

University of Florida
LAH 3931
The History of Cuba and Puerto Rico

Introduction:

When the U.S. military invaded the Spanish colonies of Cuba and Puerto Rico in 1898, the U.S. government promised to grant them liberation from Spanish colonial rule as well as to respect their right to political independence. As Cubans and Puerto Ricans quickly discovered, however, U.S. intervention into their political and economic affairs did nothing of the kind. As Puerto Rico became an official "territorial possession" of the United States ruled by U.S.-appointed governors for most of the Twentieth Century, Cuba saw its political evolution shaped by repeated U.S. military occupations and diplomatic "mediations" meant to protect U.S. investments in Cuba. In both cases, protecting the expansion and rights of U.S. business interests came at the cost of the local citizenry's right to make and enforce its own laws and state agendas.

Cubans and Puerto Ricans reacted to foreign domination in divergent ways: by the mid-Twentieth Century, Cuba had launched a stridently anti-imperialist socialist revolution that ruptured all ties to the United States while Puerto Rico accommodated to a U.S.-conceived model of political and social dependence. Similarly, despite their radically divergent historical paths—Puerto Rico toward greater dependence on the United States, Cuba toward greater isolation from the United States—both experiences prompted a massive exodus to the United States in nearly the same period (1950s to the 1970s). One million Cubans would arrive in the United States between 1959 and 1980. By the early 1980s, the same number of Puerto Ricans would live in the United States as lived on the island. Yet, Cubans and Puerto Ricans are, in many ways, equally "nationalist", just as U.S. approaches to their societies, whether political, economic or cultural, are equally imperialist. Moreover, in each case, both the diasporic and the national communities on the island are deeply relevant to U.S. domestic and foreign policy-making.

In part, these differences were due to Cuba and Puerto Rico's distinctive colonial paths of development from the 16th centuries through the mid-nineteenth: while Cuba's emergence as a fabulously wealthy sugar colony in the late 18th century ensured it would become the jewel in the Spanish Crown by the 19th, Puerto Rico maintained its character as a colonial backwater, even after it experienced a relative degree of prosperity thanks to booms in both sugar and coffee. Yet, as we will find, Cuba's legendary image as the "rebel" and Puerto Rico's reputation for political "passivity" have less to do with issues of culture or national character than with the degree to which local elites were able to repress and discredit equally radical movements for social change—*both*

Class Mtgs: Tu 11:45-1:40 & Th 12:50-1:40
Location: CSE E119
Office hours: Th 2:00-4:00

Prof. Lillian Guerra
Office: Grinter Hall #307

before and after the US invasion of 1898. The story of Cuba and Puerto Rico's internal struggles (over race, class rights and the role of imperial power) is the primary focus of this course.

Goals

The primary goals of this course are three. First, this class seeks to transform the way students understand concepts that they take for granted, helping them to recognize the relevance of historical, often violent social struggles over definitions of freedom, "nation", national sovereignty, economic justice and equality to their daily lives. Second, this course will provide a deep knowledge of the complex realities of Cuban and Puerto Rican societies, helping to reveal how the past (especially slavery and imperialism) affected what was—and is—politically and economically possible to achieve in these countries. Finally, this class promises to challenge students at every level, honing their intellectual creativity and forcing them to use it.

Course Requirements:

Participation: Attendance, discussion of readings and films, 1-page film review: 20%

Two analytical papers (each 4 pages in length) on readings: 30%

In-class midterm exam: 25%

Final exam: 25%

Pedagogical Approach & Evaluation of Students:

Professor Guerra will teach all aspects of the course, acting as discussion leader and lecturer. As the class activity schedule conveys below, this class combines regular lectures, in-class discussion of readings as well as film viewings and group analysis of primary documents. Daniel Fernández will be serving as our grader in the course and will schedule a writing workshop shortly before each paper is due. He will also announce his office hours on the first day of class.

As with all history classes, this class should be relevant to explaining the events, culture, distribution of power and popular ideas of the present day. What you learn in the class should be surprising, enjoyable, challenging and not easily forgotten.

1. Class Attendance and Lectures: Attendance is (obviously) mandatory since most of the information, analysis and building-blocks for the class are acquired live and in person.

- *Lectures are particularly important for two reasons: first, because they provide the framework for understanding the chronology and historical struggles at play; and second, because students learn how to*

write good papers and make strong arguments from listening to good lectures and practicing their own skills.

