

SEX AND THE STATE IN LATIN AMERICA
GOVT 49 / LACS 52 / WGST 32

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Dartmouth College
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Information

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Office Hours: Thursday 2-4 and by appointment
Classroom: Kemeny 006

Course Description

This course examines the ways in which gender and sexuality are relevant to politics in Latin America. Traditional norms governing relations between men and women persist in the region, yet men's and women's efforts to challenge fiercely repressive regimes, deeply entrenched norms of *machismo*, and extreme poverty defy conventional gender stereotypes. Latin American women's movements are among the most creative and highly mobilized in the world. Gay rights have made tremendous and rapid progress. Under what conditions do gender-based movements like these emerge and what impact do they have on politics? How do norms of masculinity and femininity shape politics and how are those norms shaped by interaction with the state? The cases we study and the countries on which we focus will vary each time the course is offered.

FOR NEXT TIME

- ++need to teach students how to construct an argument and explain the logic of that argument
- ++how has feminism changed over time (shift from welfare capitalism/socialism to neoliberalism)
- ++what factors shape "domestication" of international norms?
- ++to what extent are international norms truly international, vs. domestic standards of some countries imposed on others?
- ++better way to incorporate skype calls with authors to generate more productive work as opposed to they report, we listen approach
- ++does neoliberalism cause gender inequality or reduce it?

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

- Define key terms: sex, gender, state, politics
- Describe different perspectives about the way in which gender differences are relevant to politics
- Describe and assess the status of public policy governing the following issues in Latin America: abortion, divorce, family law, domestic violence, same-sex marriage

- Identify the basic questions and hypotheses in the scholarly literature on gender and political representation in legislative office, the executive branch, and the judiciary.
- Synthesize arguments and empirical detail from the assigned readings and lectures to write an essay that explains the emergence and evolution of gender-based social movements in Argentina and Chile
- Synthesize arguments and empirical detail from the assigned readings and lectures to write an essay that explains the evolution of some aspect of gender-based law or policy in one or more countries in Latin America
- Synthesize arguments and empirical detail from the assigned readings and lectures to write an essay that explains some aspect of gender and political representation
- Synthesize the material from this course to address a gender-related issue on the Dartmouth campus

Books for Purchase

The following books are available for purchase at the Dartmouth bookstore and at Wheelock Books. They are also on reserve in Baker/Berry.

Arditti, Rita (1999). *Searching for Life: The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and the Disappeared Children of Argentina*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
0520215702

Baldez, Lisa (2002). *Why Women Protest: Women's Movements in Chile*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0521010063

Htun, Mala (2003). *Sex and the State*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
ISBN0521008794

Jaquette, Jane, ed. (2009). *Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. ISBN 978-0-8223-4449-0

Assignments

Late assignments (even an hour late) will be penalized one-third grade per day. This includes weekends. If you think you might have a problem with this, you should contact me before the assignment is due. If an emergency prevents you from handing in an assignment in on time, please let me know as soon as you can, preferably before the due date. I will grant extensions only under extremely unusual circumstances. NB: Students must complete all assignments in order to pass the course.

1. *Homeworks* 5%

You will complete 10 homework assignments over the course of the term. The purpose of the homeworks is to engage with the assigned readings actively before you come to class. They include writing informal responses, posting news articles, writing questions, commenting on lecture, doing a video clip, taking a reading comprehension quiz before class, etc.

2. *First Paper: Gender-based Mobilization*
15%

Write a 5 page essay on a topic handed out in class. The paper will be based entirely on material covered in first three weeks of class: the articles read in Week One plus the Arditti and Baldez books. Do not do any additional outside reading or research for the paper. The paper is due Monday, April 14 by 10:00am. Upload your paper to class website.

3. *Second Paper: Gender, the Law and Public Policy* 20%

Write a 5 page essay on a topic handed out in class. The paper will be based on the Htun book and the three articles on domestic and sexual violence. Do not do any additional outside reading or research for the paper. The paper is due Monday, May 5 by 6pm. Upload your paper to class website.

4. *Third Paper: Gender and Political Representation* 25%

Write a 5 page essay synthesizing what we've read on gender and political representation. The paper will be based entirely on assigned readings; do not do any additional outside reading or research for the paper. The paper is due Monday, May 19 by 10am. Upload your paper to class website.

5. *Final Paper* 35%

Write a 7-9 page essay in which you synthesize what you've learned in class and apply it to a different context. The paper will be based entirely on assigned readings; do not do any additional outside reading or research for the paper. The paper is due by Tuesday, June 3 at 10:00am. Upload your paper to class website.

