

HILA 162: SEX AND SEXUALITY IN LATIN AMERICA

Professor Benjamin Cowan (bacowan@ucsd.edu)

Monday, 13:00-15:50, HSS 6008

Office Hours: Wednesday, 13:00-15:00

This class has it all: cross-dressing nuns, murderous drag queens, puritanical revolutionaries, and just a glimmer of sexual witchcraft. We will use these and other stories to consider what sex, sexuality, and gender have meant across time and space in the Americas. The class will explore, compare, and challenge approaches to the history of sexuality and gender in Latin America. Our principal questions will include the following: How do people think about sex and social relations? What can we know about how people thought about or “felt” sex and gender in the past—and how can we know it? What makes the way that sexual norms work particular to specific places, times, and groups of people—and what makes them broader than that? Can we identify peculiarly “Latin American” or “American” approaches to sex and gender? How have gender and sexuality in this hemisphere changed over time, broadly speaking?

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Attendance, Readings and Discussion (45%): Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students must come to each class having read or watched the assigned material corresponding to that particular date and must be prepared to participate actively in discussion. Learning to read and respond to such material in a timely fashion is one of the objectives of this course; students who find it difficult to complete readings on time should always feel welcome to visit me during office hours for additional assistance. All hard-copy readings will be available in the bookstore and on reserve at the library; electronic readings will be available by library e-reserve (denoted by “Reserves”) or via access to online publications. Films are on reserve at the library’s website.
 - Books Available for Purchase:
 - Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1991)
 - Catalina de Erauso, *Lieutenant Nun: Memoir of a Basque Transvestite in the New World* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996)
 - Benjamin A. Cowan, *Securing Sex: Morality and Repression in the Making of Cold War Brazil* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2016)
 - Steve J. Stern, *The Secret History of Gender: Women, Men, and Power in Late Colonial Mexico* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1997)
 - Gregory C. Mitchell, *Tourist Attractions: Performing Race and Masculinity in Brazil’s Sexual Economy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015)
2. Weekly Responses (15%): Students will be responsible for submitting responses to each week’s reading. Every week, each student must submit a one-sentence response to each reading. That response (one sentence per reading) should answer the appropriate questions from the following:
 - a. If the reading is a secondary source, the sentence should answer the question: “What is the central or most important question this scholar seeks to answer in this text?”
 - b. If the reading is a primary source, the sentence should answer the question “What is an example of something this document can tell us about the past?”These responses should be submitted to Prof. Cowan via email by Saturday evening at 7pm. The sentences should be numbered and indicate which reading each sentence is addressing. Should you need to include documentation, use Chicago (footnote) style from the Chicago Manual of Style. These assignments will not be letter-graded.
3. Group Presentation (10%): Students will form groups of two or three, select a week from the syllabus, and do outside research on that topic. Each group will present its research to the class in the selected week. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes long, and will be assessed based on thoroughness of research and polish of the presentation itself.

4. **Research Papers (30%):** Each student will submit a ten- to twelve-page historiographical essay on the relevant topic of the student's choice. This means that students will do comprehensive research on a particular topic and write an essay describing the state of scholarship on the subject and potential avenues for future research. We will discuss potential topics and strategies during our first meeting. Students must consult books; web-based sources alone are not acceptable. An annotated bibliography for this project must be submitted in week seven, so students should plan their research accordingly.

Students should keep in mind that their papers will not be accepted should they fail to conform to the following standards: word-processed; double-spaced; in 12-point, Times New Roman or Cambria font with standard (1-inch and 1.25-inch) margins; and proofread until free of spelling and grammar errors. Citations should be in Chicago (footnote) format. Except in the case of an extreme emergency or with an extension granted by me in advance, late papers will be penalized one full letter grade (A to B) for each day they are late. If you fear that your work will be late for any reason, please contact the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester. Plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Any material, idea (transcribed or paraphrased), or turn of phrase that has come from someone else's work must be properly documented. Ignorance of the exact definitions of plagiarism will not be considered an excuse. Should you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, do not fail to consult the university's resources on academic ethics, available—among other places—at:

- <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>
- https://treebeard.ucsd.edu/files/pdf/PlagiarismBrochure_May2014.pdf

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS (Subject to Change)

WEEK 1 (8 JANUARY): INTRODUCTIONS—SEX, GENDER, AND LATIN AMERICA

- Assignment to complete before class:
 - Film: *How Tasty Was My Little Frenchman*
- Select partner(s) and a topic/week for group projects.

