

Instructor: Professor Rose Marie Galindo
Associate Professor of Spanish
Office: 149 Andrews Hall
Office Hours: M, T, W, Th, 9:00-10:00
Tel: 608-758-6533
Email: rgalindo@uwc.edu

Course Description

This course will examine the lives of Latin American and Latina women within Latin American society and the U.S. Particular attention will be given to the roles assigned to these women by patriarchal culture and to the stereotypes that have influenced their lives. The complex interrelationship between gender, class, race, and ethnicity will also be examined through the analysis of a variety of primary texts, films, and scholarly articles. No knowledge of Spanish is required. In this course we will assume that the conditions Latin American and Latina women face vary according to race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and historical dynamics. One important aspect of this course will be to explore the different ways in which Latin American and Latina women have resisted race, class, and gender oppression.

Grading Scale:

540 to 600 pts	A
480 to 539 pts	B
420 to 479 pts	C
360 to 419 pts	D
359 and below	F

Class Requirements

1. Class Participation (150 pts).

This class will be centered on the discussion of the reading material and the films viewed in class. Active participation is required. Because of that, I expect you to prepare the reading assignments in advance of the class session for which they are scheduled. Films and documentaries will be viewed and discussed in class. They will also be a very important part of the course material, and will be fully integrated into the course. Students will be frequently called on to participate and express their ideas. Voluntary participation in general class discussions will be highly encouraged. Choosing not to participate in class discussions will result in a failing Participation Grade. Each reading will have a reading guide that you will find under Course

Documents (D2L). Use these reading guides as tools to guide you on your readings. They will give you an idea of the most important aspects that you should understand and retain out of your readings. They will also prepare you for class discussions as we will center our class discussions on these reading guides. Due to the importance that class participation has in this course, attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at every class period and unexcused absences beyond 3 will be grounds to lowering the final Participation grade. Absences due to University sponsored events, and sicknesses are excused absences. However, they DO NOT excuse you from assignments. **Each week you can earn 10 pts toward your final Participation grade. In order to get your pts you will have to be present in class and you will also have to participate actively in the discussions.**

The following scale will be my basis for determining your participation grade at the end of every week.

A= (10 pts) Excellent preparation. All readings done. Active volunteering and oral participation in class, with groups and with partners.

B= (8 pts) Above average preparation. All readings done. Some volunteering in class, but active participation in group discussions.

C= (6 pts) Noticeable lack of reading and preparation. Very limited participation in class and group discussions.

D= (5 pts) Attending classes, but no participation in discussions.

F= (0 pts) Failure to attend classes. No participation.

2. **Exams:** There will be two exams (200 pts) and a final exam (100 pts). The first and the second exams will probably be take-home exams. The final exam will be an in-class exam. All exams will be essay exams. You will be required to send me your Take-home exams as attachments (Word) the date the exam is due according to the syllabus. After I correct the exams, I will send them by normal mail to your Instructional Technologist. He will distribute the corrected exams to you. Late exams will be graded down one letter grade for each day exam is late.

3. **Reaction Page:** (150 pts). Each Thursday after class you will be sending me by email a page that describes your reaction to the works under discussion each week. Each reaction page should be approximately 250 words long (1 page double spaced). It should focus on the texts being discussed for the week. I hope this reaction page will be a space where you can ask questions, respond to class discussions, or engage in other creative and insightful appropriation of course material. I will try to incorporate your responses into class discussion whenever possible. Each reaction page will be 10 pts each.

Your responsibilities in this course:

Attend classes. Attendance will be taken and absences beyond three will be grounds for lowering the final Participation grade. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get missed notes and handouts.

Read steadily to keep up. This course **has a heavy reading load**, including difficult articles and chapters that you may want to read more than once.

Read actively. Identify themes and central ideas as you read. Take notes and raise questions for class discussions.

Be prepared. Being prepared means that you will come to class with your reading assignments done, and that you will be ready to participate in class.

Be on time. Being on time means that you are in the room before the class starts. When you are late you disrupt the class and the work of your classmates.

