

SPANISH 233 LEC A: GEND & REV IN MX (31830)

Prof. Viviane Mahieux

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Wednesdays 2-4:50

Fall 2024

Office Hours. M&W 12-2 and by appt.

Gender and Revolution in Mexico

This course will cover literary and popular conceptualizations of gender and sexuality in Mexico, with emphasis on the late 19th to the early 20th century. Special attention will be paid to representations of figures such as the dandy and the decadent woman, revolutionary fighters and the soldadera, the flapper, the bohemian, and indigenous afro-Mexican women, as well as to episodes such as the “Baile de los 41” and the debates on the “feminization” of Mexican literature. Our readings will cover a range of inquiries surrounding the revolutionary struggle of 1910-1920. How do gender and sexuality shape the concept of citizenship? How is citizenship transformed and reimagined through a conflict such as the Revolution? How are categories such as gender and sexuality articulated in relation to nationhood, to race and class? How fixed and/or malleable are such categories?

Assigned Texts:

Below is a list of the books you might choose to purchase or get from the library. They are available online, and the edition is not really important. All reading assignments will be also available in PDF on Canvas.

- Nellie Campobello, *Cartucho*
- Mariano Azuela, *Los de abajo*
- Martín Luis Guzmán, *La sombra del caudillo*
- Federico Gamboa, *Santa*

Suggested Readings:

We will be reading sections of some of these books (not all!), but I include this list in case you wish to explore potential final paper topics early during the quarter.

- Aguilar Mora, Jorge. *Una muerte sencilla, justa, eterna: cultura y guerra durante la revolución mexicana.*

- Arce, Christine. *Mexico's Nobodies: The Cultural Legacy of the Soldadera and Afro-Mexican Women*.
- Buffington, Robert. *A Sentimental Education for the Working Man. The Mexico City Penny Press, 1900-1910*.
- Cano, Olcott, Vaughan eds. *Sex in Revolution: Gender, Politics and Power in Modern Mexico*.
- Cuellar, Manuel. *Choreographing Mexico: Festive Performances and Dancing Histories of a Nation*.
- Franco, Jean. *Plotting Women: Gender and Representation in Mexico*.
- Hershfield, Joanne. *Imagining la Chica Moderna: Women, Nation and Visual Culture in Mexico 1917-1936*.
- Knight, Alan. *The Mexican Revolution (2 vols)*.
- Krauze, Enrique. *Caudillos culturales en la Revolución Mexicana*.
- Legrás, Horacio, *Culture and Revolution: Violence, Memory and the Making of Modern Mexico*.
- Lopez, Rick. *Crafting Mexico: Intellectuals, Artisans and the State after the Revolution*.
- Vaughan, Lewis, eds. *The Eagle and the Virgin: Nation and Cultural Revolution in Mexico: 1920-1940*.
- Marroquin, Pineda, Mieri, eds. *Open Borders to a Revolution: Culture, Politics and Migration*.
- Olcott, Jocelyn. *Revolutionary Women in Postrevolutionary Mexico*.
- Piccato, Pablo. *City of Suspects: Crime in Mexico City 1900-1931*.
- Sluis, Ageeth. *Deco Body Deco City: Female Spectacle and Modernity in Mexico City, 1900-1939*.
- Tenorio Trillo, Mauricio. *I speak of the City: Mexico City at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*.

Requirements:

This course will be conducted in Spanish, although students may speak in English if they choose to do so. This is discussion-based seminar, so individual preparedness and participation will be an essential part of the collective learning experience. Students must post a brief question or comment regarding the readings on Canvas by noon on the day of class. It is important to post before class so that the comments/questions made can be incorporated into the discussion. I also encourage you to reply to your colleagues' posts so that we can get a head start on the conversation. **Participation counts for 20% of the final grade.**

Each student is required to give two 10-minute presentations and to turn in two 2-3 page double-spaced response papers outlining the talking points/questions exposed on the days of the presentation. Presentations should make a point of relating the assigned theoretical, historical and

literary readings, as well as connecting the readings of the week with previous material. **These oral and written assignments count for 30% of the final grade.**

A final 13-15-page paper (including bibliography) will be due at the end of the quarter. All students are required to turn in a written proposal (1 page) with a preliminary bibliography (approx. 8 entries) on November 26th. The proposal will then be individually discussed with the instructor. **The final essay counts for 50% of the final grade.**

Alternative to final paper: I understand that some of you might not be interested in continuing to work on this material as you embark on your own research projects. If this is the case, you have the option of splitting up the final paper requirement in 2-3 shorter papers, in which you engage punctually with some of the material in class, and possibly place it in conversation with other works you do plan on working on long-term. As with the final paper, please discuss your choice ahead of time with the instructor.

