

UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

HISTORY 457 (AB Section 1)

**SEXUALITY AND GENDER IN LATIN AMERICA**

FALL, 2009

**Instructor:** Geoffrey Spurling  
Office: D3102  
Telephone: 604-504-7441, local 4442  
Email: geoffrey.spurling@ufv.ca

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 10:40 – 11:20 a.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.; or by appointment.

**Course Description:** This course examines the history of sexuality and gender in Latin America from the colonial period to the present. We begin by first considering different perspectives on the historical and socio-cultural construction of sexuality and gender, and on the complex relationship between sex, gender, and power. We then turn to the specifically Latin American context, critically examining a range of topics, including sexuality, gender, honour, and religion; patriarchy, authority, and the family; contested gender relations, marital conflict, and violence; national identity and the state's concern with gender, moral order, and sexual behaviour; adolescence and struggles over parental control; criminological perspectives on sexual and gendered 'deviance' and 'delinquency'; machismo and notions of masculinity and femininity; expressions of gender and sexuality in music and dance; sexual identities, gender, and politics; and the intersections of gender, sexuality, class, race, and ethnicity.

**Course Time and Location:**  
Wednesdays, 1:00 – 4:40 p.m., C1424

**Course Website:**

There are two ways to access the course website; both require that you go through the Blackboard Learning System:

- 1) Go to myUFV and log in (use your student number as your user name and password when you first log in) / click on the "My Courses" tab / Find "UFV Online" (located in the lower left of the page, with the computer logo) and select "Click here" / log in to the Blackboard Learning System (with your myUFV user name and password) / click on the link to History 457.
- 2) Go to the UFV homepage and click on "UFV Online" / click on "Log in Here" / click on "Continue to Login" / log in to the Blackboard Learning System / click on the link to History 457.

On the course website you will find a copy of the syllabus, a select bibliography, a citation style guide, a link to the best homepage on Latin America, contemporary news items on Latin America, and other supplementary materials or course announcements.

**Course Format:**

Each week there will be an in-depth seminar discussion of the week's topic and assigned readings, with the occasional contextual lecture when necessary.

**Course Assignments and Grading:**

Final Exam (scheduled during the exam period)	25%
Short Paper—Analysis of Primary Sources (on selections from <i>Women Through Women's Eyes</i> ; due October 14)	25%
Research Paper (due December 2)	35%
Participation in Seminar Discussions	15%

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence. Please refer to the Calendar for a description of UFV's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and student conduct.

**Required Texts:**

French, William E., and Katherine Elaine Bliss, eds. *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

Hahner, June E., ed. *Women through Women's Eyes: Latin American Women in Nineteenth-Century Travel Accounts*. Wilmington (DE): Scholarly Resources Inc., 1998.

Lavrin, Asunción, ed. *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989.

History 457 Coursepack.

The texts and coursepack are available for purchase in the UFV Bookstore; all assigned readings are on reserve in the library.

**Seminar Schedule and Readings**Week 1 (September 9)**Introduction to the course / The Latin American Context**

No readings assigned.

Week 2 (September 16)**Analytical Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality / Iberian Antecedents**

French and Bliss, "Introduction: Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America since Independence." [French and Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 1-30]

Perry, *Gender and Disorder in Early Modern Seville*, 3–13. [Coursepack]

Week 3 (September 23)**Sexuality, Gender, Religion, and Honour in Colonial Latin America**

Lavrin, "Sexuality in Colonial Mexico: A Church Dilemma." [Lavrin, *Sexuality and Marriage*, 47–95]

Behar, "Sexual Witchcraft, Colonialism, and Women's Powers." [Lavrin, *Sexuality and Marriage*, 178–206]

Twinam, "Honor, Sexuality, and Illegitimacy in Colonial Spanish America." [Lavrin, *Sexuality and Marriage*, 118–155]

Abercrombie, "Affairs of the Courtroom: Fernando de Medina Confesses to Killing His Wife (Charcas, 1595)." [Coursepack]

Week 4 (September 30)**Marriage, Marital Relations, and Divorce**

Boyer, "Women, *La Mala Vida*, and the Politics of Marriage." [Lavrin, *Sexuality and Marriage*, 252–286]