WEEK 2 (15 JANUARY): SEX BEFORE EUROPEANS

- CLASS DOES NOT MEET THIS WEEK (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
- Select a research paper topic and begin compiling sources.
- Assignment to read before next class:
 - Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away* (pp. xvii-36)
 - Pete Sigal, "Queer Nahuatl: Sahagun's faggots and sodomites, lesbians and hermaphrodites," *Ethnohistory* 54, no. 1 (2007): 9-34.

WEEK 3 (22 JANUARY): SEX AND COLONIZATION

- (Because of the holiday last week, we'll discuss two weeks' worth of readings today.)
- Assignment to complete before class:
 - Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away* (pp. 46-54, 66-78, 89-90)
 - Steve Stern, *The Secret History of Gender* (pp. 3-20; 70-98)
 - ([OPTIONAL]: Stern, pp. 98-111, 151-188)
 - [NOTE: ONLY READ PAGE 18] Mark A. Burkholder, "Honor and Honors in Colonial Spanish America," in *The Faces of Honor: Sex, Shame, and Violence in Colonial Latin America* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1998), ed. Lyman L. Johnson, Sonya Lipsett-Rivera (E-book available via UCSD Library).
 - [NOTE: READ FULL ARTICLE] Ann Twinam, "The Negotiation of Honor," in *Faces of Honor*, ed. Johnson and Lipsett-Rivera (pp. 68-100).
 - [OPTIONAL]: Catalina de Erauso, *Lieutenant Nun* (3-80)

- [OPTIONAL]: Ruth Behar, "Sex and Sin, Witchcraft and the Devil in Late-Colonial Mexico," *American Ethnologist* 14, no. 1 (1987): 34-54.
- [OPTIONAL]: Ruth Behar, "Sexual Witchcraft, Colonialism, and Women's Powers," in *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*, ed. Asunción Lavrín (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989): 178-208 (Reserves)

WEEK 4 (22 JANUARY): SEX OF THE NATION: Republican Motherhood, National Manhood

- Assignment to complete before class:
 - Donna J. Guy, "Mothers Alive and Dead," in *Sex and Sexuality in Latin America*, ed. Donna J. Guy and Daniel Balderston (New York: NYU, 1997): 155-173 (E-book available via UCSD Library).
 - Benjamin A. Cowan, *Securing Sex*, (pp. 1-49)
 - Peter Beattie, "The House, the Street, and the Barracks: Reform and Honorable Masculine Social Space in Brazil, 1864-1945," *The Hispanic American Historical Review* 76, no. 3 (1996): 439-473.
 - Film: *Plata Quemada* (Reserves)
 - [OPTIONAL] Rebecca Earle "Rape and the Anxious Republic: Revolutionary Colombia, 1810-1830" in *Hidden Histories of Gender and the State in Latin America*, ed. Elizabeth Dore and Maxine Molyneaux (Duke, 2000): 127-147 (Reserves)
 - [OPTIONAL] Christopher Conway, "Birds of a feather: Pollos and the nineteenth-century prehistory of Mexican homosexuality" in *Building Nineteenth-Century Latin America: Re-Rooted Cultures, Identities, and Nations*, ed. William G. Acree Jr. and Juan Carlos González Espitia (Nashville: Vanderbilt, 2009): 202-226 (Reserves)

WEEK 5 (5 FEBRUARY): SEX OF THE NATION II: Slavery, Race, and Sexuality.

- Assignment to complete before class:
 - Sandra Lauderdale Graham, "Honor among Slaves," in *Faces of Honor* (pp. 201-228) (E-book available via UCSD Library).
 - Documents on Slave Sex Work and Wet Nurses from *Children of God's Fire* (Reserves)
 - Sue Ann Caulfield, "The Birth of Mangué" in *Sex and Sexuality in Latin America* (pp. 86-100) (E-book available via UCSD Library).
 - Erica Williams, *Sex Tourism in Bahia: Ambiguous Entanglements*, (pp. 1-12, 44-63) (E-book available via UCSD library.)

WEEK 6 (12 FEBRUARY): SEX AND WORK.

