

Spring 2017: Cuban Society and Revolution

(Chc/Lat 157 / History 166C / IS 177E / Pol Sci 153G)

Dr. Robert Duncan (rhduncan@uci.edu)

Office: Social Science Tower (SST) 433

Office hours: MWF 10:00-10:30 & by appt.

TA: Shauna Gillooly (sgillool@uci.edu)



Course Description:

On New Year's Eve 1958, longtime master of Cuban politics, Fulgencio Batista, fled the presidential palace to seek asylum in the Dominican Republic. The following day, partisans of Fidel Castro's 26th of July Movement triumphantly entered the capital city of Havana. For the rebels and many others, this event symbolized the end to social injustice, political corruption, and U.S. economic domination. As one of the "great" modern social upheavals, the Cuban Revolution impacted not just the history of Cuba, but the world as well. But evaluating this history has been the subject of rancorous debate for more than half a century. As one of the few socialist states left in the world, Cuba remains an enigma for many. This course will uncover the historic development and legacy of the Revolution while serving as an entry point to understanding Cuba both of the past and present. Themes will include the issues of economic dependency, revolutionary theory, social justice, race, gender, culture, and the always-volatile relations between Cuba and the United States.

Books: Neill Macaulay, *A Rebel in Cuba* (Wacahoota Press, 1999)

Julia Sweig, *Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford, 3rd ed., 2016)

Selected articles: available on course website

Requirements:

Each class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and videos. Grading is based on a midterm (25% / May 5), a final (35% / June 13), one 5-6 page paper based on the readings (25% / May 26), and attendance as well as participation in discussion sections (15%). Exams will combine short identifications and longer essays based on the assigned readings and material covered in lecture and discussion section. Students, therefore, must attend lectures, finish all readings by the assigned date, and be prepared for classroom discussion.

Course Schedule

Week 1:

- April 3 Introduction: Fidel is Dead!
- April 5 Colonialism, Sugar, and Slaves
- April 7 Reform or Revolution?

Readings:

- Knight, Franklin. "Origins of Wealth and the Sugar Revolution in Cuba, 1750-1850," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 57 (1977), pp. 231-253.
 - Pérez, Louis. "Between Baseball and Bullfighting: The Quest for Nationality in Cuba, 1868-1898," *Journal of American History* 81 (1994), pp. 493-517.
 - Shnookal, Deborah, ed. *José Martí Reader: Writings on the Americas* (Ocean, 2007), selected excerpts (pp. 120-129, 142-155, 166-174).
 - Sweig, Julia. *Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know*, pp. 1-11.
-

Week 2:

- April 10 "A Splendid Little War": the United States & 1898
- April 12 Neocolonialism under the Plattist Republic
- April 14 The Politics of Corruption

Readings:

- Ferrer, Ada. "Rustic Men, Civilized Nation: Race, Culture, and Contention on the Eve of Cuban Independence," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 78 (1998), pp. 663-686.
- Whitney, Robert. "The Architect of the Cuban State: Fulgencio Batista and Populism in Cuba, 1937-1940," *Journal of Latin American Studies*. 32 (2000), pp. 435-459.
- Castro, Fidel. *History will Absolve Me* [Castro Internet Archive / www.marxists.org]
- Sweig, Julia. *Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know*, pp. 11-34.

Week 3:

- April 17 Setting the Stage: Cuba in the 1940s & 1950s
- April 19 Starting a Revolution: Fidel & Che
- April 21 Fighting a Revolution: "Los Barbudos"

Readings:

- *Macaulay, Neill. A Rebel in Cuba (all)*
 - *English, T.J. Havana Nocturne (Harper Collins, 2008), pp. 139-157.*
 - *Sweig, Julia. Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know, pp. 35-55.*
-

Week 4:

- April 24 The Early Days I: Consolidation
- April 26 The Early Days II: Radicalization
- April 28 Confrontation: The Bay of Pigs

Readings:

- *Chomsky, Aviva. The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics (Duke, 2003), selected excerpts ("Agrarian Reform," pp. 378-385; "Year of Education," pp. 386-388; "Literacy Campaign," pp. 389-394).*
 - *Strug, David L. "Witnessing the Revolution: North Americans in Cuba in the 1960s," International Journal of Cuban Studies 4:1 (Spring 2012), pp. 68-87.*
 - *Gleijeses, Piero. "Ships in the Night," Journal of Latin American Studies 27 (1995), pp. 1-42.*
 - *Sweig, Julia. Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know, pp. 74-89.*
-

Week 5:

- May 1 Operation Mongoose: PSYOPs in Cuba
- May 3 Confrontation (Redux): The Missile Crisis

May 5 Midterm

Readings:

