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

Fall 2014 Professor Daniel Widener
CSB 004 Email: dwidener@ucsd.edu
Office: Mandeville Coffee Cart Office Hrs: Tu/Th 11-11:45

Class: Tu/Th 12:30-2

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 Examination50%Final50%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 *Cuba Libre* to *Yanquilandia* 

Read: Perez, ch. 4-5

Lisa Yun, "Chinese Coolies and African Slaves in Nineteenth Century Cuba" *The Journal of Asian American Studies* 4, no.2 (June 2001): 99-122.

# the sober reality of domination

Oct 16 Oct 21	"Film: Elpidio Valdes "En Cardenas, Funerario:" from "race war" to racist peace		
Oct 23 Oct 28	Cuban Counterpoint: the revolution of 1933 & the Second Republic midterm examination #1		
Read:	Perez, Perez, ch. 6-9 Helg, <i>Our Rightful Share</i> , "The Racist Massacre of 1912", pp. 193-220 George Brandon, <i>The Dead Sell Memories</i> , 79-99.		
the end of the beginning			
Oct 30 Nov 4	Last Call: the fall of Batista The Youngest Revolution		
Read:	Perez, ch. 10-11 Fidel, "History Will Absolve Me"		
	Week VI & VII: cuándo lo extraordinario se vuelve cotidiano		

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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, 5th floor HSS

Read:

Emily Morris, "Unexpected Cuba," New Left Review 88 (July-August 2014).

Dec 4 Race and Culture during the Special Period

Dec 9 Museum or Model? Cuban Socialism in the 21st 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