

**Chc/Lat 130 An introduction to Cuba: history, culture, and society.
Spring 2011**

Professor Raul Fernandez

Tu-Th

This upper-division course presents an introduction to Cuban history, culture and society using social science texts, visual and musical materials. We examine the major historical moments in Cuban history: indigenous settlements and Spanish colonization, slavery and its legacy, the wars of independence, the Republican period, and the Cuban revolution as well as some emblematic figures: José Martí, Fidel Castro, Ernesto Guevara, and the historical relationship between the United States and Cuba. We explore the evolution of Cuban music from the earliest times to the present. Films and video documentaries are used whenever possible to support the readings and lectures.

Required Readings:

Two books will be required and will be available at the campus bookstore

Louis Perez, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*, 3rd edition

Ned Sublette, *Cuba and Its Music*

Students who have never had a course in Latin American history should review any of several short background histories. Two such books will be placed on reserved at the library:

John C. Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire: A concise history of Latin America*

David J. McCreery, *The Sweat of their Brow: A history of work in Latin America*

Other readings for the class will be placed as an electronic course reader, available 24 hours a day, readings can be downloaded on campus or off-campus.

The following books and films will be either placed on reserve or otherwise be made available for reading and/or viewing:

Books

Michael Chanan, *Cuban Cinema*

Julie Marie Bunck, *Fidel Castro and the Quest for a Revolutionary Culture in Cuba*

Aviva Chomsky, *The Cuba Reader*

Esteban Montejo, *The Autobiography of a Runaway Slave*

Leslie Bethel, ed. *Cuba: A Short History*

Lydia Chavez, *Capitalism, God, and a Good Cigar*

Cirilo Villaverde, *Cecilia Valdés*

Nicolás Guillén, *Sóngoro Cosongo* and *El Son Entero*

Thomas Patterson, *Contesting Castro: The United States and the Triumph of the Cuban Revolution*

John Lee Anderson, *Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life*

Louis Perez, *The War of 1898: The United States and Cuba in History and Historiography*

Deborah Shnookal and Mirta Muñoz, *José Martí Reader: Writings on the Americas*

Carolee Bengelsdorf, *The Problem of Democracy in Cuba*

Robert Paquette, *Sugar is Made with Blood*

Joseph Scarpaci and Armando Portela, *Cuban Landscapes: Heritage, Memory and Place*
Louis Perez, *The United States and Cuba: Ties of Singular Intimacy*
Ann Louise Bardach, *Cuba Confidential*
Alejandro de la Fuente, *A Nation for All: Race, Inequality, and Politics in Twentieth-Century Cuba*
Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation and Revolution*
Rebecca Scott, *Degrees of Freedom*
Phillip Foner, *Antonio Maceo: The Bronze Titan of Cuba's Struggle for Independence*
Antonio Benítez Rojo, *The Repeating Island*
Anne Fountain, *Versos Sencillos by José Martí: A Translation*

Raúl Fernández, *Latin Jazz: The Perfect Combination*
Raúl Fernández, *From Afro-Cuban Rhythms to Latin Jazz*
Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*
Louis Pérez, *On Becoming Cuban: Identity, Nationality and Culture*
Aviva Chomsky et al, *The Cuba Reader*

Films and documentaries

Memories of Underdevelopment
Strawberry and Chocolate
Life is to Whistle
Who the Hell is Juliette
Cubanissimo
Cuba: La isla de la música
Buena Vista Social Club

Course requirements:

Class performance will be evaluated in 3 ways. These include: 1) two analytical essays (2-3 pp) on course readings, 2) a midterm exam, and 3) a quiz on the last day of class.

Essays: I will assign 4 analytical questions during the quarter. Students are required to complete 2 of these.

Essays will count for 50%, midterm 30%, quiz 10%, class participation 10%.

Midterm will take place on 5th week, first essay due on 6th week, second essay due on 9th week.

Course schedule and assigned readings:

Week One

Perez, Cuba: between reform and revolution, ch . 13.

Sublette, *Cuba and its Music*, Part I

Lisa García Bedolla, "Cuban Americans: Occupation, Revolution and Exile Politics."

Excerpts from the following films: *Suite Habana* and *Balseros*

Week Two

Perez, chs. 1+2

Sublette, Part II

Film excerpts from Harry Belafonte, *Roots of Rhythm* and instructor's archives.

Week Three

Perez, chs 3+4

Sublette, Part III

Antonio Benítez Rojo, "The Plantation," from *The Repeating Island*

Robert Pacquette, *Sugar is made with Blood*, pps 28-130

Recommended film: *Guantanamera*

Week Four

Readings by or about José Martí:

"Political Prison in Cuba"

"Our America"

"Letter to Sister Amelia," "Letter to Mother (1894)," "Letter to Manuel Mercado."

Poetry Selections from Ann Fountains translation.

Jorge Castellanos and Isabel Castellanos, "The Geographic, Ethnological, and Linguistic Roots of Cuban Blacks."

Week Five

(midterm)

Perez, chs 5+6

Sublette, Part IV

Readings on U.S. historical perceptions and relations with Cuba

Recommended: Louis Perez, *The War of 1898*

Documentary: *Spirits of Havana*

Week Six

(first essay due)

Perez, chs 8+9

Sublettet, Part V

Film: *I am Cuba*

Week Seven

Perez, chs 10+11

Sublette, Part VI

Alejandro de la Fuente, ""

Recommended: John Lee Anderson, *Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life*; also films: *The Motorcycle Diaries*, and *Che* by Beni cio del Toro

Film: **Spirits of Havana**

Week Eight

Perez, ch 12

Sublette, Part VII

Week Nine

(second essay due)

Thomas Patterson, *Contesting Castro*, pp 34-57 and 58-65

Alejandro de la Fuente, *Nation for all*, pp. 23-59, 175-209

Week Ten

Course Summary and Conclusions

Final Quiz