Socolow, "Acceptable Partners: Marriage Choice in Colonial Argentina, 1778–1810." [Lavrin, *Sexuality and Marriage*, 209–251]

Silva, "Divorce in Colonial Brazil: The Case of São Paulo." [Lavrin, *Sexuality and Marriage*, 313–340]

Week 5 (October 7)**Independence and the Emergent Nation-State / Motherhood, Authority, Honour, Dueling, and the Politics of Gender**

Díaz, "Vicenta Ochoa, Dead Many Times: Gender, Politics, and a Death Sentence in Early Republican Caracas, Venezuela." [French and Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 31-51]

Windler, "Madame Durocher's Performance: Cross-Dressing, Midwifery, and Authority in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro, Brazil." [French and Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 52-70]

Parker, "'Gentlemanly Responsibility' and 'Insults of a Woman': Dueling and the Unwritten Rules of Public Life in Uruguay, 1860-1920." [French and Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 109-132]

Week 6 (October 14)**Women Travel Writers on Gender Relations in Nineteenth-Century Latin America**

Hahner, *Women Through Women's Eyes: Latin American Women in Nineteenth-Century Travel Accounts*.

\*\*Short Paper due October 14 in class\*\*

Week 7 (October 21)**Prostitution, Family, and the State / Adolescence, Sexual Behaviour, and Urban Public Space**

French, "Prostitutes and Guardian Angels: Women, Work, and the Family in Porfirian Mexico." [Coursepack]

Caulfield, "The Birth of Mangué: Race, Nation, and the Politics of Prostitution in Rio de Janeiro, 1850-1942." [Coursepack]

Bliss and Blum, "Dangerous Driving: Adolescence, Sex, and the Gendered Experience of Public Space in Early-Twentieth-Century Mexico City." [Bliss and French, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 163-186]

Week 8 (October 28)**Tango, Gaucho Imagery, and National Identity**

Guy, *Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires: Prostitution, Family, and Nation in Argentina*, 141-161. [Coursepack]

Archetti, "Masculinity, Primitivism, and Power: Gaucho, Tango, and the Shaping of Argentine National Identity." [French and Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 212-229]

\*\*Research Paper Synopsis due October 28 in class\*\*

Week 9 (November 4)**Criminological and Medical Perspectives on Sexuality, Gender, the Body, and Race**

Piccato, "'Such a Strong Need': Sexuality and Violence in Belem Prison." [French and Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 87-108]

Bronfman, "Mismeasured Women: Gender and Social Science on the Eve of Female Suffrage in Cuba." [French and Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 71-86]

Green, "Doctoring the National Body: Gender, Race, Eugenics, and the 'Invert' in Urban Brazil, ca. 1920-1945." [French and Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 187-211]

Week 10 (November 11)**Remembrance Day—No Classes Scheduled**

Week 11 (November 18)**Machismo, Masculinity, Drinking, and Domestic Violence**

Behar, *Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza's Story*, 53–86.

[Coursepack]

Lancaster, *Life is Hard: Machismo, Danger, and the Intimacy of Power in Nicaragua*, 34–47.

[Coursepack]

Gutmann, *The Meaning of Macho: Being a Man in Mexico City*, 221–242. [Coursepack]

Brandes, "Drink, Abstinence, and Male Identity in Mexico City." [Coursepack]

Week 12 (November 25)**Gender, Sex, Work, and Politics in Export Enclaves / Love, Music, and Economic Crisis**

Putnam, "Work, Sex, and Power in a Central American Export Economy at the Turn of the Twentieth Century." [French and Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 133-162]

Pacini Hernández, *Bachata: A Social History of a Dominican Popular Music*, 153–184.

[Coursepack]

Salzinger, "Making Fantasies Real: Producing Women and Men on the Maquila Shop Floor."