- CIA, "The Family Jewels," selected documents.
 - Chomsky, Aviva. *The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Duke, 2003), selected excerpts ("Operation Mongoose," pp. 540-543; "Assassination Plots," pp. 552-556).
 - Zelikow, Philip. "American Policy and Cuba, 1961-1963," *Diplomatic History*, 24:2 (2000), pp. 317-334.
 - Pious, Richard M. "The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Limits of Crisis Management," *Political Science Quarterly* 116:1 (Spring 2001), pp. 81-105.
 - Allison, Graham. "The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50: Lessons for U.S. Foreign Policy Today," *Foreign Affairs* 91:4 (July/August 2012), pp. 11-16.
 - Nathan, James A. "The Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited: Why It Matters Who Blinked," *Foreign Affairs* 91:6 (November/December 2012), pp. 163-166.
-

Week 6:

May 8 The Revolutionary Economy
May 10 Building the New Socialist Man
May 12 Bureaucratization

Readings:

- Guevara, Che. "Man and Socialism" [Che Guevara Internet Archive / www.marxists.org]
 - Yaffe, Helen. "Che Guevara and the Great Debate, Past and Present," *Science & Society*, 76:1 (2012), pp. 11-40.
 - LeoGrande, William M. "Party Development in Revolutionary Cuba," *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs* 21 (Nov. 1979), pp. 457-480.
 - García Luis, Julio. *Cuban Revolution Reader: A Documentary History*, pp. 97-104.
-

Week 7:

May 15 Cuba on the World Stage: Latin America

May 17 Cuba on the World Stage: Africa

May 19 Race

Readings:

- Harmer, Tanya. "Two, Three, Many Revolutions? Cuba and the Prospects for Revolutionary Change in Latin America, 1967-1975," Journal of Latin American Studies, 45: 1 (2013), pp. 61-89.
 - Saney, Isaac. "Homeland of Humanity: Internationalism within the Cuban Revolution," Latin American Perspectives 36: 1 (Jan. 2009), pp. 111-123.
 - Bodenheimer, Rebecca M. "National Symbol or 'a Black Thing'?: Rumba and Racial Politics in Cuba in the Era of Cultural Tourism," Black Music Research Journal 33: 2 (Fall 2013), pp. 177-205.
 - Chomsky, Aviva. The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics (Duke University, 2003), selected excerpts ("Silence," pp. 419-423; "Black Man," pp. 424-426).
 - Zurbano, Roberto. "For Blacks in Cuba, the Revolution hasn't begun," New York Times, March 23, 2013.
 - Brenner, Phillip, ed. A Contemporary Cuba Reader: Reinventing the Revolution, (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), selected excerpts (pp. 316-325).
 - Sweig, Julia. Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know, pp. 104-125.
-

Week 8:

May 22 Gender

May 24 Culture

May 26 Rectification: 1980s

Readings:

- Luciak, Ilja. Gender and Democracy in Cuba (Univ. Press of Florida, 2007), pp. 13-36.
- Chomsky, Aviva. The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics (Duke University, 2003), selected excerpts ("Rehabilitation," pp. 395-398; "The Family Code," pp 399-405).
- Huish, Robert. "The (Soft) Power of Sport: The Comprehensive and Contradictory Strategies of Cuba's Sport-based Internationalism," International Journal of Cuban Studies 5: 1 (2013), pp. 26-40.

- Brenner, Phillip, ed. *A Contemporary Cuba Reader: Reinventing the Revolution*, (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), selected excerpts (pp. 311-315, 339-343, 348-364, 379-385).
 - Miller, Nicola. "A Revolutionary Modernity: The Cultural Policy of the Cuban Revolution," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 40:4 (2008), pp.675-696.
 - Sweig, Julia. *Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know*, pp. 55-74.
-

Week 9:

May 29	Memorial Day
May 31	1990s: the "Special Period"
June 2	Cuban-Americans

Readings:

- Kapcia, Antoni. "Lessons of the Special Period: Learning to March Again," *Latin American Perspectives*, 36:1 (2009), pp. 30-41.
 - "The Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966: ¿Mirando por los Ojos de Don Quijote o Sancho Panza?," *Harvard Law Review*, 114:3 (2001), pp. 902-925.
 - Portes, Alejandro. "A Bifurcated Enclave: The Economic Evolution of the Cuban and Cuban American Population of Metropolitan Miami," *Cuban Studies* 43 (2015), pp. 40-63.
 - Chomsky, Aviva. *The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Duke University, 2003), selected excerpts ("Cuban Refugee Children," pp. 557-560).
 - Sweig, Julia. *Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know*, pp. 89-104, 126-146.
-

Week 10:

June 5	Life in Cuba: Human Rights & Democracy
June 7	Cuba without Fidel
June 9	Conclusions

Readings:

- Sweig, Julia. *Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know*, pp. 147-316.