

**San José State University**  
**College of Humanities and Arts**  
**Department of World Languages and Literatures**  
**SPAN 160A- Mujeres en Acción: Soldaderas Feministas en América y España**  
**Fall 2018 (4 units)**

**Instructor:** Prof. Vanessa Marie Fernández

**Office Location:** Clark Hall 408M

**Telephone:** (408) 924- 4610 [please email]

**Email:** vanessa.fernandez@sjsu.edu

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1:30-2:30pm, Thursdays 1:00pm -2:30pm  
<https://fernandezwllsjsu.youcanbook.me>

**Class Day/Time:** Wednesdays 3-5:45pm

**Classroom:** BBC 203

**Prerequisites:** There are no formal prerequisites, but an ability to read and write in Spanish is necessary.

**MYSJSU**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the course website: <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1268375>

You are responsible for regularly checking my.sjsu.edu to learn of any updates. For support: visit the ecampus site at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>

**Course Description:** SPAN 160A Fall 2018: “Mujeres en acción: Soldaderas feministas en América y España.” Taught in Spanish, this culture course surveys leading Feminist figures and movements across Latin America, Spain, and the United States during the 19<sup>th</sup>- the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The first part of this course, “La prensa y la novela: Armas feministas”/ “The Press and the Novel: Feminist Weapons,” focuses how womxn have and continue to use writing in newspapers and magazines to advance social progress for womxn in cultural and political circles. The second half of this course, “Feminismo y Revolución”/ “Feminism and Revolution,” centers on womxn’s participation in the Mexican Revolution, the Spanish Civil War, the Sandinista Revolution, and the Cuban Revolution. Topics addressed in both parts of this course include Feminism and Nationalism, Feminism and the Domestic Sphere, and Feminism and Race. This course concludes by connecting the trajectory of the leading figures and movements studied throughout the semester with womxn’s activism today. Readings for this course include theoretical articles and films on Feminism in Spain, Latin America, and the United States, alongside journal articles, essays, and works of fiction written by the “Mujeres en acción: Soldaderas feministas en América y España” studied in this survey.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Once you complete this course, you will be able to:

- read carefully and critically in Spanish and in English.
- organize your ideas into a strong argument in order to give a succinct yet powerful oral presentation in Spanish.
- respectfully debate difficult topics in the classroom and online in our course discussion forum.
- work collaboratively, fairly, and productively with your peers to present often-sensitive topics.
- describe how womxn in Latin America, Spain, and the US have broken with patriarchy to create a legitimate space for themselves in society, in the home, and professionally.
- identify womxn in Latin America, Spain, and the US, who have broken with patriarchy to create a legitimate space for themselves in society, in the home, and professionally.
- understand how the womxn we study in this course helped pave the path that you are on right now as a college student at San José State.
- identify how gender inequity is still present in our lives and our society.
- determine what role you can play in shaping your community towards greater gender equity.

## Focusing gender across Spanish speaking countries, you will:

- a. demonstrate familiarity with significant individuals, key eras, and major historical events and developments within nations and cultures.
- b. demonstrate an understanding of how the political, religious, social, economic, and educational systems and institutions in nations and cultures have been shaped by and have influenced the development and evolution of cultures (e.g., traditions, social conventions, social relationships, and social status).
- c. demonstrate an understanding of how cultural practices exemplify cultural perspectives.  
For example:
  - rituals and traditions
  - social institutions such as marriage and family
  - social status and social relationships
  - holidays and festivals
  - health practices and traditions
  - patterns of work and leisure
  - culinary traditions and practices
- d. demonstrate an understanding of cultural stereotypes and their effects on the perceptions of and attitudes.

## Required Text/Readings

Roqué, Ana. *Luz y Sombra*  
Rodríguez Acosta, Ofelia. *La vida manda*  
Belli, Gioconda. *En el país de las mujeres*  
Caso, Ángeles. *Un largo silencio*  
\* Readings uploaded on CANVAS

## Library Liaison

Toby Matoush  
Tel: (408) 808-2096  
Email: [tmatoush@sjsu.edu](mailto:tmatoush@sjsu.edu)

## Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

## Grading Policy

### *Evaluation*

Participation	20%	Weekly Discussion Board	20%
Weekly Reading Quizzes	20%	Speaker Reports	20 %
		Final Presentation	20%

