

Women in Spain
Professor Elena Postigo
Boston University in Madrid

A History of Women in Spain: from tradition to modernity

Professor: Elena Postigo Castellanos, PhD

Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00am – 10:20am

Office hours: By appointment

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COURSE OVERVIEW

To understand a country and its people, one must take into account their traditions: study the past in order to comprehend the present. Spain has traditionally had a unique way of considering the roles of women and family in everyday life, and the reasons for this can be found in its history. Looking back is perhaps the best way to understand Spanish women of today: their values, ways of thinking, relationships with family, professional interests and goals, understanding of gender, etc. We will also spend time analyzing religion and the role of the Catholic Church in developing the models of women, especially between the 16th and 20th centuries.

Throughout this course, we will analyze the following topics and time periods:

- The distinct models of women developed throughout history, their authors and protagonists, and their effects and images in the modern world (8th-20th centuries)
 - The triad of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian women (8th-16th centuries);
 - The model of the Catholic woman: everyone is named María (16th-20th centuries);
 - Women during the Enlightenment. Sofía: a world of feminine hope and learning (18th and 19th centuries);
 - The female trajectory during the 19th and 20th centuries (I). Ana: The angel of the home;
 - The female trajectory during the 19th and 20th centuries (II). My name is Liberty: the woman in Spanish democracy (20th century).
- The historical conditions that led to the rejection of each model while simultaneously setting the stage for the adoption of each subsequent model.
- Spanish women today, emphasizing three issues: prostitution, violence against women and the image of women

OVERALL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In addition to course objectives, the following goals are pursued during this course:

- Improve oral and written expression;
- Improve public presentation skills;
- Learn to be responsible for your own education;

- Improve ability to analyze and synthesize;
- Learn to develop comparative analyses.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- For students to understand the role of the Spanish woman in modern society after studying two models during the course: the Catholic model of women and family and vs. the Enlightenment model of women;
- For students to be exposed to some of the basic challenges and difficulties facing Spanish women today;
- To situate the feminine models of Spanish society in a broader context, such as in Europe and beyond, in order to learn to how they relate;
- For students to compare the way of life of Spanish women with that of American women.

COURSE CALENDAR

Part I: Muslims, Jews, and Christian Women (8th-15th centuries)

Week 1: Medieval society on the Iberian Peninsula – three religions, three cultures, three ways of understanding the female.

Readings: (1) K. Erhan Bozkurt: *Life in the harem*. Istanbul, 2005. pp. 12-16 (2) Manuela Marin: “Nombres sin voz: la mujer y la cultura en Al-Andalus” in *Historia de las mujeres en Occidente*. Madrid, Taurus, 1992 t.II pp. 551-562 Movie: *La linterna roja*, (the problem of polygamy)

Week 2: The past in the present. Vestiges of medieval traditions in the Muslim world (I) “Honor Crimes”.

Readings: (1) Souad, *Burned Alive: A Survivor of an "Honor Killing" Speaks Out: "Souad, quemada viva"*. Madrid 2005, pp. 12 -26 (2) *La Comunidad musulmana en España* Real Instituto El Cano, Madrid, 2006

Documentaries: *Islam hoy: Mujeres musulmanas en España Parte I y Parte II*. Laure Rodríguez (Unión de mujeres musulmanas en España). Primer encuentro de Mujeres musulmanas en Madrid (2012)

Week 3: The past in the present. Vestiges of medieval times in the Muslim world. (II). Reading: Ruiz Almodovar “La mujer en la legislación musulmana” in *Árabes. Judías y cristianas*. Universidad de Granada, Granada 1993, pp. 36-47

Part II: We’re all named María (16th-20th centuries)

Week 4: The Catholic model of women and family.

Readings: (1) A. Gay, "La mujer en el discurso ideológico del catolicismo" en *VV AA Nuevas perspectivas sobre la mujer*, Madrid 1982. pp. 232-248

(2) Fray Luis de León, *La perfecta casada* in *Obras completas de Fray Luis de León*. Edición revisada y anotada por Felix García, Madrid, 1944 (Selection of 10 pages) (3) Elena Postigo Castellanos "Tu hija soy, sin honra estoy" en Pilar Pérez Cantó, (coord.) *Origen histórico de la violencia contra las mujeres*, Madrid 2009, pp. 30-36

Week 5: Women in the eyes of the law.

Readings: Ana Arranza Guzman, "Imágenes de la mujer en la legislación conciliar" *La mujer medieval y su ámbito jurídico*, pp. 33-57. Madrid, 1990

Week 6: The difficult journey from Eve to María. Marian institutions and religious centers.