[Coursepack]

Oglesby, "Machos and Machetes in Guatemala's Cane Fields." [Coursepack]

Week 13 (December 2)**Sexuality and Gender Activism, Revolution, and Social Conservatism / Discussion of Research Papers / Course Overview**

Howe, "Gender, Sexuality, and Revolution: Making Histories and Cultural Politics in Nicaragua, 1979-2001." [French and Bliss, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power*, 230-260]

\*\*Research Paper due December 2 in class\*\*

**Bibliography of Assigned Readings**

Abercrombie, Thomas A. "Affairs of the Courtroom: Fernando de Medina Confesses to Killing His Wife (Charcas, 1595)." In *Colonial Lives: Documents on Latin American History, 1550–1850*, edited by Richard Boyer and Geoffrey Spurling, 54–76. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Archetti, Eduardo P. "Masculinity, Primitivism, and Power: Gaucho, Tango, and the Shaping of Argentine National Identity." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 212–229. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

Behar, Ruth. "Sexual Witchcraft, Colonialism, and Women's Powers: Views from the Mexican Inquisition." In *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*, edited by Asunción Lavrin, 178–206. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989.

Behar, Ruth. *Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza's Story*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1993.

Bliss, Katherine Elaine, and Ann S. Blum. "Dangerous Driving: Adolescence, Sex, and the Gendered Experience of Public Space in Early-Twentieth-Century Mexico City." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 163–186. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

Boyer, Richard. "Women, *La Mala Vida*, and the Politics of Marriage." In *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*, edited by Asunción Lavrin, 252–286. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1989.

- Brandes, Stanley. "Drink, Abstinence, and Male Identity in Mexico City." In *Changing Men and Masculinities in Latin America*, edited by Matthew C. Gutmann, 153–176. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003.
- Bronfman, Alejandra. "Mismeasured Women: Gender and Social Science on the Eve of Female Suffrage in Cuba." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 71–86. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.
- Caulfield, Sueann. "The Birth of Mangué: Race, Nation, and the Politics of Prostitution in Rio de Janeiro, 1850–1942." In *Sex and Sexuality in Latin America*, edited by Daniel Balderston and Donna J. Guy, 86–100. New York: New York University Press, 1997.
- Díaz, Arlene J. "Vicenta Ochoa, Dead Many Times: Gender, Politics, and a Death Sentence in Early Republican Caracas, Venezuela." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 31–51. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.
- French, William E. "Prostitutes and Guardian Angels: Women, Work and the Family in Porfirian Mexico." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 72, no. 4 (1992): 529–53.
- French, William E., and Katherine Elaine Bliss. "Introduction: Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America since Independence." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 1–30. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.
- Green, James N. "Doctoring the National Body: Gender, Race, Eugenics, and the 'Invert' in Urban Brazil, ca. 1920–1945." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 187–211. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.
- Gutmann, Matthew C. *The Meanings of Macho: Being a Man in Mexico City*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996.
- Guy, Donna. *Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires: Prostitution, Family, and Nation in Argentina*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990.
- Hahner, June E., ed. *Women through Women's Eyes: Latin American Women in Nineteenth-Century Travel Accounts*. Wilmington (DE): Scholarly Resources Inc., 1998.
- Howe, Cymene. "Gender, Sexuality, and Revolution: Making Histories and Cultural Politics in Nicaragua, 1979–2001." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 230–260. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.
- Lancaster, Roger N. *Life Is Hard: Machismo, Danger, and the Intimacy of Power in Nicaragua*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.
- Lavrin, Asunción. "Sexuality in Colonial Mexico: A Church Dilemma." In *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*, edited by Asunción Lavrin, 47–95. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989.
- Oglesby, Elizabeth. "Machos and Machetes in Guatemala's Cane Fields." *NACLA Report on the Americas* 34, no. 5 (2001): 16–17.
- Pacini Hernández, Deborah. *Bachata: A Social History of a Dominican Popular Music*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1995.
- Parker, David S. "'Gentlemanly Responsibility' and 'Insults of a Woman': Dueling and the Unwritten Rules of Public Life in Uruguay, 1860–1920." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 109–132. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.
- Perry, Mary Elizabeth. *Gender and Disorder in Early Modern Seville*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990.
- Piccato, Pablo. "'Such a Strong Need': Sexuality and Violence in Belem Prison." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 87–108. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

