CIEE Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course title: Gender, Reproductive Rights and Health in Contemporary Latin America
Course code: GEND 3102 BAAR
Programs offering course: Buenos Aires Open Campus Block
Open Campus Track: Global and Community Health
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Spring Block II 2020

Course Description

The course proposes a review of the history of the women's movement and the development of gender theory in the Latin American region as a framework for understanding the incorporation of sexual rights into health policies. It analyzes the relationship between the struggle for the recognition of sexual and reproductive rights and the construction of democracy and citizenship in the region. Through reading and activities, the course analyzes the diversity of Latin American culture and the challenges that this represents for the design and implementation of health policies. Interculturality, sexual diversity and individual and collective rights are explored.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Understand the historical processes that shape sexual and reproductive health in the region by analyzing current confluences and challenges.
- Categorize the different actors and discourses about sexual and reproductive rights in contemporary Latin America.
- Analyze the paradigm shifts of legal discourses and public health policies in the region.
- Independently source and verify additional relevant sources of information (genealogy)
• Improve analytical and communication capabilities incorporating new conceptual tools to examine contextual political and social processes and the impact in public health policies.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

The course is based in a mandatory participation modality. The course will develop with a variety of strategies including teacher presentation and lecture, open dialogue and discussion, interviews to guest speakers, group discussion and presentations on different events, and out-of-class activities such as visits to institutions or performative events. Site visits to a health center facility and media analyses will provide additional opportunities for learning. Rules for citation and referencing apply.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Reflection Paper I 10%
2. Midterm Exam 25%
3. Reflection Paper II 10%
4. Group Presentation 10%
5. Final Paper 25%
6. Participation 20%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Reflection Paper I

Students will be required to write a short paper providing a critical analysis of visit to the Memorial center, focusing in the experience of giving birth in a clandestine center of detention and the importance of maternity in the construction of human rights activism in Argentina.
It is required to present main description of the place, and include information provided by the official webpage of the Remembrance and Human rights Centre, data from documentaries proposed by instructors and mandatory readings. We would also encourage including a personal reflection.

The paper should be typed, double-spaced 1000/1100 words. All papers must use APA style in citing resources.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be take-home. Student answer two integrative questions in essay form; the expected length of the exam is 1800-2000 words total.

Students will be graded based on the quality of the analysis and the capacity to summarize the main conceptual frameworks of the bibliographic material.

The essays should be in APA citation style.

Reflection Paper II

Students will be required to write a short paper reflecting about the situation of abortion in Argentina. Specifically they will have to watch the film Invisible (Argentina, 2018) directed by Pablo Giorgelli and use the movie as a connector for different approaches and positions (pro/anti-choice within health care system, school sexual education; sexual abuse; family relations; vulnerability in terms of class, gender and age, etc.)

The paper should be typed, double-spaced and 1500 words. All papers must use APA style in citing resources.

The film is available in Netflix with English subtitles

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JilwUZgWDpQ

Group Presentation
Students will present in groups a description of their observation during the visit to a health clinic including a critical analysis of the services offered by the facility, provider’s discourses, physical space and a brief characterization of the population served.

Final Paper

The final paper will be about a specific reproductive or sexual right explored during the course (abortion, contraception, childbirth, intercultural sexual health, male reproductive rights, equal marriage, trans identities). In the first part, students should present the situation of the topic they choose based in mandatory readings and at least 2 other resources (scientific articles, news, videos). As second step, students should compare that situation to US, using accurate material. The expected length of the exam is 2000-2200 words total. Students will be graded based on the quality of the analysis and the capacity to summarize the main conceptual frameworks of the bibliographic material. The essays should be in APA citation style.

During the last class of the course, each student will present orally the findings, using a power point or similar program. Each presentation will last 10-15 minutes.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.
 Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:
N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Class 1.1** Introduction to Gender, Intersectionality & Sexuality

Instructors and students will be presented; the course will be introduced and expectations will be discussed. Students will be invited reflect and write about their previous information about the politics of sexuality and gender in Latin America. They also will be invited to and their first impressions living in an Argentinean domestic unit (“family”).

During the class, we will share their writings as a group. In the second part of the class, instructors will present the framework of the course: gender, intersectionality and sexuality.

Class material:

Butler J., “Your Behavior Creates Your Gender”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo7o2LYATDc

Crenshaw, K., “Definition of intersectionality”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViDtnfQ9FHc

Davis, A. and Judith Butler in Conversation, “On Inequality”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MzmifPGk94

Class  1.2  From Population Control to Reproductive Justice (Part I)

Instructor will present the population policies carried in western countries since the 60s, the connection with the development of new technologies of birth control (birth control pill, new models of IUD) and feminisms.