- ***Because students have different styles of learning, Professor Guerra uses a variety of teaching methods and materials that will serve the strengths of some students one day and those of other students another.***

2. Discussions of Readings, Film Analysis & Participation Grade: Much of the success of this class will depend on the willingness of students to engage issues raised in the readings as well as each others' perspectives in the time allocated for discussion and collective reflection on complex or politically challenging subjects.

- **Discussion:** Professor Guerra's evaluation of student participation, however, will depend less on the quantity of each student's intervention and more on their quality. That means that students who are unaccustomed to public speaking or simply uninspired to talk spontaneously in a few discussions will not be duly punished. On the other hand, *while "chattiness" will not guarantee you an A for participation, silence will definitely not serve you* (after all, how can Prof. G know that you have even read that week's assignment if you don't speak?).
- **Required Film Viewing:** Students will write a one- to two-page analytical reflection on ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FILMS REQUIRED FOR DISCUSSION IN CLASS:
 - "La Ultima Cena [The Last Supper]" (Cuba, 1976)
 - "Fresa y Chocolate [Strawberry & Chocolate]" (Cuba, 1993)
- **Required attendance at the inauguration screening of two documentaries followed by question and answer with their directors, both will take place in March although dates and times have yet to be finalized. Writing a one-page reaction paper for one or both of these films will earn you 5 points of extra credit added to your lowest score at the end of the semester. They are:**
 - "American Comandante" (PBS American Experience Series), produced and directed by Adriana Bosch
 - "The Forgotten Revolution" (American Public Television), produced and directed by Glenn Gebhard

3. Short analytical papers: *The paper required for this class must be at least 4-6 pages long, double-spaced and typed in 12-point. Intended to help you reflect on and*

process the readings, the paper will respond to one of a variety of questions, by providing an argument that takes a position and substantiates its validity through documented evidence and original interpretation.

- A set of thematic questions from which students will choose to answer one will be provided one before each paper is due.
- Evidence for the argument in each paper should derive exclusively from course materials, especially from the readings assigned.
- Students **required to underline their thesis statements** so that there will be no problem in determining the argument's clarity.

All papers must be handed into Kym Dalton, the secretary at the front desk of Latin American Studies in Grinter Hall, 3rd floor by the due date and before 4 PM on that day. You may also place under my door in Grinter, 307. NO DIGITAL PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ALL PAPERS MUST BE TURNED IN ON PAPER, HARD COPY. (Please do not email me your paper!) **Late papers will be penalized by half a grade for every day they are overdue, unless an extension has been requested in advance and granted.**

- **FIRST PAPER DEADLINE: FRIDAY FEB 19TH BY 4:00 PM**
- **SECOND PAPER DEADLINE:**

4. Midterm and final exam: Midterm and final exams will follow the same format, although the former will obviously be much shorter than the latter. Each exam will consist of a blank map with historically relevant locations for the student to mark, a set of historical items for the student to fully identify (to be explained in greater length as we approach the midterm), and one to three questions to be answered in essay form.

- **IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH**
- **FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULED BY THE COLLEGE; *Professor Guerra will provide study sheets for each exam, explaining the different parts as well as providing examples.***

Course Materials: Books for this course are available at the UF Bookstore or through on-line book providers. Unless otherwise indicated, specific readings that do not derive from these books will be available through SAKAI, the e-learning website for this class and, if necessary, through the class's Drop Box account. Other materials, such as some primary source documents, Cuban hip-hop songs and Puerto Rican slam poetry, will also be made available through the SAKAI e-learning website for this class and/or Drop Box.

Grading Scale:

93-100	A	89-87 B+	79-77 C+	69-67 D+	Below 60 Failing
92-90	A-	86-83 B	76-73 C	66-63 D	

Class Mtgs: Tu 11:45-1:40 & Th 12:50-1:40
Location: CSE E119
Office hours: Th 2:00-4:00

Prof. Lillian Guerra
Office: Grinter Hall #307

82-80 B- 72-70 C- 62-60 D-

Letter Grade with GPA equivalent:

A	4.0
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.0
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.0
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.0
D-	0.67
E	0

ADDITIONAL CLASS POLICIES

Attendance is a must, as students who do not attend lectures will fail to comprehend the individual histories of each country studied or the chronological order of events that drives the process of change connecting these countries as a region. Students who have an unexcused absence and do not attend discussions on Thursday (when attendance is taken at the beginning of class) will receive a failing grade for that week's participation. ***Consistent with the policy of the UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, repeated absences from the course may result in Professor Guerra preventing a student from attending the class or dropping the student from the course with a failing grade.***

