

Full Name: Breaking Orbit: Revolutionary Women in the Americas

Short Name: Revolutionary Women

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ECTS Weighting: 10 ECTS

Semester Taught MT/HT: MT

Year JS/SS: SS

Module Content:

Women - or at least their bodies - frequently typify nationalist energies. These mothers, goddesses, and queens bear on their silent shoulders the weight of imperial, monarchical, and national identities, mythologising the construction of political collectives and gathering a nascent and imagined people into their nurturing arms. In contrast, this course will examine revolutionary women in the Americas - both real historical actors and representations of women in literature - who refused to be mere statuary, symbol, or icon. Instead, these women fought in messy, complicated, and transgressive ways to achieve social and political revolutions. From spies and soldiers to activists, labour organizers, and community leaders, women's labour has always been central to nation building and freedom projects.

But the question then becomes freedom from *what* and freedom for *whom*? We will give particular attention to the intersection of race and gender, understanding how white women's revolutionary labour has historically sustained nationalist ideologies of exclusion, white supremacy, and settler colonial violence. Finally, we will examine decolonial and (frequently) transnational feminist alliances that mobilize liberation projects beyond the borders of the nation-state. Readings will range across time periods and national contexts, including texts by Manuela Sáenz, Évelyne Trouillot, Edwidge Danticat, Maryse Condé, Sylvia Wynter, Lucy Parsons, Dolores Huerta, Sara Gómez, Angela Davis, and Maria Novaro, among others.

Learning Aims

1. Students will interrogate the figuration of femininity in nationalist ideologies, and explore the ways women have resisted such representations.
2. Students will explore the intersection of race and gender in revolutionary frameworks, particularly in shaping the visibility/erasure of women's political contributions.
3. Students will place literary and political writings within transnational contexts .

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Critically interrogate the ideological construction of the feminine in nationalist discourse.
2. Apply comparative and interdisciplinary methodologies across different historical contexts.
3. Apply decolonial and intersectional feminist theory to case studies of women's revolutionary labour.

Assessment Details:

- Number of Components: 1
- Name/Type of Component(s): Essay
- Word Count of Component(s): 3,000
- Percentage Value of Component(s): 100%

Please note:

- Curricular information is subject to change.
- Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.