

**Women in Spain: from Tradition to Modernity**  
**Boston University (in Madrid)**

Professor Elena Postigo Castellanos

***Course Outline***

**I. Tradition**

***Medieval society on the Iberian peninsula: Muslim, Jewish, and Christian Women***

- Week 1. Readings: “Mujeres en el infierno”; “Médicos por los Derechos Humanos denuncian la violencia y sistemática discriminación femenina en Afganistán”
- Week 2. Readings: M. Aler Gay, “La mujer en el discurso ideológico del catolicismo”
- Week 3. Movie: *La Linterna Roja*

***Women in the Golden Age: the paradigm of the ideal Woman in the Counter***

***Reformation: The Catholic woman – María***

- Week 4. Readings: E. Gacto, “Entre la debilidad y la simpleza. La mujer ante la ley”
- Week 5. Readings: Catholic thought about women: Fray Luis de León. *La perfecta casada*

***Convents and Nuns***

- Week 6. Readings: selected autobiographical texts from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Week 7. Visit to the convent of the Descalzas Reales de Madrid

***Sofía or the feminine model of the Enlightenment***

- Week 8. Readings: V. del Seixo, “Discurso filosófico y económico político sobre la capacidad o incapacidad natural de las mujeres para las ciencias”; C. Martín Gaité, “El amor en la España de la Ilustración”

**II. Modernity**

***Basic Tenants of Hispanic ‘feminism’ of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: the female question – a debate***

- Week 9. Readings: C. Arenal, “Las mujeres que lucharon solas”; M.I. Cabrera Bosch, “Las mujeres que lucharon solas: Concepción Arenal y Emilia Pardo Bazán” (pp.44-49)

***Revolution and Counterrevolution: emancipation vs. returning to the home***

- Week 10. Readings: M.A. Barrachina, “Ideal de la Mujer Falangista. Ideal Falangista de la Mujer” ; I. Julian, “La representación gráfica de las mujeres” (1936-1938)

***Women under Franco’s regime***

- Week 11. Readings: Di Febo, Giuliana: *La condición de la mujer y el papel de la Iglesia en la Italia fascista y en la España franquista: ideologías, leyes y asociaciones femeninas.*

***The Women's Movement in Democratic Spain 1965-1990***

Week 12. Readings: E.G. Biosca: "De la emancipación a la liberación y la valoración de la diferencia. El movimiento de mujeres en el Estado español"

***Women Today I: Discrepancies: Constitution, Laws and Social Reality***

Week 13. Readings: Instituto de la Mujer: *La mujer en cifras* ; Alberdi, Christina y otras: *Estrategias para la igualdad de sexos*

***Women Today II: Education, work, health and politics***

Week 14. Readings: Instituto de la Mujer: *La mujer en cifras*

***Assignments and course grades:*** The final grade is based on class participation, exams and a final paper.  
The readings indicated for each week are to be completed before the class meetings.

***Note about the Course Schedule and Readings:***

There is a list of supplemental texts suggested by the professor, as well as a wealth of sources to explore in Madrid.

The professor may adjust the schedule of the classes if needed due to time or other constraints.

The professor may also add or omit readings due to the students' interests or given the publication of new texts or articles.