Sociology 699:
Gender in Latin America
Fall Semester, 2004

Professor Jocelyn Viterna

Class Time: Monday 1-3:30 p.m.
Class Location: Library Conference Room

Instructor Information:
Office: 217-C Newcomb Hall
Phone: 862-3005
E-mail: jviterna@tulane.edu
Office hours: Wednesday 1:00-3:00 p.m. or MWF by appointment.

Course Overview:

This course provides a survey of gender issues in Latin America from a sociological perspective. Over the past three decades, Latin America has experienced a series of economic, political, and cultural transitions. Economically, most nations in Latin America have turned away from state-sponsored industrialization programs and adopted neo-liberal economic models. Politically, the region has experienced a wave of democratization, often inspired by popular mobilizations. Culturally, globalization processes have increased the rate at which people, ideas, and commodities travel across borders, resulting paradoxically in both increased cultural homogeneity as well as heightened awareness of localized distinctions. Understanding how gender relations both shape and are shaped by these transitions is my goal for you in this course. To achieve this goal, we will read a series of articles and books dealing with gender relations in Latin America, and we will critically discuss these readings in our weekly meeting. You will also be asked to write extensively over the topics on the syllabus as well as a topic of your own choosing.

Readings:

Books—You will read six books for this class; all are available at the University Center bookstore:


**Electronic Reserves**—You will also read a number of articles for this course. These articles can be found on Tulane’s Electronic Reserves.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

You grade will be determined by your performance in the following areas. A detailed discussion of each assignment follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Response Papers</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
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<td>(10 papers, 5 pts each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Project</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Grades will be assigned as follows:

260-268 B+  230-238 C+  200-208 D+  178 F
248-259 B  218-229 C  188-199 D
239-247 B- 209-217 C- 179-187 D-

**Description of Course Requirements:**

**Weekly Response Papers**—Response papers will be due every class period except October 25 and November 29. Response papers serve two purposes. First, they demonstrate to me that you have read and understood the assignments. Second, they help you actively engage with course topics through critical reasoning and analysis. Each response paper should be approximately one page, single spaced, and should address the following questions for each assigned reading: (1) What is the author’s research question in this article/book? (2) What method is employed to answer the research question? (3) What does the author propose as the answer to this question? (4) How satisfied are you with her or his answer? Do you believe that the author used the best possible methods and reasoning to come to her or his
conclusion? How might the investigation and analysis have been better? (5) What future research might this article/book inspire? **Response papers are due at the beginning of class, and no late response papers will be accepted.**

**Mid-term Project: “Cultural Representations of Latin@s”**—On the first day of class, each student will be assigned a group, and each group will be charged with designing a short investigation into representations of Latin American or Latin@ men and women in culture. In your group, you must decide which medium you will study (telenovelas? cinema? magazines? literature? art? music?), and then each individual within the group must do a content analysis of that medium. You will then combine your data, and each individual will write a short (6-10 page) paper on his or her findings. On **OCTOBER 25**, each person will share the results of his or her analysis with the class in an informal presentation.

**Final Project**—In general, final projects should be 15-20 page papers that are well-written, well-researched, and will forward your career path in some significant manner. The form of your final project will be decided in consultation with the instructor, and could include a research proposal, a literature review, or an original article that analyzes data and will be submitted for publication. If you plan to collect data for your final project, you will need to get clearance from the Tulane IRB. See the instructor for details.

**Participation**—Class participation is the student’s attendance and insightful contribution to class discussions. **You must also send me four or five discussion questions about the readings via e-mail by no later than 10:00 a.m. on your assigned discussion question day.** Remember, too, that learning through discussion can only take place in a comfortable and respectful learning environment. We are permitted, and even encouraged, to disagree with one another, but we must always disagree respectfully. Antagonistic or unprofessional comments are not permitted, while open minds and active listening are required.

As professional students, you are expected to attend every class on time and well-prepared. If you must miss class for an emergency or an illness, please contact the instructor prior to your absence. You are responsible for all material presented and announcements made in all classes, regardless of whether or not you were in attendance. Any absence will seriously affect your participation score regardless of the reason for the absence. More than two absences will automatically result in a participation score of zero.

**Academic Integrity:**

Obviously, no cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated in this class. The Tulane Honor Code will be referred to in any situation where a student’s academic behavior is called into question.
CLASS SCHEDULE  
SOCI 699: GENDER IN LATIN AMERICA  
Fall 2004

August 30:  COURSE INTRODUCTION  
No Readings

September 6:  LABOR DAY HOLIDAY  
No Readings

September 13:  Gendered Citizenship in Latin America—Introductory Concepts

*Required Readings:*

Chant and Craske: Chapter One


*Recommended Readings:*


Lutjens, Sheryl L. 1995. “Reading Between the Lines: Women, the State, and Rectification in Cuba” Latin American Perspectives 22(2):100-124.


September 20: Family

Required Readings:

Chant and Craske: Chapters Four and Seven

Selections from Family Household and Gender in Latin America, edited by Elizabeth Jelin, details TBA


Recommended Readings:


September 27: Violence, Health and Sexuality

Required Readings:

Chant and Craske: Chapters Five and Six


Recommended Readings:


October 4: Poverty and Economic Restructuring

Required Readings:

Chant and Craske: Chapter Three (pp 47-64 only) and Chapter Eight


Recommended Readings:


Hite, Amy and Jocelyn Viterna. Forthcoming “Gendering Class in Latin America” Latin American Research Review.


October 11: Women at Work

Required Reading:

Salzinger, Genders in Production, entire book.

Recommended Readings:


October 18: Migration

Required Readings:

Hondagneu-Sotelo, Doméstica, entire book.

Recommended Readings:


**October 25: Culture—Class presentations of gendered meanings in the media**

*No Required Readings*

*Recommended Readings:*


**November 1: Formal Political Participation**

*Required Readings:*

Chant and Craske: Chapter Two and Chapter Three (pp 64-70 only)


Recommended Readings:


November 8: Women’s Mobilization and Democratization

Required Readings:


Bayard de Volo, Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs, Preface, Intro, and Chapters 1-4.

Recommended Readings:


**November 15: Women and Revolutionary Movements**

*Required Readings:*


Viterna, Jocelyn S. “Pulled Pushed and Persuaded: Explaining the Personal and Political Consequences of Women’s Guerrilla Activism in El Salvador”

Bayard de Volo, *Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs*, Chapters 5-7 and Conclusion.

*Recommended Readings:*


November 22: Social Movements, Civic Organizations, and NGOs

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


**November 29: Reports on Final Projects**

Final projects will be due on Monday, December 6, 2004, in my office, by 5:00 p.m. If I’m not in the office, please slide your paper under my door.