We will analyses the shift from that point of view (population policies) to a framework that speaks about reproductive rights. We will specially discuss the case of Argentina, Peru and México

Readings: Soto Laveaga, Gabriela (2007), (3).

Class Material:

“Mad Men”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1bPoSEii2M

Week 2
Class  2.1  From Population Control to Reproductive Justice (Part II)
Instruct will present current debates about the use of a new rhetoric –reproductive justice- and its effects in Latin America. We will also discuss the importance of human rights framework in Latin America and the political role of maternity in the Region.

Reading: Morgan, Lynn (2015)

Class Material:

“How Reproductive Justice Serves as a Model for Progressive Organizing”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuEUEGcNiDo

“Mothers of Plaza de Mayo”: https://vimeo.com/91970933


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oaDCbNRkAs

Class 2.2 Health & Abortion from the Human Rights Perspective

This class analyzes the restrictive abortion policies in the region and the implications this has for access to health as a right and the limitations to women's citizenship. We will focus in religious and secular barriers for accessing to legal abortion. We will also discuss the importance of technologies and scientific development (misoprostol/mifepristone and ultrasound) and the construction of the “unborn” as a citizen.


Petchesky, Rosalind (1987), pp. 263-292

Class Material:


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3R3ADRfz4b4
Class 2.3 Sexual Politics & Democracy in Latin America

In this class, students will analyze the intersections of gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity within heteronormativity in the 19th century. The students will localize sexual politics in the framework of various projects of modernization and current features of Latin American politics. Instruct will present main relevant points in Latin America history concerning gender and sexualities. Focusing in civil rights and marriage, students will discuss in class some hypothesis about Equal Marriage Law (2010) in Argentina. The class will focus also in the history of LGBT organizations in the Region.

Reading: Pecheny, Mario y De la Deheza, Rafael. Corrales, Javier (2010).

Week 3

Class 3.1 From Sexual Diversity to Sexual Dissidence

During this class instructor will present the deconstruction of stigmatized identities within the heteronormative framework. Students will reflect on the meaning of the transition from the term "diversity" to that of "dissidence" which, based on the queer theory, questions the idea of "normality" reaffirming the different expressions of sexuality as a human right.

Guest speaker Mauro Cabral will be present to discuss with students about intersex and trans rights activism. Cabral is the founding co-director of GATE in 2009 with Justus Eisfeld and promoted to Executive Director in January 2017.

Reading: Kara, Sheherezade (2017).

Class 3.2 New (?) Masculinities

This class examines the role of men in reproductive issues. Guest Speaker PhD Daniel Jones will be present to discuss and focus in
recent cases in which men were taking part of health projects related to AIDS/HIV and other that offer vasectomies. The take-home midterm exam will be distributed.


Class 3.3 Human Rights & Women's Organizations

This class explores the development and collaborations between human rights organizations and the women’s movement in the region. The students will analyze the advances and legal changes that led to the consolidation of a sexual rights movement at the regional level, laying the foundations for the current sexual politics in Latin America and the debate about democracy and citizenship.

In the second part of the class, the co-curricular guided visit to Espacio de la Memoria will take place. The visit will focus in the experience of giving birth in a clandestine center of detention and the importance of maternity in the construction of human rights activism in Argentina.

Students will also reflect on the evolution of the women's movement in Latin America. From women fighting on guerrilla organizations, and mother of plaza de mayo to the current and vibrant feminist regional movement. The will also reflect about the important role of exile in the process of going feminist.

Reading:

Nora Cortinas. (2000)

Class discussion:


America Latina y el Caribe. “Female political participation”

Informe especial: Encuentro Nacional de Mujeres,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDFzIG9u6AQ

Week 4
Class Abortion Practices & the Law: Situation in Latin America

4.1

The context of restrictive laws is most countries of Latin America represents a challenge for State policies to guarantee the access to sexual and reproductive rights and health. In this class instructor will present the case of Mexico City and Uruguay where abortion is legal since 2010 and 2012. We will process in Argentina and we will focus in the role of Socorristas en Red and other women's organization in providing safe abortion in a restricted context.

Due: Reflection Paper (I)

Reading: Briozo, L (2016), pp. S3-S6

Class Material:
Feminist legal mobilization for abortion rights in Latin America
Alba Rubial, 22 March 2018.
https://www.opendemocracy.net/democraciaabierta/feminist-legal-mobilization-for-abortion-rights-in-latin-america

Socorristas en Red. Quienes somos?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_dMFj4Ey84

Class 4.2 Religion, New Spiritualities & Reproductive & Sexual Rights

In this class instructor will present how religious thought influences and informs public and political discourses. We will focus in the cases that religious institutions limits bodily autonomy for women, sexual diversity, and some cases that demonstrate the opposite.
Reading:

Vaggione, Juan Marco (2012).

