

| REL 4382 U01 |

Latin American Women and Religions in the Americas

Syllabus Fall 2013

Professor: Dr. *Ana María Bidegain*

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Class Time: Thursday 5:00 PM **DM323**

Office: DM 304B

Office Hours: Thursday 2- to 4 PM **or by appointment**

INTRODUCTION

The focus of this course is the diversity of religious experiences among women born and educated in Latin cultures in different countries and sub-regions such as: Brazil, the Caribbean, South, Central and North America particularly Hispanic in the U.S. and Mexico.

This course examines the active participation of particular individuals, or concrete women's religious organizations in different historical contexts. We will cover the colonial and early republican periods, but the emphasis will be on important figures and processes in the 20th century. The 20th century, in particular, is a time of crucial changes in women's lives, including religion. Latinas' practices, beliefs, social and political activism and theological and biblical reflections will be analyzed in order to explain the impact of women's religious experiences in cultural, social and political realms.

JUSTIFICATION

Until few decades ago women presence in history has been dismiss particularly in religious history. This course pretends to fill out this vacuum and help the students to understand how Latin American women have been shaping the religious landscape in their countries of origin as well in those where they migrate.

GOALS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES

The goals for students completing this course will be to develop a deep understanding how Latinas women have been contributing to shape the Americas' religious landscape studying four special topics: a) Women body, Mestizaje, Syncretism and Popular Religiosity, b) Latinas contribution to the development of a feminine and feminist religious thought. c) Latinas' religiosity and the search of social Justice. d) Women's Religious experience and political participation.

EXPECTATION OF THIS COURSE

To have a new understanding of Latin Americans religious experience taking into account women perspectives and incorporating gender analysis.

Course structure and requirements:

Undergrad and grad students will attend the professor introduction of the subject (first hour and half of each class) followed by a discussion on the assigned readings. (Second and half hour) Grad and undergrad students will pass Midterm and final exams on the issues and readings discussed in class.

Final course grade

Participation: 30%
 Midterm 30%
 Final Exam 40%
 Final Grade: 100%

Grading criteria and range

A/A- = Outstanding/Exceptional in terms of content (grasp of concepts, depth of analysis and comprehension) and expression.

B+/B = Above average to Very Good.

B-/C+ = Good to above average.

C/C- = Achieving minimum standards.

D+/D = Passing but barely meeting minimum standards; F=Not meeting minimum or acceptable standards.

(This course may fulfill the Critical Inquiry requirement of the FIU core curriculum if the student earns a grade of “C” or higher .A “C-“ or lower grade will not satisfy the Critical Inquiry requirement.)

GRADES RANGE

| LETTER GRADES | RANGE | LETTER GRADES | RANGE | LETTER GRADES | RANGE |
|---------------|--------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| A | 94-100 | B- | 80-81 | D+ | 68-69 |
| A- | 90-93 | C+ | 78-79 | D | 63-67 |
| B+ | 88-89 | C | 73-77 | D- | 60-62 |
| B | 83-87 | C- | 70-72 | F | 0-59 |

TIPS FOR SUCEFUL COMPLETATION OF THIS COURSE**Attendance/participation policy**

Attendance and participation are very important to this course. Students are expected to read assignments and participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken and I expect students to inform me of any prior commitments or emergencies that prevent them from attending. Students may be absent up to three times. A fourth absence will result in a loss of 15% from their attendance grade.

Intellectual and academic behavior

As members of the academic community, students are expected to recognize and uphold standards of intellectual and academy integrity. Plagiarism is presenting another person’s work as one’s own. Plagiarism includes submitting another student’s work as one’s own.

REQUIRED READINGS

Many readings will be post on-line however student should buy some books that some chapters will be discuss in class such as:

- MARÍA PILAR AQUINO, DAISY L. MACHADO, JEANETTE RODRÍGUEZ - *A reader in Latina feminist theology: religion and justice* U. of Texas Press 2002

- MARYSA NAVARRO, VIRGINIA SÁNCHEZ KORROL, KECIA ALI – *Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: restoring women to history* Indianan University Press (1999)- 128 pages
- FRANCESCA MILLER *Latin American women and the search for social justice.* UPNE, 1991 - Social Science - 324 pages

Recommended readings

According to the class level other readings could be proposed, particularly in Spanish and Portuguese, but are not required to pass the class. Such as:

- ANA MARIA BIDEGAIN *Participación y protagonismo de las mujeres en la historia del catolicismo latinoamericano.* Edit. San Benito, Buenos Aires, 2009.

Calendar

| Dates | Topics | Readings |
|---|--|---|
| 8/29 1st WEEK | <i>Introduction and theoretical approach</i> | J.W. SCOTT <i>Gender A useful category in the study of history (on-line)</i> AQUINO in AQUINO& ROSADO Intercultural (9-48) |
| 09/5 2nd Week | <i>-Women’s place in Amerindian religions.</i> <i>-Biological and cultural mestizaje and syncretism. The popular religion’s roots.</i> <i>- White and Creole Women’s in colonial society and Christendom development.</i> <i>-- Women resisting slavery through religions: Voudu, Santería Candomblé.</i> | NAVARRO MARYSA (Part I – pag.5- 57) LAVRIN ASUNCION (on-line) SOCOLOW (on-line) PEREZ en AQUINO Reader |

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| | | Chap. 3 (53-79) |
| 09/12 3rd week | <i>Women facing the crises of the Catholic Church under Liberal States since the Independence</i> | MILLER (chap 3) BIDEGAIN (on-line) 214VALENZUELA(on-line) (Suffrage and citizenship) |
| 09/19 4th week | Class on-line (no class at FIU) <i>Religions and Modernization.</i> <i>Women's Education and Social Justice.</i> | MILLER (chap 4) SANCHEZ in Navarro Part II |
| 09/26 5th week | <i>Protestant women's leadership and migration to South America.</i> <i>Women in the History of Latino Protestantism</i> | D. MACHADO en AQUINO Reader Chap. 8 (161-176) LOZANO en AQUINO Reader Chap. 10 (204-216) |
| 10/03 Week 6th | Class on-line (no class at FIU) <i>Religions, Women's Rights and Welfare States</i> | MILLER (chap 5) |
| 10/10 7th Week | Film: El Salvador: the seed of Liberty | MILLER (Chap 6) |

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| 10/17 8th week | MIDTERM | MIDTERM |
| 10/24 9th week | <i>Catholic Feminine Orders & Congregations. Base communities and Political Participations</i> | PETERSON, ANNA – Martyrdom and Politics e-book in GL |
| 10/31 10th WEEK | <i>Political and Ecclesiastical Repressions. “Resilient” Women and Human Rights issues. Christian Women’s Martyrdom. The case of Maryknoll Sister’s in El Salvador// and Popular women Organizations in Colombia</i> | MILLER Chap 7 |
| 11/7 | <i>On- line class (no class at FIU) Latin American Jews Women & Latin American Muslim Women</i> | |
| 11/14 | <i>Nature, Social Class, Ethnicity and Gender in the Ecumenical theological reflections and the Latina woman’s interpretations of social reality</i> | AQUINO A reader Chap 7 (133-160) AQUINO Intercultural theology (9-28) |

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| 11/21 | Latinas in Charismatic and Pentecostal Churches Latin American Feminists and Feminist Theologians | C. VELEZ Toward a feminist Intercultural Theology in AQUINO Feminist Intercultural Theology (248-264) |
| 11/28 | <i>Thank Giving Day</i> | <i>Thank Giving Day</i> |
| 12/5 | Papers Discussion | Papers Discussion |
| 12/12 | | Final EXAM |