Class Policies

1. **The Honor Principle.** All Dartmouth students have agreed to conduct themselves in accordance with the Standards of Conduct in general and with the Academic Honor Principle in particular. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize, you risk failing the class and having your case brought before the Committee on Standards. Read the code again, here: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~uja/honor/> We will discuss the ways in which the Honor Principle is relevant to the work you will do in this class. I am more than happy to answer any questions you have about it.
2. **X-Hours.** I will use x-hours in two ways. Occasionally I will hold class during the x-hour. The x-hours I have already scheduled are indicated on the syllabus, and I reserve the right to schedule additional x-hour classes as needed. Most weeks—but not all—I will hold informal, optional x-hours; I will be in Kemeny 006 and available to talk to you about whatever you like.

J. Jack Halberstam, "Gaga Feminism for Beginners," Chapter 1 of *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender and the End of Normal*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2012.

Monday, March 31

Arditti, *Searching for Life*, Intro & Chs. 1-3

Wednesday, April 2

Arditti, *Searching for Life*, Chs. 4-6

Friday, April 4

Arditti, *Searching for Life*, Chs. 7-8

Monday, April 7

Baldez, *Why Women Protest*, Chs. 1-2

Wednesday, April 9

Baldez, *Why Women Protest*, Chs. 3-5

Friday, April 11

Baldez, *Why Women Protest*, Chs. 6-8

Monday, April 14

Guest speaker: Gabriela Montero

Chapter 3 by Espina in *Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America*

**First Paper due by 10:00 am

Wednesday, April 16 TBA

Friday, April 18 No Class Today

Monday, April 21

Htun, *Sex and the State*, Chs. 1-3

Wednesday, April 23

Htun, *Sex and the State*, Ch. 4

Thursday, April 24: CLASS MEETS DURING X-HOUR TODAY

Htun, *Sex and the State*, Ch. 6

Friday, April 25: Abortion

Joan Caivano and Jane Marcus-Delgado, "The Public Debate Over Private Lives:" *Americas Quarterly* Summer 2012.

Monday, April 28

Chapter 5 by Piovesan in *Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America*

Read Belem do Para Convention

<https://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/convention.asp>

Wednesday, April 30

England, "Protecting a Woman's Honor or Protecting Her Sexual Freedom?"

Friday, May 2

Read the proposal for a new policy on sexual assault at Dartmouth, "Unified Disciplinary Procedures for Sexual Assault by Students and Student Organizations."

Monday, May 5 No Class today

**Second paper due by 6:00pm

Wednesday, May 7: Legislative Office

Schwindt-Bayer, "Still Supermadres?"

Thursday, May 8: CLASS MEETS DURING X-HOUR TODAY

Marx, Borner and Caminotti chapter in *Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America*

Global Database of Quotas for Women, <http://www.quotaproject.org>

Read "About Quotas," <http://www.quotaproject.org/aboutQuotas.cfm>

Friday, May 9: The Culture of Congress?

Franceschet, "The Gendered Dimensions..."

Waylen, "Researching Ritual and the Symbolic in Parliaments"

Monday, May 11: Executive Office

Chapter 1 by Rios Tobar in *Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America*

Wednesday, May 14: The Judicial System

Chapter 4 by Kohen in *Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America*

Inter-American Dialogue, "Women and the Judiciary in the Americas"

Thursday, May 15: CLASS MEETS DURING X-HOUR TODAY

Neoliberalism and feminism

Chapter 7 by Vargas in *Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America*

Friday, May 16

Elisabeth Friedman, "Constructing the 'Same Rights with the Same Names': The Impact of Spanish Norm Diffusion on Marriage Equality in Argentina," *Latin American Politics and Society* 2013.

Monday, May 19: How do we/should we measure equality?

Chapter 8 by Valdes and Donoso in *Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America*

**Third paper due by 12:00 pm

Wednesday, May 21: Femicide and the US-Mexico Border

Chapter 9 by Staudt and Montoya in *Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America*

Melissa Wright, "Necropolitics, Narcopolitics, and Femicide: Gendered Violence on the Mexico-U.S. Border," *Signs* 36(3): 707-732

Friday, May 23 NO CLASS

Monday, May 26

Readings TBA

Wednesday, May 28

Readings TBA

~~Friday, May 30~~

~~Final paper due by 3pm~~ This doesn't give you much time to synthesize the material.

Tuesday, June 3

This is the last day of the final exam period, so let's make the final paper due then.

OK?