- Assignment to complete before class:
 - Gregory Mitchell, *Tourist Attractions* (Introduction, Chapter 2)
 - Kamala Kempadoo, *Sun, Sex, and Gold: Tourism and Sex Work in the Caribbean*, Chapters 1 and 4 (pp. 1-27 and 81-89) (Reserves)
 - Lara Putnam, "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*, ed. William E. French and Katherine Elaine Bliss (Rowman, 2007): 133-161 (Reserves)
 - [OPTIONAL] Lara Putnam, *The Company They Kept: Migrants and the Politics of Gender in Caribbean Costa Rica, 1870-1960* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2002), Chapter 3 (pp. 76-111) (Reserves)

WEEK 7 (19 FEBRUARY): SEX AND THE CITY

- **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE VIA EMAIL BY 3PM, 19 FEBRUARY.**
- CLASS DOES NOT MEET THIS WEEK (Presidents' Day)

- James N. Green, *Beyond Carnival: Male Homosexuality in Twentieth-Century Brazil* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1999), Chapter Two (pp. 62-107) (Reserves)
- Gregory Mitchell, "Fare Tales and Fairy Tails: How Gay Sex Tourism is Shaping the Brazilian Dream," *Wagadu* 8 (2010): 93-114.
- Film: *Madame Satã* (Reserves)
- [OPTIONAL]: Charles Klein, "'Making a Scene': Travestis and the Gender Politics of Space in Porto Alegre, Brazil" in *Gender's Place: Feminist Anthropologies of Latin America*, ed. Rosario Montoya, Lessie Jo Frazier, and Jessie Hurtig (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2002): 217-235 (Reserves)

WEEK 8 (25 FEBRUARY): SEX AND THE COLD WAR

- (Because of the holiday, we will discuss two weeks' worth of readings today—those for 19 February and 25 February.)
- Eric Roorda "McCarthyite in Camelot: The 'Loss' of Cuba, Homophobia, and the Otto Otepka Scandal in the Kennedy State Department" *Diplomatic History* 31 (2007): 723–754.
- Robert Dean, *Imperial Brotherhood: Gender and the Making of Cold War Foreign Policy* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001), Chapter 7 (pp.69-100) (E-book available via UCSD Library).
- Valeria Manzano, "Sexualizing Youth: Morality Campaigns and Representations of Youth in Early 1960s Buenos Aires," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 14, no. 4 (2005): 433-461.
- [OPTIONAL]: Benjamin A. Cowan, *Securing Sex*, Chapter 4-5 (pp.111-179)
- Film: *Fresa y Chocolate* (Reserves)

WEEK 9 (5 MARCH): SEX IN THE US AND SEX IN U.S. EMPIRE

- Excerpt from George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (New York: Basic Books, 1994), Chapter 3 (pp.65-99) (E-book available via UCSD Library).
- John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America* (New York: Rowman, 2006), Introduction, Chapters 2 & 7 (pp. xi-2, 15-39, 139-170) (Reserves)
- Elena Gutiérrez and Liza Fuentes, "Population Control by Sterilization: The Cases of Puerto Rican and Mexican-Origin Women in the United States," *Latino(a) Research Review* 7, no. 3 (2009/2010): 85-100
- Benjamin A. Cowan, "How *Machismo* Got Its Spurs—in English: Social Science, Cold War Imperialism, and the Ethnicization of Hypermasculinity," *Latin American Research Review* 52, no. 4 (2017): 606–622
- [OPTIONAL]: Amy S. Greenberg, *Manifest Manhood and the Antebellum American Empire* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), Chapter 1 (pp. 18-54) (Reserves)
- Film: *Strangers on a Train* (Alfred Hitchcock) (Reserves)
- [OPTIONAL] Film: *Rope* (Alfred Hitchcock)

WEEK 10 (12 MARCH): SEX AND REVOLUTION

- Stephanie Smith, "'If Love Enslaves... Love Be Damned!': Divorce and Revolutionary State Formation in Yucatán" in *Sex in Revolution: Gender, Politics, and Power in Modern Mexico*, ed. Jocelyn Olcott and Mary Kay Vaughan (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006): 99-111 (E-book available via UCSD Library).
- Anne Rubenstein, "The War on *Las Pelonas*: Modern Women and Their Enemies, Mexico City, 1924" in *Sex in Revolution* (pp. 57-80) (E-book available via UCSD Library).
- Michelle Chase, *Revolution within the Revolution: Women and Gender Politics in Cuba, 1952-1962* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2016), Introduction (pp.1-18) (E-book available via UCSD Library).
- Ian Lumsden, *Machos, Maricones, and Gays: Cuba and Homosexuality* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1996), Chapter 3 (pp. 55-80) (E-book available via UCSD Library).

- [OPTIONAL] Jocelyn Olcott, “The Center Cannot Hold: Women on Mexico’s Popular Front,” in *Sex in Revolution* (pp. 223-240).
- Film: *Antes que Anochezca* (Reserves)

ALL FINAL ESSAYS DUE 19 MARCH VIA EMAIL.