CULTURAL TOPICS: WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA

Course Instructor: Carol Andreas (Visiting Professor)

COURSE CONTENT:

This course will focus on women in Latin America who have been least visible in literature and written history until recent decades, including those who are presently taking center stage in struggles against foreign domination and exploitation. Although the texts for the course focus on the experiences of such women in the countries of Peru, Bolivia, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, we will also discuss and compare their experiences with those of women in other countries such as Chile, Mexico, Cuba, and Brasil. In each case, we will try to understand what kind of work women do, what kinds of relations they have with each other, with men and children, and with political institutions. We will be particularly concerned with the forces of change affecting their lives and the ways they themselves are creating conditions for social change and cultural renewal.

We will discuss one of the following books, in the order given, each week of the course. Supplementary materials will be introduced to cover such topics as Women in the Industrial Labor Force, Women Marketers, Women and thier Families, Migrant Women, Capitalist and Socialist Development, Women and Religion, Women and Art, Feminist Organization, and Political Repression.

Required Texts:

*When Women Rebel: The Rise of Popular Feminism in Peru*, by Carol Andreas

*Let Me Speak: Testimony of Domitila, a Woman of the Bolivian Mines*, Domitila Barrios de Chungara with Moema Viezzer

*L Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*, edited and introduced by Elisabeth Burgos-Debray

*Sandino’s Daughters: Women of the Nicaraguan Revolution*, by Margaret Randall

Grading:

one-third: class participation
one-third: “thought-papers”
one-third: final term paper

There will be one term essay due on the last day of the course. Short “thought-papers” will be written from time to time as the course progresses, and these will be read by the instructor in order to provide both students and teacher with feedback. Regular attendance and participation are expected. If a student must be absent on any given day, extra assignments may be required.

4/19/89