For Spring 2020!

HY 342-2C /HY 498-2C:

Sex & Society in Latin America
(T/Th, 11-12:15)

Women in Latin America long have been seen mainly as mothers, wives & homemakers (“amas de casa”). The reality is more complex. HY 342 explores that reality, using history to show the multiple roles women have played in Latin American societies since the early years of Spanish & Portuguese colonization. It also shows how those roles have evolved in response to changes such as Latin America’s political independence (1810-1821), 19th century nation-building and 20th century economic modernization along with the rise of feminism(s) and important reformist and revolutionary movements of the last 60 years. Some questions we’ll explore: How have both women & men shaped their societies? How have gender norms and ideals—including the broader ideology of male dominance (or, patriarchy)—affected relations between the sexes along with the lives of individuals? How have women challenged patriarchal traditions and, over time, won new rights for themselves and greater equality with men?

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