv show Without breasts, there is no paradise (Episode 1) "El marica" (the faggot), Abelardo Castillo
 Analysis and group discussion
- Week 12** Re-reading classic children's stories
 Book of Accounts and Other Stories, Fragment
 Colloquium
 Course Reading, Elsa Dorlin, "La tecnología pornográfica" (Pornographic technology) or "verdad del sexo" (The truth about sex) "From the fractured fairy tale to the deconstruction of gender roles", <https://www.tiempoar.com.ar/cultura/cuento-hadas-roles-genero/>
 Analysis and group discussion
- Week 13** Marta Lamas, *Cuerpo, sexo y política*. "La batalla por el aborto" (Body, sex and politics. The battle over abortion).
 Analysis of "Perras", directed by the mexican Guillermo Ríos.
 Colloquium
 Gender, culture, social class
 Elsa Dorlin, "El sujeto político del feminismo: sexo, raza, clase" (The political subject of feminism: sex, race, class) pages 67-77
 "Hay que sonreír" (You have to smile) by Luisa Valenzuela
 "Conservas", Samanta Schweblin
 "El acontecimiento" (The evento), Annie Ernaux (fragments)
 Colloquium
- Week 14** Oral presentations of the final essay
- Week 15** Final exam and delivery of the final writing
 Final grades, signing of the situation sheet, attendance is mandatory

Bibliography:

- Andre, Jacques. *La sexualidad masculina*. Buenos Aires: Nueva Visión, 2014 (2013).
- Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Borderlands/la frontera: The new mestiza*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 1999.
- Archetti, Eduardo. *Masculinidades*. Buenos Aires: Antropofagia, 2003.
- Butler, Judith. *El género en disputa. El feminismo y la subversión de la Identidad*. Buenos Aires: Paidós, 2007.
- Butler, Judith. *Sujetos del deseo*. Amorrortu, 2012.
- Cabezón Cámara, Gabriela. *Beya*. Buenos Aires: Eterna Cadencia, 2013.
- Constantino, Roselyn. "El discurso del poder en *El suplicio del placer* de

Sabina Berman." De la Colonia a la Postmodernidad: Teoría teatral y crítica sobre teatro latinoamericano. Ed. Peter Roster and Mario Rojas. Buenos Aires: Editorial Galerna, 1992. 245-51.

De Beauvoir, Simone. *El segundo sexo*. Madrid: Cátedra, 2005.

Díaz, Gwendolyn. *Mujer y poder en la literatura argentina*. "Relatos, entrevistas y ensayos críticos. Buenos Aires: Emecé Editores, 2009.

Dorlin, Elsa. *Sexo, género y sexualidades: introducción a la teoría feminista*." Buenos Aires: Ediciones Nueva Visión, 2009 (2008).

Fernandez, J. Manuel "The symbolic violence concept in the sociological work of Pierre Bourdieu: a critical approach." *Cuadernos de Trabajo Social* Vol. 18 (2005): 7-31.

Foucault, Michele, *The essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984*. Trans. Robert Hurley. New York: New Press, 2000.

Georgia Duerst- Lahti "Presidential Elections Gendered Space and the Case of 2012" in *Gender & Elections*. Eds Susan Carroll and Richard Fox. 2013.

Irigaray, Luce "The other woman." *Feminisms*. Ed. Sandra Kemp and Judith Squires. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997. 3-12.

Josefina Ludmer. "Las tretas del débil", en *La sartén por el mango*, Puerto Rico: El Huracán, 1985.

Lamas, Marta. *Feminismo, transmisiones y retransmisiones*. Mexico: Taurus, 2006.

Lamas Marta. *Cuerpo, sexo y política*. México: Océano, 2014.

Pavón, Cecilia. *L"os sueños no tienen copyright*." Buenos Aires, Blatt & R Ríos, 2010 (ebook).

Palmeiro, C. "El tercer sexo y la libertad de género", en *Revista* Ñ.15/09/2013.

Vargas, Virginia, 2008, *Feminismos en el Perú. Su aporte a la política y a la democracia*, Programa Democracia y Transformación Global-Flora Tristán/Facultad de Ciencias Sociales-UNMSM, Lima.

Villarreal, Marlene Sofía. "Carola, Malén, Vilma (Maité): Representación simbólica y poder masculino en *Pasión de Historia*, de Ana Lydia Vega" *Litterae* 11 (2005): 134-147.