### *Grading Scale*

100-94 -- A	86-84 --B	76-74 --C	66-64 --D
93-90 --A-	83-80 --B-	73-70 --C-	63-60 --D-
89-87 --B+	79-77 --C+	69-67 --D+	59-0 -- F

PARTICIPATION: Participation in this course will consist of **in class activities** such as collaborative presentations and writing exercises. These collaborative activities are designed to help you most effectively engage the material so that you have a unique and enriching learning experience. In the event of an absence, these graded in class assignments **cannot** be made up.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY: This course is structured as a **collaborative learning experience**. In addition to weekly online participation in the course discussion board, you will work collaboratively in class with your peers. Therefore, please **avoid** being absent and/or late. If an absence or lateness is **inevitable**, please inform me via a brief email. You are **still responsible** for submitting assigned materials **on time. I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK**. In addition, you must obtain class notes and homework assignments from a classmate. I will assume that if you are not present, you will catch up on any work.

WEEKLY READING QUIZZES: To ensure that you are reading carefully, critically, and thoughtfully, there will be a reading quiz each week. The best way to prepare for these quizzes is to take the time to complete all course reading well. To do so, use paper copies of the readings so that, as you read, you can underline, take notes, and write down any questions you may have either on the margins or on post it notes. Schedule your reading time for when your brain can best assimilate information. Reading a few hours a day is more productive than trying to read all the material at once. Review your notes, questions, and underlined text before class so that it is fresh in your memory.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION BOARD: Although we only meet once a week for class, you will have **two weekly due dates for readings**. The first is the Monday before class and the second is our class meeting date on Wednesdays. This structure is intended to help you develop the habit of reading little by little to ensure that you get the most out of your reading time. Selected readings on the course calendar will be assigned for the **Monday** before class. You must complete these readings in order to participate in the **CANVAS discussion board by 11:59pm** on the Monday before the next class meeting. In order to best contribute to the discussion board, follow the above suggestions for preparing for reading quizzes.

SPEAKER REPORTS: Throughout the semester we will have the privilege of having invited speakers (in person or via skype) who are experts on topics we will be covering in class. These special talks may take place during class time, but they may be scheduled beyond class time according to speaker availability. Students will submit a report for each talk. These talks are mandatory for this course.

FINAL PRESENTATION: For your final presentation, you will select a brief quote from one of the assigned essays, newspaper articles, poems, or novels written by one of the womxn we study during semester.

**Step 1: December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12NOON.**

Upload your quote and its bibliographical information on CANVAS. I will compile all quotes and list the author and the student that selected the quote to create a list of "Mujeres que nos inspiran"/ "Womxn that inspire us." I will distribute this list to the entire class during final presentations.

**Step 2: December 14, 2018. Final presentation.**

You will write a **2 page, double-spaced (times new roman)** reflection on the quote you selected. The first part of your reflection (about one page) should describe the context in which it was written, the text it comes from, the author, and why this piece is important to our survey of "mujeres en acción." The second part (about one page) should explain why this specific quote is meaningful to you: why you selected it and how it reflects what you have learned in class this semester. You will read this reflection as your **final presentation on December 14, 2018.**

## Useful Resources

**Latin American Women Writers** Online resource available for free through the San José State Martin Luther King Library. *Latin American Women Writers* is an extensive searchable collection of prose, poetry, and drama composed by women writing in Mexico, Central America, and South America. Also included are essays by Latin American feminists and about the feminist movement that address both the universal concerns of women in every age and the distinctive issues of their struggles in the region. The database features 103,624 pages of prose, poetry and drama.

**The Carmen Sigler Media Center** at San José State University is a resource center for students enrolled in foreign language courses and programs. It includes computers and desks for studying, and a small library of books and media. It is located in Clark Hall 208. The Media Center is open weekdays. Our equipment is available for on-site use exclusively for students taking at least one class in the Department of Foreign Languages. For more information and updated hours of operation, please contact 408-924-4696.

## University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

## Course Calendar

- This calendar is subject to change as the semester progresses to better meet the needs of the class as whole. **You are responsible** for announcements made in class and on Canvas.
- Readings to for the Discussion Board are due on the Monday **before** our next class session.
- Readings for in class discussion are due on Wednesdays.