- Putnam, Lara E. "Work, Sex, and Power in a Central American Export Economy at the Turn of the Twentieth Century." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 133-162. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.
- Salzinger, Leslie. "Making Fantasies Real: Producing Women and Men on the Maquila Shop Floor." *NACLA Report on the Americas* 34, no. 5 (2001): 13–19.
- Silva, Maria Beatriz Nizza Da. "Divorce in Colonial Brazil: The Case of São Paulo." In *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*, edited by Asunción Lavrin, 313-340. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989.
- Socolow, Susan M. "Acceptable Partners: Marriage Choice in Colonial Argentina, 1778-1810." In *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*, edited by Asunción Lavrin, 209-251. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989.
- Twinam, Ann. "Honor, Sexuality, and Illegitimacy in Colonial Spanish America." In *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*, edited by Asunción Lavrin, 118-155. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989.
- Winder, Erica M. "Madame Durocher's Performance: Cross-Dressing, Midwifery, and Authority in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro, Brazil." In *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America Since Independence*, edited by William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss, 52-70. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

### History 457 Assignments (Fall, 2009)

#### On Writing

Try to write directly, concisely, and clearly. You should open your paper with a well defined thesis statement, develop your discussion logically, substantiate the points you make to support your argument, and end with a good conclusion, one that reflects back on the major issues that you have examined. Carefully proof-read your final draft, checking the paper's overall organization, looking for grammatical errors, and asking yourself if you have conveyed your meaning clearly to the reader. Only include works in the bibliography that you have actually cited. All papers should be paginated and double-spaced, with normal (1 to 1 1/2 inch) margins and printed with a twelve point font (roughly 275 words per page); papers should not be submitted electronically (i.e., as email attachments). Please refer to Rampolla's *Pocket Guide to Writing in History* and the resources in UFV's Writing Centre for important information on research, writing, and citation styles.

#### On internet sources

Be critical in your use of the internet. Only cite secondary sources that have been published (for example, journal articles available through JSTOR), and be careful in your choice of websites for accessing primary source materials.

#### Short Paper—Analysis of Primary Sources (on selections from *Women Through Women's Eyes*; due October 14)

Write a 5 page paper based on a close, critical reading and analysis of one of the travel accounts included in Hahner's edited book, *Women Through Women's Eyes: Latin American Women in Nineteenth-Century Travel Accounts*. Your paper must address a particular issue linked to questions of gender relations and/or sexuality. Your goal is to work with and interpret one of the primary sources in the text; ask what the source reveals, often as expressed through the descriptive detail that the travel writer provides on daily life. In developing your discussion, you may wish to explore how gender and sexuality intersected with racial/ethnic characterizations and identities, class differences, status and hierarchy, religion, master-servant ties, or slavery. As well, you will likely have to consider the

author's own perspective and how their cultural background informed and structured what they wrote. As this is a short paper, too, you must define your thesis carefully. To set the historical context and to support your arguments, you should draw material from some secondary sources (the course readings, and/or books or journal articles from the library). In preparation for writing, you should read the introduction to Hahner's book as it deals with travel accounts as primary sources. I will place on reserve a number of books and articles that deal with analyzing travel literature that might prove helpful in constructing your analysis.

#### Research Paper (due December 2)

Write a 10 page analytical research paper on a topic that fits within the thematic and temporal coverage of the course. You should cite, and use fairly thoroughly, at least 8–10 separate published sources. Your research paper should differ significantly from your paper on travel accounts, though there may be linkages and some overlap. No later than October 28 you must hand in a brief synopsis of your paper topic (one paragraph should do it), with a list of some of the sources that you intend to use. If you haven't spoken with me already, you should then come to my office hours to discuss your paper. I will provide you with some feedback on your synopsis and will make some suggestions regarding materials you might want to consult and the overall approach you plan to take. Start your research early to avoid the usual struggle for library resources at the end of the term. I will put on reserve several books that you may wish to consult in the writing of your paper, as well as a detailed bibliography I have drawn up on sexuality and gender in Latin America.

