

Fall 2014

W 2-4:50

Prof. Viviane Mahieux

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Office Hrs: W 10-12 and by appt.

Spanish 234: 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 and the bohemian, 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? How fixed and/or malleable are such categories?

Assigned Texts:

Below is a list of the books you might choose to purchase. They are available online, and the edition is not important. All other reading assignments will be available in PDF on EEE.

- 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, but I include the list in case you wish to explore potential final paper topics early during the quarter.

- Jean Franco, *Plotting Women*
- Enrique Krauze. *Caudillos culturales en la Revolución Mexicana*
- Alan Knight, *The Mexican Revolution* (2 vols)
- Mauricio Tenorio Trillo, *I speak of the City: Mexico City at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*
- Pablo Piccato, *City of Suspects: Crime in Mexico City 1900-1931*
- Cano, Olcott, Vaughan eds. *Sex in Revolution: Gender, Politics and Power in Modern Mexico*
- Joanne Hershfield, *Imagining la Chica Moderna: Women, Nation and Visual Culture in Mexico 1917-1936*

- Rick Lopez, *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*
- Olcott, Jocelyn. *Revolutionary Women in Postrevolutionary Mexico*
- Marroquin, Pineda, Mieri, eds. *Open Borders to a Revolution: Culture, Politics and Migration*.
- Jorge Aguilar Mora, *Una muerte sencilla, justa, eterna: cultura y guerra durante la revolución mexicana*

Requirements:

This course will be conducted in Spanish, although a student may speak in English if s/he chooses to do so on occasion. 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 EEE 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. 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 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 15-page paper 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. 10 entries) on November 26th. The proposal will then be individually discussed with the instructor. The final essay counts for 50% of the final grade.

10 /8/2014: Introduction: gender, citizenship, Mexico.

- Roger Bartra, “Penetración”, “Hacia la metamorphosis”.
- Claudio Lomnitz, “Modes of Mexican Citizenship”, “Nationalism’s Dirty Linen: ‘Contact Zones’ and the Topography of National Identity”.
- Octavio Paz, “Máscaras mexicanas”, “Los hijos de la malinche”.
- Trevor Stack, “Beyond the State?” Citizenship Studies
“Citizenship” http://keywords.fordhamitac.org/keyword_entries/citizenship.html

10 /15/2014: Modes of Citizenship in Porfirian Mexico

- Julio Ruelas, imágenes de la La revista moderna (selección)

- 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)

10 /22/2014: The Fallen Woman

- Federico Gamboa, Santa
- Pablo Piccato: “Violence Against Women”.
- Pablo Piccato: “The Modern City”, “The Policed City” (suggested).
- Santa (film, 1931). Suggested.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-aQeywSswc>

10 /29/2014 : Gender and Revolutionary Bodies

- Mariano Azuela, Los de abajo
- Ben Sifuentes Jauregui, “Cuerpos, intelectuales y homosocialidad en Los de abajo.”
- Alan Knight, <http://www.historytoday.com/alan-knight/mexican-revolution>
- Judith Butler, “Bodies that Matter”

11/5/2014: 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”.
- Rick Lopez, “La India Bonita Contest of 1921 and the Ethnicization of Mexican Culture”.
- Joanne Hershfield, “En México como en París: Fashioning la *Chica Moderna*”
- Eve Sedgwick, Epistemology of the Closet (selection).

- Marjorie Garber, “Introduction: Clothes Make the Man” (suggested).

11/12/2014: Nellie Campobello, Cartucho.

- “Jocelyn Olcott, “The Daughters of La Malinche, Gender and Revolutionary Citizenship”.
- Max Parra, “Reconstructing Subaltern Perspectives in Nellie Campobello’s *Cartucho*” (suggested).
- Finish discussion of Butler, Garber, Sedgewick.

11/19/2014: 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”. (Unpublished manuscript, please do not circulate).
- John Mraz, “Revolution and Culture (1910-1940)” (suggested).

Visit by Prof. Legrás.

11/26/2014: Martín Luis Guzmán, La sombra del caudillo

- La sombra del Caudillo (1960, suggested film)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2HHSuwmdJg>

Turn in abstract and preliminary bibliography

12/3/2014: Revolutionary Nationalism, Established.

- Emilio “El indio” Fernández, Enamorada (film).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIvh-NOiVDA>

- Dolores Tierney, "Gender Relations and Mexican Cultural Nationalism in Emilio Fernández's *Enamorada*".
- Doris Sommer, "Love and Country: An Allegorical Speculation".

12/10/2014: Final Project Presentations

Final Essay Due Date: TBA