Take responsibility for your out-of-class learning. While this is necessary in the traditional classroom, it is especially important in the DE classroom, due to the geographical distance between student and instructor. Thus, it is vital that you, the student, communicate problems and concerns to me via E-Mail, telephone or fax.

Don't be afraid to ask questions when you don't understand something. Chances are that if you are wondering about something we're covering in class, someone else is too. Besides, learning about women in other cultures is a rewarding experience. It will change the way you see your own culture, other cultures and yourself.

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus and assignments for this class as necessary in order to improve the quality and value of the class. I will post schedule updates and other information related to the class on our web site.

Required Texts

Alegria, Claribel: Ashes of Izalco
Burgos, Isabel: I, Rigoberta Menchu
Anzaldua, Gloria: Borderlands/La Frontera
Esmeralda Santiago: Almost A Woman

During the first weeks of the semester, this course will include other readings that will be on electronic reserve, and that you will find under "Content" (D2L)

Latin American and Latina Women Spring 2007

The following dates and topics to be covered are tentative, and will depend on the progress of the course.

1 Week: Jan 23-25

Introduction to the course.

Introduction to Latin America (Power Point Presentation)

Lerner: "Definitions" (pp. 233-235; 238-240).

2 Week: Jan 30-Feb.1

Lerner: "A Working Hypothesis" (pp 36-53).

Crow: "The Toltec-Aztec Culture (pp. 45-63).

3 Week: Feb-6-8

Berdan: "Daily Life of the Aztecs" (pp. 73-96).

Burkhart: "Mexica Women on the Home Front" (pp. 25-54).

Video: The Aztecs

4 Week: Feb 13-15

Crow: "The Incas: Children of the Sun," (pp. 22-44).

Silverblatt: "Andean Women under Spanish Rule," (pp. 151-161).

Video: The Incas

5 Week: Feb. 20-22

Pescatello: "America in the Reconquest," (pp. 132-144).

Henderson, "Malinche," (pp. 1-21).

The Conquest of Mexico (video)

EXAM I

6 Week: Feb 27-Feb. 29

Life in the Convent (Power Point Presentation)

Henderson: "Sor Juana" (pp. 73-95).

I, The Worst of All (movie)

7 Week: March 6-8

Burgos: I, Rigoberta Menchu

Crisis in Guatemala (Power Point Presentation)

Introduction, pp. xi-xxi.

Chapter I-II, pp. 1-17: "The Family, Birth Ceremonies."

Chapter IV, pp. 21-27: "First Visit to the Finca."

Chapter VI-VII, pp. 33-37.

Chapter X-XI, pp. 56-78: "The Earth-Marriage Ceremonies."

8 Week: March 13-15

Chapter XIV, pp. 91-101: "A Maid in the Capital."

Chapter XV, pp. 102-116: "Conflict with the Landowners."

Chapter XVI, pp. 116-121: "Period of Reflection."

Chapter XXX, pp. 210-219: "Indian Women and Ladino Women."

Chapter XXXI, pp. 220-226: "Women and Political Commitment."

Video on Rigoberta Menchu

9 Week: March 20-24

Spring Break

10 Week: March 27-29

Crisis in El Salvador (Power Point Presentation)
Ashes of Izalco

Ashes of Izalco

11 Week: April 3-5

Ashes of Izalco

EXAM II

Latinos in USA/ Terms (Power Point Presentation)
Hispanic Americans: One or many cultures? (video)

12 Week: April 10-12

Almost a Woman

Almost A Woman

13 Week: April 17-19

Almost a Woman

The Colonization of the South West (Power Point Presentation)
Borderlands/La Frontera : "Aztlán: El otro México," (pp. 1-13).
"La conciencia de la mestiza," (pp. 77-91).

14 Week: April 24-26

"Movimientos de rebeldía y las culturas que traicionan"(pp. 15-23).
The Changing role of Hispanic Women (video)

"How to tame a wild tongue" (pp. 53-64)
"Entering into the Serpent" (pp. 25-39)

El Norte (movie)

15 Week: May 1-3

EL Norte (movie) and Discussion

Mi familia (movie)

16 Week: May 8: Last day of classes.

Mi familia (movie) and Discussion

Date of Final Exam to be announced in class.