#### Seminar Participation

As this course is designed to run as a seminar, it is critically important that each week you come well prepared to analyze and discuss the required readings. Do the readings well in advance; take notes, thinking about the major points that an author might make and/or what a particular source might reveal. Bring copies of the readings to class in case you need to refer to specific passages. To fulfill part of your seminar participation mark, you will be expected to give a short (five to seven minute) oral presentation on an assigned reading. In your presentation you should first summarize quickly the reading's content and context (there's no need to go into too much detail here as you can assume that the other class members will have read the material). You should then identify and discuss some of the key points, providing your own commentary and analysis while perhaps linking the issues raised to the other assigned readings. You should end with a question that will serve to trigger further class discussion of the source.

I will discuss the nature of these assignments at length in class. If you have any questions at all regarding your papers, or any other matters concerning the course, please do not hesitate to come to my office hours to speak with me about them.

#### Late penalty

Please note that a penalty of up to 2% per day may be assessed on late papers and on the paper synopsis (the synopsis itself will not be marked, but failing to hand it in on time could result in a deduction from your Research Paper grade).

## Department of History University of the Fraser Valley

Students registered in history courses should be aware of the following Department and institutional policies:

### Plagiarism Policy

As stated in the UFV online Calendar, under "Regulations and Policies," "Plagiarism is considered a serious breach of student conduct. Students should be aware that UFV has policies regarding academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating. The policy defines plagiarism as follows:

- Plagiarism occurs when a student presents work or data as original when part, or whole, was written or composed by someone other than the student.
- Plagiarism occurs when paragraphs, phrases, sentences, or ideas within the work are taken from another source without referencing or citing the author.

When an instructor has evidence of plagiarism or cheating by a student, the instructor is entitled to assign a score of zero with the first incident, and to issue a written notice that any further incident will result in the student being required to withdraw from the course. With any further incidents of plagiarism or cheating, the student may be required to withdraw formally from the course."

It is the student's responsibility to provide adequate references in all written work. Information about when and how to cite may be found in Mary Lynn Rampolla, *Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2010).

### Student Attendance Policy

UFV Policy 210.01 states: "Instructors are entitled to require that students attend classes on a regular basis and to deal with irregular attendance, including tardiness, by assigning reduced grades, requesting a student to withdraw officially from a course, or by imposing other appropriate penalties (such as make-up assignments, etc.). Instructors are expected to advise students of penalties for lack of attendance in the course outline handed out the first day of class."

### Grade Scale

<b>A+</b>	95 – 100	<b>B+</b>	80 – 84	<b>C+</b>	65 – 69	<b>P</b>	50 – 54
<b>A</b>	90 – 94	<b>B</b>	75 – 79	<b>C</b>	60 – 64	<b>NC</b>	0 – 49
<b>A-</b>	85 – 89	<b>B-</b>	70 – 74	<b>C-</b>	55 – 59		

### Student Electronic Devices in the Classroom

The use of student electronic devices in the classroom (laptops, cell phones, hand-held communicators, etc.) will be determined by individual instructors on the first day of classes. If the use of electronic devices is permitted, they may only be used for course-related purposes, as directed by the instructor.

#### History 457:

You may use laptops for taking notes in the contextual lectures, but laptops must be closed during seminar discussions and presentations, as well as while viewing films. All other electronic devices (cell phones, MP3 players, etc.) must be turned off during class time.

### Recommended guide to historical writing

- Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2010.
- The Writing Centre also offers a variety of different writing guide handouts (i.e. MLA, APA, Chicago Style).

### Message for students interested in continuing their studies in SFU's PDP program

If your intention is to apply to SFU's PDP program, Secondary School option, please be advised that you will be expected to have completed specific history courses.

The advisors at UFV can help you ensure that you are not caught at the end of your BA without the appropriate courses. Make an appointment to meet with an Educational Advisor in Student Services at the Abbotsford campus, B214, 604-854-4528, or the Chilliwack campus, 604-795-2808.

\*Students should keep copies of all submitted assignments until after the semester is completed.

\*If you have any questions about any of these policies, please ask your instructor.