Reading (1) Manuel Trens, *María Iconografía de la Virgen en el arte español*. Madrid, 1946, pp. 100-111 (2) Ana Fedele, *El camino de María Magdalena* Madrid, 2008 pp. 26-31

Movie: *The Magdalene Sisters*

Week 7: Convents and nuns.

Readings: Selection of texts about convents and nuns in the 16th and 17th centuries. Various authors; Rules of the Saint Clara order. Memories from Confession. The Virtuous Nun

Reading: Extracts from various texts: Fray Antonio Arbiol, *La religiosa instruida*, cap. VI p. 12, Madrid 1791; María Zayas "El traidor contra su sangre", en *Desengaños amorosos Noche octava*, Madrid 1659, pág. 299; Fray Juan de la Presentación, *Vida devota de la beata madre María Ana de Jesús*, Madrid, 1673, pp. 99-100; *Regla de las monjas de Santa Clara* dada por el Papa Urbano IV, pp, 31; "Biografía de sor Verónica de Castello" in Pardo Bazán *Cuadros religiosos, Obras completas*, Tomo II, Madrid 1973, pp 1575-1576.

Week 8: The first critiques of the Catholic model of women and family.

Readings: (1) Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Poema "Hombres necios...". In *Antología*, Madrid, 1961 (2) Friar Benito de Feijoo. Theatre criticism: Tomo I Discurso XVI "Defensa de las mujeres," Benito Jerónimo Feijoo, *Teatro crítico universal*, tomo primero (1726). Texto tomado de la edición de Madrid 1778 (por D. Joaquín Ibarra, a costa de la Real Compañía de Impresores y Libreros), tomo primero (*nueva impresión, en la cual van puestas las adiciones del Suplemento en sus lugares*), pp. 325-398.

Week 9: The past and the present: the legacy of Catholicism and its effects on Spanish women today. Discussing the concept of self-denial/abnegation.

Reading: Inmaculada Cubero, "Pandora: en el origen del logos. Lo femenino como registro del mal" in *Mujeres y hombres en la formación del pensamiento occidental*, Madrid, vol. I pp.65-

Movie: *Solas*

Part III: Sofía: A world of feminine hope and learning (18th century)

Week 10: Ana: Angel of the home and hearth (19th-20th centuries).

Reading: Maria Luisa Meijide Pardo, Vicente del Seixo, "Discussion about arts and sciences" in *Reforma agrícola y emancipación de la mujer*. Madrid, 1989

Part IV: Women in dictatorship and democracy (20th-21st centuries)

Week 11: Women in the Francoist Regime

Reading: (1) Lourdes Benería, *Mujer, Economía y Patriarcado durante la España franquista* Madrid, 2009 (2^a edición), pp. 49-60

(2) Sección Femenina de la Falange, *Economía doméstica para bachillerato y magisterio*. Madrid 1959 (3 pages)

Week 12: My name is Liberty: Women in Spanish Democracy, 20th century (II).

Reading: Ana Aguado, "Ciudadanía, mujeres y democracia" *Electronic Journal of Constitutional History Number 6 - September 2005 Copyright: AS-2115-99 ISSN: 1576-4729*

Movie: *Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios*

Part III Spanish Woman in the 21st Century

Weeks 13 & 14: Equality policies and their results

Reading: "El observatorio de la imagen de la mujer: Acciones, Informes, Quejas".

<http://www.inmujer.gob.es/observatorios/observimg/home.htm>

<http://www.inmujer.gob.es/observatorios/observimg/acciones/home.htm>

SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

1. Participation in an academic debate entitled "Against mistreatment and cruelty".
2. Visit to the Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales.
3. Depending on scheduled activities in Madrid during the semester, more activities will be added.

PRESENTATIONS – PART OF COURSE SCHEDULE

Students may select their own presentation topics, or choose one of the following:

1. Political parties and women.
2. Violence against women in the family space (21st century).
3. How Spanish women view themselves and each other.
4. Women in the communication field (past and present).
5. Abortion in Spain.

CLASSES

The professor is responsible for explaining all course material and making adjustments to the time assigned to each topic as needed. The explanation of each lesson will be given twice. The first time, a general description of the material will be offered, outlining its content and highlighting the most interesting points. The second time, more detailed attention will be paid to the material, with the depth and clarifications that are

considered pertinent, and to concrete aspects of the topic, about which students will have read previously. Additionally, Spanish films related to the topics discussed in class will be used to facilitate analysis.

GRADING

Exam 1 – 20%

Exam 2– 20% (Paper)

Exam 3- 20% (Paper)

Participation (Discussions on readings and films)– 40%

The Exam 1 consists of a presentation of one topic studied in class. Each student will submit an outline of the presentation topic, with an annotated bibliography.

