

## **Cuba: From Spanish Colony to Socialist Republic (HILA 122)**

Fall 2014  
CSB 004  
Office: Mandeville Coffee Cart  
Class: Tu/Th 12:30-2

Professor Daniel Widener  
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Office Hrs: Tu/Th 11-11:45

Our course explores the “modern” history of Cuba, using the analytic categories of race, empire and culture as windows into the contested process of Cuban nationhood. Our principle focus will remain on two central contradictions of *cubanidad*, the struggle for self-determination in the shadow of the United States, and the contested search to forge, define, or comprehend a single peoplehood from the fires of music, migration, slavery, colonialism, revolution, socialism, austerity, and war.

### Assignments:

Midterm Examination	50%
Final	50%
Book Review (1) [extra credit]	(10%)

Extra Credit Assignment: Each student will prepare a written review of a book related to the history of Cuba. This book must be published by a university press. Examples will be provided.

Academic Integrity: UC San Diego has a strong policy on academic honesty. You can find it here: <http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>

### Required Readings:

A number of articles will be placed on electronic reserve at the library. They, like the assigned reading from the books, should always be completed prior to the course in which they are referenced. You are to buy both of the books. The course texts are:

1. Louis Perez, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution* (Oxford University Press)

### **Course Outline**

#### **Metanarratives of the colony:**

Oct 2	Course Introduction and Themes
Oct 7	Sugar, Slavery, and the Ever Faithful Isle Read: Perez, ch. 1-3

#### **Cuba Libre!**

Oct 9	Tanto Negro, Tanto Chino: revolutionary dialectics of race and power
Oct 14	“Our Islands & Their People:” from <i>Cuba Libre</i> to <i>Yanquilandia</i>  Read: Perez, ch. 4-5 Lisa Yun, “Chinese Coolies and African Slaves in Nineteenth Century Cuba” <i>The Journal of Asian American Studies</i> 4, no.2 (June 2001): 99-122.

### **the sober reality of domination**

- Oct 16 "Film: *Elpidio Valdes*  
Oct 21 "En Cardenas, Funerario:" from "race war" to racist peace
- Oct 23 Cuban Counterpoint: the revolution of 1933 & the Second Republic  
Oct 28 **midterm examination #1**

Read: Perez, Perez, ch. 6-9  
Helg, *Our Rightful Share*, "The Racist Massacre of 1912", pp. 193-220  
George Brandon, *The Dead Sell Memories*, 79-99.

### **the end of the beginning**

- Oct 30 Last Call: the fall of Batista  
Nov 4 The Youngest Revolution

Read: Perez, ch. 10-11  
Fidel, "History Will Absolve Me"

### **Week VI & VII: cuándo lo extraordinario se vuelve cotidiano**

- Nov 6 Building a Revolutionary Culture  
Nov 11 **no class—veteran's day observance**
- Nov 13 Con Azúcar No Hay País: The Political Economy of Tropical Socialism  
Nov 18 *Death of a Bureaucrat*

Read: Perez, ch. 12  
Che, "Man and Socialism in Cuba"  
Mona Rosendahl, *Inside the Revolution: Everyday Life in Socialist Cuba*, ch. 3

**Due: Title of Book to be reviewed**

### **from the island to the world**

- Nov 20 Memories of Cuito Carnavale: Cuba's African Dream  
Nov 25 Visions of Calle Ocho: Cuba's Florida, Florida's Cuba

Read Che, "A Message to the Tricontinental"  
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, "Operation Carlotta"  
Anita Casavantes-Bradford, *The Revolution is for the Children* (selections)

**el “período especial” and after**

- Nov 27      **class cancelled in celebration of the genocidal destruction of the North American indigenous population, plus gluttony.**
- Dec 2      The Political Economy of Collapse and Recovery  
**Book Review Essays Due 3PM, Department of History, 5<sup>th</sup> floor HSS**
- Read:
- Dec 4      Emily Morris, “Unexpected Cuba,” *New Left Review* 88 (July-August 2014).  
Race and Culture during the Special Period
- Dec 9      Museum or Model? Cuban Socialism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Read:
- Sujatha Fernandes, “Fear of a Black Nation: Local Rappers, Transnational Crossings, and State Power in Contemporary Cuba,” *Anthropological Quarterly* 76.4 (2003) 575-608
- Manuel Pastor, Jr., “Cuba and Cuban Studies: Crossing Boundaries during a “Special Period,” *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 31, No. 3 (1996), pp. 218-234.
- Perez, ch. 13
- Dec 11      **review of class themes**
- Dec 12      **Final Essays Due 3PM, Department of History, 5<sup>th</sup> floor HSS**