October 2nd: Introduction. Gender, citizenship, Mexico.

- Roger Bartra, “Penetración”, “Hacia la metamorfosis”, “Hacia la metamorfosis”.
- Claudio Lomnitz, “Modes of Mexican Citizenship”, “Nationalism’s Dirty Linen: ‘Contact Zones’ and the Topography of National Identity”, from *Deep Mexico, Silent Mexico*, Silent Mexico.
- Octavio Paz, “Máscaras mexicanas”, “Los hijos de la malinche” from *El laberinto de la soledad* .

October 9th: Modes of Citizenship in Porfirian Mexico

- Julio Ruelas, imágenes de la *La revista moderna*
- Sylvia Molloy, “The Politics of Posing: Translating Decadence in Fin de Siècle Latin America”.
- Elaine Showalter, “Borderlines”.
- Eduardo Castrejón, *Los cuarenta y uno: novela crítico-social*
- Robert Irwin, “Los cuarenta y uno, la novela perdida” (suggested)
- Carlos Monsiváis, “Los 41 y la Gran Redada” (suggested)

October 16th: The Fallen Woman

- Federico Gamboa, *Santa*
- Pablo Piccato: “Violence Against Women”

- Pablo Piccato: “The Modern City”, “The Policed City”, “The Policed City” (suggested).
- *Santa*. Film, 1931.

October 23rd: Revolutionary Bodies

- Mariano Azuela, *Los de abajo* [Download Los de abajo](#)
- Ben Sifuentes Jauregui, “Cuerpos, intelectuales y homosocialidad en Los de abajo.”
- Judith Butler, “Bodies that Matter”
- For context on the Mexican Revolution, you can read Alan Knight.

October 30th: The “Feminization” of Mexican Literature

- Salvador Novo and Rubén M. Campos, the 1929 polemic
- Robert McKee Irwin, “Virile Literature and Effeminate Literature: The 1920’s and 1930’s”
- Eve Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet* (selection).
- Marjorie Garber, “Introduction: Clothes Make the Man” (suggested), from *Vested Interests*

November 6th: Visit by Prof. Iván Aguirre: Nahui Ollin and Cube Bonifant.

- Cube Bonifant, *crónicas*
- Nahui Ollin, *Óptica cerebral*.
- Anne Rubinstein, “The war on las pelonas”.
- Joanne Hershfield, “En México como en París: Fashioning la *Chica Moderna*” (suggested)

November 13th: Women & Combat

- Gabriela Cano, “Unconcealable Realities of Desire: Amelio Robles’s (Transgender) Masculinity in the Mexican Revolution”
- John Reed, “Elizabetta”, *Insurgent Mexico*.
- Elizabeth Salas, [Soldaderas in the Mexican Military](#) (selection).
- Christine Arce, “Soldaderas and the Making of Revolutionary Spaces”, “The Many Faces of the Soldadera and the Adelita Complex” from *Mexico’s Nobodies*. Available online through UCI libraries.

- Rick Lopez, "La India Bonita Contest of 1921 and the Ethnicization of Mexican Culture" (suggested).

November 20th: Nellie Campobello, Cartucho.

- "Jocelyn Olcott, "The Daughters of La Malinche, Gender and Revolutionary Citizenship", from *Revolutionary Women in Postrevolutionary Mexico*. Available online through UCI libraries.

- Manuel Cuellar, "Nellie Campobello: The Choreographer of Dancing Histories in Mexico", in *Choreographing Mexico*. Available online through UCI libraries.

- Max Parra, "Reconstructing Subaltern Perspectives in Nellie Campobello's *Cartucho*" (suggested).

Turn in abstract and preliminary bibliography

November 27th: Revolutionary Nationalism, Established.

- Emilio "El indio" Fernández, *Enamorada* (film).

- Dolores Tierney, "Gender Relations and Mexican Cultural Nationalism in Emilio Fernández's *Enamorada*".

- Doris Sommer, "Love and Country: An Allegorical Speculation", from *Foundational Fictions* (suggested and available online through UCI libraries).

December 4th: Final Project Presentations

Final Essay Due Date: December 11th.