Week	Discussion Board Readings Due	In Class Discussion Readings Due
Week 1		Wednesday, August 22
		Introduction
Week 2	Monday August 27	Wednesday August 29
La prensa y la novela: Armas feministas	Ana Roqué <i>Luz y sombra</i> pp. 19-55	Ana Roqué <i>Luz y sombra</i> pp. 57-81
Week 3	Monday September 3	Wednesday September 5
La prensa y la novela: Armas feministas	Ana Roqué <i>Luz y sombra</i> pp. 83- 110	Ana Roqué <i>Luz y sombra</i> pp. 111- 147  Brenda Ortiz-Loyola "Ofelia Rodríguez Acosta and the Quest for National Solidarity in Cuba"
Week 4	Monday September 10	Wednesday September 12
La prensa y la novela: Armas feministas	Ofelia Rodríguez Acosta <i>La vida manda</i> pp. 1-52	Ofelia Rodríguez Acosta <i>La vida manda</i> pp. 53-80
Week 5	Monday September 17	Wednesday September 19
La prensa y la novela: Armas feministas	Ofelia Rodríguez Acosta <i>La vida manda</i> pp. 81-132	Ofelia Rodríguez Acosta <i>La vida manda</i> pp. 133-166  Viviane Mahieux "Overstepping Femininity: The Chronicle and Gender Norms"

Week 6	Monday September 24	Wednesday September 26
La prensa y la novela y la poesía: Armas feministas	Cube Bonifant <i>Notas de una casada</i> (Selecciones)  Alfonsina Storni (Selecciones prosa y poesía)	Julia de Burgos "A Julia de Burgos"  Vanessa Pérez Rosario "Julia de Burgos Writing"  Alfonsina Storni (Selecciones ensayo y poesía)
Week 7	Monday October 1	Wednesday October 3
Feminismo y Revolución (Revolución Mexicana)	<i>Fearless Women</i> capítulo 3 Mary Louise Pratt "My Cigarro"	Nellie Campobello <i>Cartucho</i> (Selections)
Week 8	Monday October 8	Wednesday October 10
Feminismo y Revolución (Revolución Mexicana)	<i>Fearless Women</i> capítulo 5 Alicia Arrizón "Soldaderas and the Staging"	Rosario Castellanos <i>El eterno femenino</i> Acto 2
Week 9	Monday October 15	Wednesday October 17
Feminismo y Revolución (Guerra Civil Española)	Johnson and Castro "Historical Background in Spain"  Carmen de Burgos "El derecho a la moda"	Carmen de Burgos "El artículo 438)  Margarita Nelken "La condición social de la mujer" (Selecciones)
Week 10	Monday October 22	Wednesday October 24
Feminismo y Revolución (Guerra Civil Española)	<i>Fearless Women</i> capítulo 2	<i>Fearless Women</i> capítulo 4

Week 11	Monday October 29	Wednesday October 31
Feminismo y Revolución (Guerra Civil Española)	Ángeles Caso <i>Un largo silencio</i> pp. 9-88	Ángeles Caso <i>Un largo silencio</i> pp. 89-111
Week 12	Monday November 5	Wednesday November 7
Feminismo y Revolución (Guerra Civil Española)	Ángeles Caso <i>Un largo silencio</i> pp. 112- 182	Ángeles Caso <i>Un largo silencio</i> pp. 183-216
Week 13	Monday November 13	Wednesday November 14
Feminismo y Revolución (Revolución Cubana)	Ana Menéndez <i>Loving Che</i> pp. 1-105	Ana Menéndez <i>Loving Che</i> pp. 106-146
Week 14	Monday November 19	Wednesday November 21
Feminismo y Revolución (Revolución Cubana)	Ana Menéndez <i>Loving Che</i> pp. 147-228	No class/ Thanksgiving
Week 15	Monday November 26	Wednesday November 28
Feminismo y Revolución (Revolución Sandinista)	Gioconda Belli <i>El país de las mujeres</i> pp. 13-107	Gioconda Belli <i>El país de las mujeres</i> pp. 109-191
Week 16	Monday December 3	Wednesday December 5
Feminismo y Revolución (Revolución Sandinista)	Gioconda Belli <i>El país de las mujeres</i> pp. 193-278	Conclusiones y puesta al día Soldaderas contemporáneas
Week 17	Presentaciones Finales	Friday December 14
		Final Presentations 12:15-2:30

