Spring 2010
130b/Women and Politics in Latin America
Tues./Friday 9-10:30AM
Office Hours: TF, 3-4:30pm

Professor Eva T. Thorne
Department of Politics
Olin Sang 106
x3496  ethorne@brandeis.edu

Course Description:

As regime change and political movements have swept across the Latin American region in the last few decades, women have participated in increasing numbers – with increasingly diverse goals. The growing research focused on such participation offers a wealth of theoretical and empirical challenges to assumptions about both gender and politics. Drawing on the experiences of women in countries from El Salvador to Brazil, this colloquium examines a series of related issues. What does gender mean, and how does it motivate different women to become politically involved? How are the three principal political regime types of Latin America informed by gender ideology? What have been their impacts on women, and what have been women’s responses? How do class, ethnicity/race, regional solidarity, national politics, and international opportunities influence current women's organizing? What does Latin American feminism look like?

Course grades will be based on the following assignments. The four essays are to be four-pages long (worth 25% each), typed, double spaced, include citations and a bibliography, and follow good essay form. The format should follow either the MLA or Kate Turabian's A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations. Grades on late assignments will be penalized a portion of a letter grade for each day that they are late.

Books for Purchase:


**Course Outline:**

- **Week 1: Introduction**
  Jan. 19 & 22
  [http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/power_schwindt-bayer.pdf](http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/power_schwindt-bayer.pdf) (for Friday)

- **Week 2: Gender Analysis in Latin America.**
  Jan. 26 & 29  What is gender? What does it look like in Latin America? How does it affect women’s interests?


Alvarez, Ch. 1

- **Week 3: Gender and Politics in Latin America**
  Feb. 2 & 5  How does gender influence how women and men participate in politics?

Baldez, chapter 1.

• **Weeks 4&5: Women, Gender, and Authoritarianism.** How have women mobilized against – and for – authoritarian regimes? How are such regimes gendered?

**Week 4: Chile**  
Feb. 9 & 12

Crummett, Maria de los Angeles. “El Poder Feminino: The Mobilization of Women Against Socialism in Chile.” *Latin American Perspectives.* Vol. IV, No. 4 (Fall 1977)  
http://www.jstor.org/stable/2633179?seq=1

Dandavati, Introduction, Chapters 1-3.

Baldez, rest of book.

**Week 5: Holiday**  
Feb. 16 & 19

**Week 6: Argentina**  
Feb. 23 & 26

Guzman Bouvard, entire.

**Week 7: Brazil**  
March 2 & 5

Alvarez, Ch. 2-9 *Topics to be selected*


• **Weeks 8,9,& 10: Women, Gender, and Revolution.** What roles have women played in revolutionary movements? How have women been incorporated in revolutionary regimes? To what extent has there been a “revolution within the revolution” in Cuba and Nicaragua?

**Week 8: Women and Revolution**  
March 9 & 12


Week 9: Cuba  
March 16 & 19

Smith & Padula, entire.

Week 10: Nicaragua  
March 23 & 26


Week 11: Holiday  
Mar. 30 & April 2

- Weeks 12&13: Women, Gender, and Democratization. What has democratization brought for women? To what extent have they been incorporated? What challenges remain, what strategies have been employed? How gendered are democratic regimes?

Week 12: Gendered Transitions  
April 6 & April 9

Htun, Mala, entire.

Alvarez, Ch. 10-11.
Dandavati, Ch. 4.

Video Showing: In Women’s Hands

Week 13: Women and Democracy
April 13 & April 16

Dandavati, Ch. 5, Conclusion.


- **Weeks 14&15: Local Women’s Movements.** What types of women’s organizing are developing in Latin America at the local level? Who is involved, what is addressed, how is change sought?

Week 14: Grassroots groups
April 20 & April 24

Stephen, entire.


Week 15: Race, Ethnicity and Politics
April 27 & April 30


Week 17: Organizing at the Regional and Global Level and Conclusions
May 4

How have Latin American feminisms changed over the last decades? What are the sources of cooperation and tension among activists?

Alvarez, Sonia E.; Friedman, Elisabeth Jay; Beckman, Ericka; Blackwell, Maykei; Chinchilla, Norma Stoltz; Lebon, Nathalie; Navarro, Marysa; Tobar, Marcela Ríos. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture & Society*, Winter2003, Vol. 28 Issue 2, p537 (available on LATTE course website)

http://dissidentvoice.org/2009/03/the-struggle-for-womens-equality-in-latin-america/