

Gender and Cultural Politics in Latin America Fall 2006

WST 6935 – Section 9640; 3 credits
Wednesdays 3-6pm; 13 Matherly
Office phone: 352-273-0384

Instructor: Professor Florence Babb
Office hours: Thurs 2-4pm, 204 Ustler Hall
and by appointment, fbabb@wst.ufl.edu

Course description and objective:

This graduate seminar will consider recent and innovative work that examines gender, culture, and politics in Latin America and the Caribbean. We will draw on literature from gender and cultural studies, anthropology, history, and other fields in order to consider changing political economies and cultures on the one hand and lived experiences of those of different gender, race, class, and sexual identities on the other hand. We will read about and discuss contemporary popular culture, everyday life, tourism, development, social movements, and globalization. The class will have a discussion format in which students participate actively. We will have occasional guest speakers and videos and students will be encouraged to attend occasional events outside class.

Course books, available at Wild Iris Bookstore, 802 W. University Avenue:

Wendy Harcourt and Arturo Escobar (eds.), *Women and the Politics of Place* (Kumarian Press, 2005)

Linda Seligmann, *Peruvian Street Lives: Culture, Power, and Economy among Market Women of Cuzco* (U of Illinois Press, 2004)

Mary Weismantel, *Cholas and Pishtakos: Stories of Race and Sex in the Andes* (U of Chicago Press, 2001)

Matthew Guttman (ed.), *Changing Men and Masculinities in Latin America* (Duke U Press, 2003)

Walter Little, *Mayas in the Marketplace: Tourism, Globalization, and Cultural Identity* (U of Texas Press, 2004)

Amy Lind, *Gendered Paradoxes: Women's Movements, State Restructuring and Global Development in Ecuador* (Penn State U Press, 2005)

Jennifer Bickham Mendez, *From the Revolution to the Maquiladoras: Gender, Labor, and Globalization in Nicaragua* (Duke U Press, 2005)

In addition (not for purchase), selections from:

Sonia Alvarez, Evelina Dagnino, and Arturo Escobar (eds.), *Cultures of Politics, Politics of Cultures* (Westview Press, 1998)

Course requirements and policies:

Participation

Because the course meets just once each week, full attendance in all classes is essential. Students are expected to come to class having done the reading and ready to participate in discussion. Everyone will have an opportunity to play a part in facilitating the weekly discussion. Brief two-page précis of the week's reading will be collected during class periods to ensure that all have given thoughtful attention to the reading. Each student is allowed to skip two submissions of précis. [50% of course grade]

Paper

There will be a course paper of approximately 18-20pp based on additional reading, due at the end of the semester. I will expect to receive proposals for these papers by mid-October, including short bibliographies of material to be used and referenced. These papers may focus on a single ethnographic work to be examined closely or they may draw on multiple works on a specific topic of relevance to the course. Everyone will have an opportunity to give an oral presentation of their subject matter during the final weeks of the semester. [50% of course grade]

Academic Honesty

The University of Florida's honor code requires all students to be honest in their academic work. University policies on cheating, plagiarism, and related issues are available at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>

Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

Course schedule

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| Aug. 23 | Introduction to the course
Video: "Adio Kerida" |
| Aug. 30 | Gender and the politics of place
Selections from Harcourt and Escobar (eds.), <i>Women and the Politics of Place</i> (read Preface, Introduction, chapters 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, and Afterward) |
| Sept. 6 | Latin American cultural politics
Selections from Alvarez et al., <i>Cultures of Politics, Politics of Cultures</i> : |

- Introduction, pp.1-29
 ch. 2, “Culture, Citizenship, Democracy: Changing Discourses and Practices of the Latin American Left” (Dagnino, pp. 33-63)
 ch. 4, “New Subjects of Rights? Women’s Movements and the Construction of Citizenship in the ‘New Democracies’” (Schild, pp. 93-117)
 ch. 12, “Latin American Feminisms ‘Go Global’: Trends of the 1990s and Challenges for the New Millennium (Alvarez, pp. 293-324)
- Sept. 13 **Culture and power**
 Seligmann, *Peruvian Street Lives: Culture, Power, and Economy among Market Women of Cuzco*, to p. 118
- Sept. 20 Seligmann, to end
- Sept. 27 **Race and Sex**
 Weismantel, *Cholas and Pishtakos: Stories of Race and Sex in the Andes*, to p. 135
 Guest Lecture: Carla Freeman, Professor of Anthropology and Women’s Studies, Emory University
- Oct. 4 Weismantel, to end
- Oct. 11 **Masculinities**
 Guttman, *Changing Men and Masculinities in Latin America*, to p. 176
 Guest lecture: Efraín Barradas, Professor of Latin American Studies and Spanish
- Oct. 18 Guttman, to end
- Oct. 25 **Tourism as contact zone**
 Little, *Mayas in the Marketplace: Tourism, Globalization, and Cultural Identity*, to p. 142
- Nov. 1 Little, to end
- Nov. 8 **Development and social movements**
 Lind, *Gendered Paradoxes: Women’s Movements, State Restructuring and Global Development in Ecuador* (all)
- Nov. 15 Guest lecture: Carmen Diana Deere, Director, Center for Latin American Studies
 Video: “Pictures from a Revolution”

- Nov. 22 **Globalization**
Mendez, *From the Revolution to the Maquiladoras: Gender, Labor, and Globalization in Nicaragua* (all)
- Nov. 29 Presentations
- Dec. 6 Presentations
- Exam week **Papers due**