Note-taking is also a must. Knowledge of key events, locations, historical figures, organizations and movements is the basis of all historical analysis. History in this course (as in any course offered by UF's history department) is **not** the study of generalizations but contingences: ***being able to explain why something happened is as important as explaining what happened. One cannot be achieved without the other.***

Excused Absences: Students who will not be able to take an exam at the scheduled time, need an extension of the due date for a paper or were unable to attend class due to illness **must** provide medical documentation of their condition at the time. Students who have other conflicts that will prevent them from being able to complete an assignment on time must notify Professor Guerra in advance and discuss whether or not the extension or make-up exam is merited. Students must also notify Professor Guerra if they will incur absences due to UF-sanctioned activities (such as participation in UF teams, etc.).

Academic Honesty: Violations of academic honesty standards include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of another's work as

Class Mtgs: Tu 11:45-1:40 & Th 12:50-1:40
Location: CSE E119
Office hours: Th 2:00-4:00

Prof. Lillian Guerra
Office: Grinter Hall #307

one's own, bribery, conspiracy and fabrication. The criteria for assessing whether student behavior meets one or more of these violations as well as the sanctions imposed may be reviewed at the website:

<http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm>

Students with disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to Professor Guerra when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resource Center through their website:
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Make-up Policy and Extra Credit: There is no extra credit. There is no way to make-up for missing discussions of the weekly reading assignment. These will normally take place before or after lecture on Thursdays, unless otherwise noted below in the course schedule. Unexcused absences from discussion will result in a participation grade of zero for that week. Evaluation of oral participation in discussion is based on the criteria described immediately below this section.

Other Course Policies: All cell phones must be turned to vibrate at the beginning of class. *Internet websurfing, texting, checking of email, or other tasks unrelated to note-taking during lecture, discussion or other classroom activities is not permitted.* Professor Guerra will confiscate the cell phone or laptop of any student found engaging in these activities during class and s/he may be asked to leave the classroom. A second violation will result in disciplinary sanction.

Unit I. From Colonial Backwaters to Imperial Meccas: Cuba & Puerto Rico in the 15th to 19th Centuries

T Jan 5 (double class period) *Lecture 1:* Why Study Cuba and Puerto Rico? An Introduction

Lecture 2: Cultures and Counter-Cultures of Early Colonial Cuba, 15th Century to 1760s

Reading for discussion next week, Tues, Jan 12: Letter of Columbus & Journal of Columbus in Wild Majesty: Encounters with Caribs from Columbus to the Present Day. An Anthology. Peter Hulme and Neil Whitehead, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992, pp. 9-28. [available through SAKAI class website].

NO CLASS THURS 1/7/2016.

Class Mtgs: Tu 11:45-1:40 & Th 12:50-1:40
Location: CSE E119
Office hours: Th 2:00-4:00

Prof. Lillian Guerra
Office: Grinter Hall #307

T Jan 12 (double class period) Lecture 3: The Cuba that Might Have Been and the Cuba that Was: From Tobacco & Free Labor to Sugar and Slavery, 1710s to 1830s

Discussion of Columbus readings.

Th Jan 14. Lecture 4: From Fortress Frontier to Royalist Refuge: Puerto Rico from the 15th Century to 1840s

Reading for discussion next week, Tues Jan 19: “The Costly Colony”, “Criollos and Blancos” and “The Xivaros” in The Puerto Ricans: A Documentary History. Kal Wagenheim and Olga Jiménez de Wagenheim, eds. Maplewood, NJ: Waterfront Press, 1973, pp. 27-44. [available through SAKAI].

T Jan 19 (double class period) Lecture 5: Cuba, 1844: Sugar, Slavery, Free Coloreds, Planter-Aristocrats and the Year of the Lash

Discussion of Early Puerto Rico documents from Wagenheim.

Th Jan 21 Lecture 6: Cuba’s “Abolitionist Planters”? The Tropical Wing of Manifest Destiny and the Ten Years’ War, 1840s-1870s

Reading for discussion next week: Franklin Knight, Slave Society in Cuba during the Nineteenth Century. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1970, two chapters to be assigned. [available through SAKAI].

