

## ***Spring 2018: Cuban Society and Revolution***

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

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### **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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**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 4), a final (35% / June 12), one 5-6 page paper based on the readings (25% / May 25), 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**

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#### **Week 1:**

April 2      Introduction: Fidel is Still Dead!

April 4 Colonialism, Sugar, and Slaves

April 6 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.
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**Week 2:**

April 9 "A Splendid Little War": the United States & 1898

April 11 Neocolonialism under the Plattist Republic

April 13 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](http://www.marxists.org)]
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**Week 3:**

April 16 Setting the Stage: Cuba in the 1940s & 1950s

April 18 Starting a Revolution: Fidel & Che

April 20 Fighting a Revolution: "Los Barbudos"

**Readings:**

- Macaulay, Neill. A Rebel in Cuba (all)
- English, T.J. Havana Nocturne (Harper Collins, 2008), pp. 139-157.

## **Week 4:**

- April 23      The Early Days I: Consolidation
- April 25      The Early Days II: Radicalization
- April 27      Confrontation: The Bay of Pigs

### **Readings:**

- Pérez-Stable, Marifeli. *The Cuban Revolution: Origins, Course, and Legacy* (Oxford University Press, 1999), Chapter 3, pp. 61-81.
  - 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.
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## **Week 5:**

- April 30      Operation Mongoose: PSYOPs in Cuba
- May 2        Confrontation (Redux): The Missile Crisis
- May 4        Midterm

### **Readings:**

- Central Intelligence Agency, "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 Blinkered," *Foreign Affairs* 91:6 (November/December 2012), pp. 163-166.

## Week 6:

- May 7      The Revolutionary Economy
- May 9      Building the New Socialist Man
- May 11     Bureaucratization

### Readings:

- Guevara, Che. "Man and Socialism" [Che Guevara Internet Archive / [www.marxists.org](http://www.marxists.org)]
  - Yaffe, Helen. "Che Guevara and the Great Debate, Past and Present," *Science & Society*, 76: 1 (2012), pp. 11–40.
  - Yaffe, Helen. "Che Guevara's Enduring Legacy: Not the Foco but the Theory of Socialist Construction," *Latin American Perspectives* 36:2 (March 2009), pp. 49-65.
  - 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.
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## Week 7:

- May 14     Cuba on the World Stage: Latin America
- May 16     Cuba on the World Stage: Africa
- May 18     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.
- Kirk, John M. "Cuban Medical Internationalism: The Ebola Campaign of 2014–15," *International Journal of Cuban Studies* 8: 1 (Spring 2016), pp. 9-27.
- 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).
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### **Week 8:**

- May 21      Gender
- May 23      Culture
- May 25      Rectification: 1980s

### **Readings:**

- Lamrani, Salim. "Women in Cuba: The Emancipatory Revolution," International Journal of Cuban Studies 8:1 (Spring 2016), pp. 109-116.
  - Hynson, Rachel. "Count, Capture, and Reeducate: The Campaign to Rehabilitate Cuba's Female Sex Workers, 1959-1966," Journal of the History of Sexuality 24:1 (January 2015), pp. 125-153.
  - 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.
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### **Week 9:**

- May 28      Memorial Day
- May 30      1990s: the "Special Period"
- June 1      Cuban-Americans

### **Readings:**

- Kapcia, Antoni. "Lessons of the Special Period: Learning to March Again," Latin American Perspectives 36:1 (2009), pp. 30-41.

- Tanuma, Sachiko. "Post-Utopian Irony: Cuban Narratives during the 'Special Period' Decade," Political and Legal Anthropology Review 30:1 (May 2007), pp. 46-66.
  - "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).
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### **Week 10:**

- June 4      Life in Cuba: Human Rights & Democracy
- June 6      Cuba without Fidel (or Raúl)
- June 8      Conclusions

### **Readings:**

- LeoGrande, William. "The End of the Bogeyman: The Political Repercussions of the US-Cuban Rapprochement," in Eric Hershberg and William LeoGrande, eds. A New Chapter in US-Cuba Relations (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), pp. 53-65.
- Sweig, Julia E. "Cuba After Communism: The Economic Reforms That Are Transforming the Island," Foreign Affairs 92:4 (July/August 2013), pp. 101-114.
- Oliva Campos, Carlos and Gary Prevost. "Cuba's Relations with Latin America," Social Research: An International Quarterly 84:2 (Summer 2017), pp. 487-506.
- Selected news articles