

# REL 4382 U01 18246

*Latin American Women's Religious Experience*

Spring 2022 – TERM A (January 10- February 26)

Ana María Bidegain

[Bidegain@fiu.edu](mailto:Bidegain@fiu.edu)

**Course Time Zone | Eastern Standard Time (EST). Course due dates are according to this time zone**

## **Course Description and Purpose**

This course focuses on women's religious experience, about their social and political practices within their historic and geographic contexts: Latin America and the Caribbean.

It analyzes the religious history, considering the marginalizing narratives that render women's contributions invisible, a reflection of colonialism and dominance based on socioeconomic status, race, and gender, inherent in religious discourse and practices.

The course analyzes how, historically, religions have provided rich resources for liberation and resistance to counter oppression, as well as means for the legitimation of power and domination.

It discusses and posits theoretical and methodological tools for an alternative reading: moving away from top-down perspectives, to perspectives grounded on lived experiences.

It recasts events and narratives in which women have played significant, central roles fashioning their religions, rather than being passive, subjugated members.

It examines both the production of women's religious discourse and the production of religious discourse on women that justifies and promotes their invisibility, legitimizing women's sociocultural disadvantaged status and political underrepresentation.

## **Justification**

Until the 1970s, women's presence and visibility in history, as well as their political practices, have been resolutely dismissed, particularly in recorded religious history and associated narratives. This course fills this gap; aiding students with tools and concepts to better understand how Latin American and Caribbean women have been instrumental in actively shaping the religious and political contemporary landscape.

## Course Objectives

- 1) To have a nuanced and critical understanding of the religious experience of Latin American and Caribbean women, by examining female-centered perspectives of gender, class and ethnicity.
- 2) To understand and articulate the interplay of religion, politics and economics in the gendered societies of Latin America.
- 3) To comprehend, from a critical gender perspective, the important roles played by the Christian churches in the colonization and acculturation processes of the southern regions of the world, and in the development of globalization; and at the same time, how women also found in Religious Institutions or organizations a space to overcome some of these difficulties.

## Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Netiquette \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)
- [Inclusivity Statement](#)

## Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Proctored Exam Policy

**Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.**

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our [Student Proctored Exam Instructions \(Links to an external site.\)](#) webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

## Textbook and Course Materials

There is no textbook in English on Women's religious experience or Women, Religion, and Politics, but there are several journal articles and book chapters that will be used during this course.

Due to the current COVID 19' situation and the difficulties to go to the library, several required readings will be uploaded in CANVAS by the professor.

- *Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Restoring Women to History*

Marysa Navarro, and Virginia S. Sanchez, Indiana University Press, 1999

ISBN-10: 025321307X

ISBN-13: 978-0253213075

- *Latin American Women and the Search for Social Justice*

Francesca Miller. UPNE, 1991

ISBN-10: 0874515580

ISBN-13: 978-0874515589

Aquino, Maria Pilar, et al. *A Reader in Latina Feminist Theology: Religion and Justice*. University of Texas Press, 2002.

Aquino, Maria Pilar, and Maria Jose Rosado Nunes. *Feminist Intercultural Theology: Latina Explorations for a Just World*. Orbis Books, 2007.

Drogus, Carol Ann. *Women, Religion, and Social Change in Brazil's Popular Church*. University of Notre Dame Press, 1997.

Lavrin, Asunción. *Latin American Women*. Greenwood Press, 1978.

Socolow, Susan Migden. *The Women of Colonial Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Schwaller, John Frederick. *The History of the Catholic Church in Latin America: From Conquest to Revolution and Beyond*. New York University Press, 2011.

Bidegain, Ana María.

- [Participación y protagonismo de las mujeres en la historia del catolicismo latinoamericano](#). Editorial San Benito, Buenos Aires 2009.

- *Autonomía y control religioso*, Vozes, Sao Paulo, 1994

## **Expectations of this Course**

This is a hybrid course, which means most of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in a hybrid course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, hybrid courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **log in** to the course **3 times** per week;
- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted;**
- **respond** to **emails** within **2 days**;
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline

The instructor will:

- log in to the course **twice a** week;
- respond to discussion postings within **7 days of the deadline**;
- respond to **emails** within **48 hours**;
- grade assignments within **7 days** of the assignment deadline.

## Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox, email, or by phone. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within two days.

## Course Structure and Methodology

- 1) The professor will introduce the material at the zoom meetings at the beginning of each learning unit.
- 2) She will share PPPs to complete the information required for each unit;
- 3) Recommend the specific readings for each unity.
- 4) provide guide and support toward the development of the final research paper throughout the semester.

**Students requirements** are:

- 1) Participation in the Discussions Forum Weekly.

2) Weekly oral reading participation and discussion in the seminar.

3) Paper developed in three stages.

### **Participation in the Discussions Forum and in the seminar Weekly**

- a) present a short summary (250-300 words) followed by comments on the required reading assigned the first week to each student.

-b) make comments to another of your classmates' readings summary and comments.

1. c) Present your weekly work in the seminar.

A clear and concise summary, as well as the correct use of concepts, is expected.

The reading presentations should be done by Mondays at Noon and comments and feedback by Wednesdays at noon.

Each post will be graded. Each discussion is worth 5 points. To receive all possible points, a posting must be on time, be easy to read, free of careless mistakes, and appropriately address the issue(s) or question(s) presented by the instructor.

### **Research Paper (Three stages of the same paper)**

- Graduate students must do a 20 pages final paper in three stages.

- Undergraduates students must do a 15 pages final paper in three stages.

#### **FIRST STAGE**

**Research Paper proposal:** Due January 25. This paper must present the topic to be developed into a final paper. It should be the first stage of the work. This paper should explain the reason and motivations to develop the research paper, the major sources, and bibliography as well as the hypothesis and methodology to accomplish the work.

#### **SECOND STAGE**

**Literature review analysis of the sources. Due on February 8** (a continuation of the first, with a deeper analysis of the sources, of the bibliography, and further development toward the final paper)

#### **THIRD STAGE**

FIRST DRAFT OF THE RESEARCH PAPER WILL BE DISCUSSED **February 23**

**Final paper: *Due on February 26.***

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

**Zoom Meetings** will be held on the following dates/time:

- **Wednesdays at 5 pm**

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

- Reference the [Zoom Student Tutorials \(Links to an external site.\)](#) to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.
- Access the [Zoom Test Meeting Room \(Links to an external site.\)](#) to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FIU Canvas Help Team \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

## Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Participation in the Discussions Forum and in the seminar Weekly	6	5	30	50%
FIRST STAGE PAPER-PROPOSAL	1	15	20	15%
SECOND STAGE PAPER LITERATURE REVIEW	1	15	20	15%
FINAL PAPER	1	20	30	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

### Course Calendar

Module 1 - January 12 - *Introduction & Main Concepts to Study Women and Religion*

Module 2 – January 19 - *Women at the Center of Popular Religions' Roots and at the Margins of the Imposed New Religion*

Module 3- January 26 - *Women and the Crises of the Catholic Church under Liberal States.*

Module 4 – February 2 - *The Role of Women and Religions Building Nation-States*

Module 5 - February 9 - *Religions, Women's Rights, Politics and Welfare States of the 20th Century. New Immigration and Religious Diversity.*

Module 6 – February 16 - *Second Vatican II and social transformations' impact on women and Women's Orders and Congregations. Women Facing Political Turmoil.*