Class Material:

Reproductive justice: A different horizon | Willie Parker | TEDxJacksonHole

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFpNJgtoCvg

Class 4.3 Co-curricular Activity: Health Clinic

By visiting a health clinic (TBC), students will observe how the public health sector is organized, and understand how sexual and reproductive rights are integrated into health care services. They will also learn about providers’ discourses and practices as well as the use of services by the population served.

Due: Midterm Exam.

Reading: Mónica Gogna and Nina Zamberlin (2004)

Class Materials:

“Derechos Sexuales y reproductivos, decisiones, derechos y deseos”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUhVgzMU6Bo

Week 5

Class Role of Women's Movement in Transformation of Regional & National Legislation 5.1

The students will explore the role of the Latin American women's movement and civil society in changes in the legal frameworks at the national and regional level. They will analyze the content and definitions of the Montevideo Consensus and its operative guidelines, which were crafted with input from feminists and women’s organization from across the region and considered more radical and ambitious than the 2030 United Nation's agenda for development.
Students will also present their views and observations of the visit to the clinic.

Due: Group oral presentations.

Reading: Lynn M. Morgan (2015)

Class Material:


IPAS. (2015).

Class Sexual & Reproductive Rights in the Current Feminist Agenda

By examining the cultural battle for new meanings of sexuality, this module analyzes feminism or 99% feminism. It presents and discusses the main conceptual articulations and disputes over the meaning of democracy and sexual politics.

A guest speaker (TBD) from the collective Ni una menos will be present to discuss transnational women's movement that originally began in Argentina and developed into a regional and international network of groups and organizations from different backgrounds and agendas. Through different actions to transform discriminatory discourses and practices against women into good practices.

During the interview, students will be able to examine the different organizational strategies, and the place of sexual and reproductive rights in relation to other issues. Students will be asked to look for information about Ni Una Menos movement and the representative coming to the class.

Reading: Fury and Euphoria: A Declaration from Ni Una Menos to Our Feminist Comrades Around the World. The battle for legal abortion in Argentina is the starting point of a much broader struggle.

Class 5.3  Reproductive Health & Interculturality

During this class instructor will present the main challenges that face public policies in the field of reproductive rights in terms of interculturality.

Guest speaker, PhD Silvia Hirsch, will explain the situation of indigenous women in Argentina, their lives in the communities, their productive and reproductive roles, leadership, and the different ways to experience their maternities.

Due: Reflection Paper II.

Week 6
Class 6.1 Final Projects Presentation / Debrief of the Course

In this class students will present their final project presentations, followed by a brief debate, reflections and conclusion about the course.

Due: Final paper.

Course Materials
Readings


Gogna Monica and Zamberling Nina. “Sexual and Reproductive Health in Argentina Public Policy Transitions” in a Context of Crisis in Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies · December 2004


Kara, Sheherezade (2017) Gender is not an illness. How pathologizing trans people violates international human rights law. GATE.


Online Resources

These materials will be used in class or will be part of the resources that students will analyze.

Paro de mujeres. 2016

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJK52OU3pQ8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efeb352C6xE&t=42s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpPVMg2S8Is
8M 2017. Colectivo NIUNAMENOS
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lB1cLOjv4mI
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8R0NhHN_09Y
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgZtBu2HD6A
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urOjBDfXEhk
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urOjBDfXEhk
Feminism, Culture, Politics: A Conversation about #NiUnaMenos Argentina NYU (in spanish)
Colectivo emergente.
https://www.facebook.com/comunicacion.emergentes/videos/791035234393351/
https://www.facebook.com/comunicacion.emergentes/videos/788132021350339/
https://www.facebook.com/comunicacion.emergentes/videos/791981810965360/
Colectivo Manifiesta
https://www.facebook.com/manifiestacomunicacion/videos/1317675478347717/
Colectivo Abraxas. Uruguay
https://www.facebook.com/abraxasUy/videos/261872910945393/
Colectivo Catalejo
https://www.facebook.com/colectivo.catalejo/videos/824074551075049/
Media Resources
Antipatriarcal. Ana Tijoux
Mis Bolivia. Paren de matarnos

Diversidad sexual

Campaña Matrimonio igualitario. Argentina

Aniversario de la ley de matrimonio igualitario. Ex ESMA