Exam 2 – consists of a textual analysis in which students must apply knowledge acquired throughout the semester from readings and discussions.

Exam 3 – consists in a paper based in several articles

Discussions of readings– The discussion of readings is a critical aspect of this class, and will thus be a significant component of the evaluation. This includes daily participation in class, contributions to group debates and discussions, work in group projects, and leadership during film

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

At the end of each topic, a selection of bibliographic material will be offered that relates to the issues discussed in class. Obligatory readings will be handed out in class with sufficient time for students to prepare their work at home.

Furthermore, an annotated selection of general works is included here to supplement the specific bibliography.

T. Brullet *et al.*, *La Dona: repertori bibliografic, 1970 hasta 1984*. Barcelona 1986

This is a study of works about women found in the specialized documentation centers of the Barcelona and Valencia libraries.

C. Olmeda Gómez: *La mujer en la bibliografía española 1984 1988*. Madrid, 1989

In one sense, this can be considered a continuation of the work listed above, but with some differences: the 622 included works are limited to work by Spanish authors. It also includes monographic research projects and proposals made at conferences.

AA VV, *El trabajo de las mujeres a través de la historia*, Madrid 1985

This work focuses on Europe and Spain and includes many graphics. It allows for a chronological understanding, from the classic Greco-Roman world to the modern period of economic crisis.

P. Voltes, *Las mujeres en la historia de España*, Madrid

A study of distinct aspects of the female condition throughout the history of Spain, grouping women within distinct frameworks: saints, witches, queens, maids, intellectuals, mothers, prostitutes, etc.

I. Morant, *La mujer en la Historia*, Madrid, 2003

Despite its general and universal character, this work offers guidelines for analysis that are valid for the Spanish case.

S. Madariaga, *Mujeres españolas*, Madrid

A classic, required reference that studies Spanish women from distinct perspectives through concrete examples.

E. Bornay, *Mujeres de la Biblia en la pintura del Barroco*. Madrid 1998

An analysis of the different biblical women of the old and new testaments who were objects of interest for painters in the 16th-18th centuries.

Diccionario de estudios de género. Buenos Aires 2007

Concepts and categories developed in the feminist genre and theory, from an interdisciplinary perspective.

M. A. Duran *et al.* *La mujer en el mundo contemporáneo*. Madrid, 1981

This is the transcription of a series of courses from a conference given by the Contemporary Humanities department at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in 1980. It offers a vision of women from different academic and cultural disciplines: women as subject-object of history, women and the church, etc.

R.M. Capel y otras, *Mujer y sociedad en España 1700-1975*, Madrid 1996

This work discusses the trajectory of the Spanish woman from the 18th century, when the feminine model was first questioned, until the end of Franco's regime. In the introduction, the status of women at the end of the Old Regime (18th century) is analyzed.

P. Folguera *et al.*, *El feminismo en España: Dos siglos de Historia*, Madrid 1988

This work gathers the texts of a course taught in 1988 initiated by the Pablo Iglesias Foundation, whose objective was to analyze Spanish feminism in its broadest sense, from the appearance of the first ideas about emancipation to the second wave of feminism in the 70s. In it, the feminist movement is analyzed from different perspectives: ideology, structure, changes in women's mentality, etc.

Márquez de la Plata, *Mujeres pensadoras, místicas, científicas y heterodoxas*. Madrid 2008.

A study dedicated to analyzing the evolution of the role of women in society by considering the life of certain women in the 16th-17th centuries (Sor Luisa de la Ascensión, Lucrecia de Lisboa, etc.).

SUGGESTED LIBRARIES

Biblioteca del Instituto de la Mujer del Ministerio de Asuntos Sociales.

Calle Condesa del Benedito, number 30

Biblioteca del Instituto Universitario del Estudios de la Mujer, UAM.

Biblioteca de Humanidades. Campus de Cantoblanco 28049. Madrid.

COMMUNITY OF LEARNING: CLASS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Class Etiquette- BU Madrid policy states that **the use of laptops and cell phones is completely prohibited during class** unless you have an academic accommodation previously authorized. Compliance with this policy will affect the participation grade.

Attendance and Absences- Attendance is **mandatory** in class. Students are expected to stay informed of lecture notes and class announcements for any missed class meetings. Absences are only excused for medical reasons (with doctor's note), observance of religious holidays, or other justifications according to university policy ([Policy on Religious Observance](#)); personal travel does *not* constitute an excused absence. Every unexcused absence will have a negative impact on the participation grade.

Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities- If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at (617) 353-3658 to coordinate any reasonable accommodation requests.

Academic Conduct Statement- It is every student's responsibility to read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be "...expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the Dean." Review the entire Academic Conduct Code here:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>