

HILA 122 (Section # 665974)
Cuba: From Colony to Socialist Republic
MW 5:00p - 6:20 PM
Dr. Asiris M. Cruz

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Office Hours: 6:30-7:30 PM and by appointment

American interest in Cuba predates the existence of United States as an independent nation. It was the subject of intense concern for the British colonial government, and of ambitious planning by the early American republic. It became the object of curious travelers, high-powered businessmen, and debating policy-makers in later years. Attention to Cuba peaked after 1959, with the powerful romantic appeal of its revolution and its move into a Marxist path, forthcoming from those who feared it and those who loved it. However, despite this long-standing interest and its closed geographic proximity, Cuba remains an exotic and often poorly understood nation to most Americans. We hope this course can play a role in creating new avenues of understanding of the process that contributed to the rise of the Cuban society of today and to its ambivalent historical relationship with United States.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Gott, Richard, *Cuba: A New History*
Yale University Press (2005)
ISBN-13: 978-0300111149

ASSIGNED READINGS:

Scott, Rebecca, *Slave Emancipation in Cuba: the Transition to Free Labor, 1860-1899*
University of Pittsburgh Press (July 2000)
ISBN-13: 978-0822957355

Sweig, Julia, *Inside the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground*
Harvard University Press (2004)
ISBN-13; 978-0674016125

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Examination: There will be one midterm that will combine short and long essay questions. You need a Blue Book for the midterm. The date of the midterm is properly specified in the Course Outline. If you miss the midterm examination, you must contact the instructor not later than one day after the exam to set the date for a make-up test, to be administered at the discretion of the instructor.
- 2) Final: The final exam will combine short and long essay questions. You also need a Blue Book for the final. The completion of the final exam is a requirement. Failure to take the final examination will result in a failing grade for the course. There is not make-up for the final examination.

- 3) Assignments: Specific instructions for the assignments are included below
- 4) All assignments must be typed. Hand-written assignments will not be accepted. Late work will be downgraded at the rate of one half letter grade for every day past the due date.
- 5) E-mailed work will not be accepted. You must turn in your hard copy in class. E-mail should only be used to ask questions, explain absences, or request extensions, not to replace your physical presence in class.
- 6) You must keep copies of all your work until you are notified of your final grade in the course.

GRADING:

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|--|---|------------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Midterm: 25% - Final: 25% - Brief Review 20% - Book Review: 30% | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>A+= 97-100</td> <td>A= 94-96</td> <td>A- = 91-93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+= 88-90</td> <td>B= 84-87</td> <td>B- = 81-83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C+= 77-80</td> <td>C= 74-76</td> <td>C- = 70-73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D+= 67-70</td> <td>D= 63-66</td> <td>D- = 60-62</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">F = 0-59 %</td> </tr> </table> | A+= 97-100 | A= 94-96 | A- = 91-93 | B+= 88-90 | B= 84-87 | B- = 81-83 | C+= 77-80 | C= 74-76 | C- = 70-73 | D+= 67-70 | D= 63-66 | D- = 60-62 | F = 0-59 % | | |
| A+= 97-100 | A= 94-96 | A- = 91-93 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| F = 0-59 % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

POLICY ON CELLULAR PHONES

The policy is simple. Cell phones should never sound in class. Turn it off or silence it before you come into class. Texting and/or talking are considered disruptive behavior, and will be penalized accordingly.

DISCIPLINE

If you engage in a behavior that the instructor considers disruptive, you may be asked to leave the classroom. After the second warning, the instructor might initiate disciplinary procedures.

CODE OF ETHICS

Any student found guilty of plagiarism or other dishonest academic practice will fail the course. For more information on the UCSD policy on academic dishonesty, visit:

<http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>; for History department guidelines see <http://history.ucsd.edu/ugrad/current/academic-integrity.html>.

ASSIGNMENTS

First Paper

Due October 21

A critical review of either one of the assigned readings (Scott, *Slave Emancipation in Cuba*, and Sweig, *Inside the Cuban Revolution*), 500-750 words in length, double-spaced, font 12.

Second Paper

Due November 30

A critical in-depth review of the other assigned book (you CANNOT choose the same one you used for the previous paper), 1500-1800 words in length, double-spaced, font 12.

NOTE: If you use additional sources, please remember to properly quote them either by footnotes/endnotes or by the addition of a "Works Cited" page.

Grading

Ideas and Content: 30%

- The paper is clear and focused. Its topic is original, and analytic in character. It holds the reader's attention. The data and details used support and enrich the central argument. The writer develops the topic in a way that proves its thesis, and where every piece adds something to the whole.

Organization: 30%

- The organization enhances the central argument. The presentation of information is compelling and moves the reader through the text with a logical and effective sequence. The paper has an inviting introduction with a clearly stated thesis, and a satisfying conclusion that leaves the reader with a sense of resolution.

Style: 20%

- The writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Words are specific and accurate; it is easy to understand what the writer means. Clichés and jargon are used sparingly. Thoughtful transitions clearly show how ideas connect.

Conventions: 20%

- Paragraphs reinforce the organizational structure. Grammar and usage are correct. Punctuation is accurate. Spelling is generally correct, with so few errors that the reader can easily overlook them.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1: Introduction

Early Colonial Period: Conquerors, Pirates, and Smugglers (1511-1700)

Required Reading: Gott, *Chapter 1*

WEEK 2: From Bourbon Reform to the Rise of a Plantation Economy (1700-1820)

Required Reading: Gott, *Chapters 1 and 2*

WEEK 3: The Fight for Independence (1820-1898)

Required Reading: Gott, *Chapters 2 and 3*

WEEK 4: American Intervention and the “Mediated” Republic (1898-1918)

Required Reading: Gott, *Chapters 3 and 4*

WEEK 5: Prosperity, Depression, and another Revolution (1920-1933)

Required Reading: Gott, *Chapter 4*

MIDTERM: November 4

WEEK 6: Republic Interrupted: Military Coup and Castro’s Insurrection (1940-1959)

Required Reading: Gott, *Chapters 4 and 5*

Wednesday 11/11: Veterans Day (No class)

WEEK 7: The Revolution’s Early Years: Cuba and the United States (1959-1968)

Required Reading: Gott, *Chapters 5 and 6*

WEEK 8: “Exporting Revolution:” the Transformation of the Cuban Society (1965-1985)

Required Reading: Gott, *Chapters 6 and 7*

WEEK 9: Movie: “Improper Conduct”

WEEK 10: The “Special Period” and the Cuba of Today (1992-2008)

Required Reading: Gott, *Chapter 8*

Thursday, December 10, 7:00– 10:00 PM: Final Exam

