This course asks students to think about what it meant to be a man and a woman in Latin America, and how these ideas about masculinity and femininity shaped the lives of ordinary people, as well as the politics and culture of the region. We start by learning how ideas about how men and women shaped the lives of people during the pre-Columbian (before Christopher Columbus) and colonial period. We then proceed to learn how gender notions shaped the creation of Modern Latin America. Along the way, we learn about how knife dueling allowed men to establish power over women, how women fought for a voice in government, how certain types of jobs were designated as proper to certain sexes, etc. We conclude by learning about gender’s role in Latin American society over the last 20 years.

**Reading and Participation Expectations:** You will be expected to have completed each session’s readings *before* our meeting in order to be prepared to ask questions and participate in class discussion. Students should note that class discussion will be graded, and those students who express opinions *informed by the readings* will earn points toward their final grade. Likewise, failure to offer informed opinions during class will be taken into consideration when assigning grades. I am counting on your informed and active participation in order to make the course engaging for you and your classmates.

**Handouts** Please keep in mind that you should regard *handouts as required reading*. Keep in mind that your paper assignments and final exam will require you to draw on the handouts.
Movies: We will watch a few movies during the semester. I have chosen films that will entertain you while (more important) give you a sense of the particular time, place and people that we are learning about. You must pay attention and refer to the films in your written work. After the film, we will have a conversation about how the films touch on issues we are learning about. This will be your chance to share your thoughts with your classmates.

Papers: You will be required to write two short response papers and two in class assignments. The papers and in class writing assignments are opportunities for you to reflect on what you have read and what we have discussed in class. I will provide you with clear instructions on how to approach these writing assignments. There will be no surprises and I will happily assist you if you have any questions or difficulties.

I expect papers to have a clear argument, thoughtful content to support the argument, as well as proper structure and grammar.

Late Papers: I will reduce 10 points per each day a paper is late. So, if your paper is a “B” paper, but you hand it in 2 days late, then you will receive a “D” for the paper.

Midterm and Final Exam: In addition to the papers and writing assignments, you will take a midterm and final exam. Please note that I will make every effort to prepare you for exams--from answering questions at any point in class to offering a brief review session the class before exam—but in order to do well you will need to do all of the reading and take notes in class. If you at any point want to discuss strategies for studying, how to write a strong paper, or have any other questions regarding the material, make sure to come see me during office hours.

Students who demonstrate responsibility, hard work, and curiosity will do fine in this course. I want you to do well, so please see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Attendance: Students will be allowed three unexcused absences without penalty. Every unexcused absence thereafter will result in the reduction of one-half grade. For instance, if you averaged a “B+” for your assignments but missed five classes, you will receive a maximum of a “C+” for the semester. Please keep in mind that when you miss class, you cannot participate in class discussion, so missing class will consequently affect your participation grade.

Lateness: It is understandable for students to arrive a few minutes late every once in a while, but it is unacceptable for students to arrive late with regularity. If you cannot arrive to class on time, you should take another course, one that better fits your schedule. If you arrive more than 20 minutes late, I will count it as half an absence. If you arrive 5 to 10 minutes late with regularity, I
will drop your participation grade.

Cell Phones, Sleeping Texting, and generally Rude Behavior will result in grade reductions.

Special Concerns: If you have a disability or any sort of special condition that will in any way affect your performance in this course, please let me know as soon as possible. I will make every effort to accommodate you.

Academic Integrity: All papers must properly cite references whenever paraphrasing or quoting a book. Unintentional failure to cite will affect the paper’s grade. However, plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Paper # 1: 15 points
Paper # 2: 15 points
In-Class Writing Assignment 1: 10 points
In-Class Writing Assignment 2: 10 points
Midterm: 20 points
Participation: 10 points
Final Exam: 20 points

Grade Scale:
A: 93-100
A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89
B: 83 – 86
B-: 80 – 82
Sept 4: Introduction

Sept: 9 What is gender? How does it affect our everyday lives and how does it affect society, culture, and politics? I will give an overview of how gender has affected the lives of Latin America throughout history

**Gender in the Pre-colonial Era and Conquest Process**

Sept: 11: Read Socolow, pp. 1-33

Sept. 16: Read Socolow, pp. 32-51

**Gender and the Colonial Family**

Sept. 18: Socolow, pp. 60-77

Sept. 23: Socolow, pp. 78-89

**In-Class Writing Assignment today, Sept. 23**

**Gender and Work in the Colonies**

Sept. 25: on poor free workers, Socolow, pp. 112-129

Sept. 30: on slavery, Socolow, pp. 130-146
Gender and the Nation

Oct. 2: essay by Arlene Diaz in Gender and Sexuality (GS) reader, “Vincenta Ochoa, Dead Many Times: Gender, Politics and the Death Sentence in Early Republican Caracas, Venezuela pp. 31-48


Paper # 1 Due On OCT. 7

Gender, Race and Science

Oct. 9: essay by Erica Windl in GS Reader, Madame Durocher’s Performance: Cross-Dressing, Midwifery and Authority in Nineteenth- Century Brazil, pp 52-66

Oct. 14: essay by Alejandra Bronfman in GS reader, Mismeasured Women: Gender and Social Science on the Eve of Female Suffrage in Cuba, pp. 71-84

Sexual Uses for the Body


MIDTERM TODAY OCT. 20

Modern Masculinities and Femininities at Play and Work


Central American Export Economy at the Turn of the Twentieth Century,” pp. 133-155

**Gender, Sexuality and Revolution in Cuba**

Nov. 4: “Ofelia Domínguez Navarro: The Making of a Cuban Socialist Feminist” by K. Lynn Stoner, handout

**In Class Assignment, # 2, today, Nov. 4**

**Gender, Sexuality and Revolution in Nicaragua**


Nov. 11: “Leticia: A Nicaraguan Woman’s Struggle” by Dianne Waltta Hart, handout

**Sexuality and Violence During Dictatorship, 1970s and 1980s**

Nov. 13: Arditt, pp. 1 – 50

Nov. 18: Arditt, pp. 51-102

Nov. 20: Arditti pp. 103 - 125

Nov. 25: Arditti, pp. 126 - 159

Nov. 26 – 28, Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec. 2: Finish Arditti’s Book, Discussion Session of first half of the book

Dec. 4: Arditti’s Book, Discussion of second half of the book

Dec. 9: Conclusion

**Paper # 2 due Dec. 9**

Dec. 11: Review for Final Exam