Unit II. Crucibles of Nation in Cuba & Puerto Rico Before 1898

T Jan 26 (double class period) Lecture 7: El Grito de Lares and the Rise of Accommodationist Politics in Puerto Rico

Discussion of Knight

Th Jan 28 NOTE: José Martí’s Birthday!

Lecture 8: “More than Black or White”: Independence, José Martí & the Making of Revolutionary Cuba, 1880s-1890s **Reading for discussion next week, T Feb 2:** José Martí, “My Race (1893)” in José Martí: Selected Writings, translated by Esther Allen. Penguin Classics, 2002, pp. 318-319 [available through SAKAI] **AND** Aline Helg, Our Rightful Share: The Afro-Cuban Struggle for Equality. UNC Press, 1995, pp. 23-90 [Required book]

T Feb 2nd (double class period) Discussion of Aline Helg and Martí

WATCH “La Última Cena” Cuba, 1976 (on reserve); **FILM VIEWINGS WILL ALSO SCHEDULED FOR OUR CLASS AT SMATHERS LIBRARY, LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION.** There are two different film screenings from which to choose one for Tuesday (today, the 2nd) and the other for Wednesday (the 3rd).

Th Feb 4th Discussion of “La Última Cena”. If you choose to write a one-page reaction/review of this film (there are two others we will watch in in

Class Mtgs: Tu 11:45-1:40 & Th 12:50-1:40
Location: CSE E119
Office hours: Th 2:00-4:00

Prof. Lillian Guerra
Office: Grinter Hall #307

this class), your reaction paper is due at class time and will not be accepted after discussion.

Reading for discussion next week, Tues Feb 9th: Truman R. Clark, "Educating the Natives in Self-Government': Puerto Rico and the United States, 1900-1933," The Pacific Historical Review, Vol. 42, No. 2. (May, 1973), pp. 220-233 **AND** Eileen J. Findlay, "Free Love and Domesticity: Sexuality and the Shaping of Working-Class Feminism in Puerto Rico, 1900-1917" in Identity and Struggle at the Margins of the Nation-State. Aviva Chomsky and Aldo Lauria-Santiago, eds. Duke University Press, 1998, pp. 229-259. [available through SAKAI].

Unit III. The Age of Americanization in Cuba & Puerto Rico, 1898-1940s

T Feb 9th (double class period) Lecture 9: US Imperialism and the Invasion of Puerto Rico, 1898

Discussion of Clark and Findlay readings.

Th Feb 11th Lecture 10: Americanization: The Political & Economic Transformation of Puerto Rico, 1898-1918

Reading for discussion next week, Tues Feb 16th: Rosa Carrasquillo, Our Landless Patria: Marginal Citizenship and Race in Caguas, Puerto Rico, 1880-1910 (University of Nebraska, 2008), pp. 1-22; 40-118. [Required book] **Watch 20-min film clip "The War of 1898" [available through SAKAI].**

T Feb 16th(double class period) Lecture 11: Poverty, Imperial Pacts and the Paradox of the Political System in Puerto Rico, 1920s-1930s

Discussion of Carrasquillo and film clip from "The War of 1898".

Th Feb 18th Lecture 12: US Imperialism and the Problems of "Plattist Cuba", 1898-1906

Reading for discussion next week, Tues Feb 23rd: Louis A. Pérez, Jr. The War of 1898: The United States in Cuba in History & Historiography (UNC Press, 1998), Chs. 3-4
[available through SAKAI].

FIRST ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE ON FRIDAY, FEB 19th by 4:00 PM. ALL PAPERS MUST BE HANDED INTO THE SECRETARY (KYM DALTON) AT THE FRONT DESK OF THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES or put under my door by 4:00 PM.

T Feb 23rd (double class period) Lecture 13: Stillbirth or Rebirth of the Cuban Republic? 1906-1912. ***Discussion of Pérez, The War of 1898.***

Class Mtgs: Tu 11:45-1:40 & Th 12:50-1:40
Location: CSE E119
Office hours: Th 2:00-4:00

Prof. Lillian Guerra
Office: Grinter Hall #307

Th Feb 25th Lecture 14: Renewing the Republic and Reviving Revolution in Cuba, 1912-1933. Reading for discussion after Spring Break, Tuesday, March 8th, Helg, Our Rightful Share, pp. 141-226. [Required book]

SPRING BREAK February 29th to March 4th

T Mar 8th (double class period) Lecture 15: *Jibarismo, Popularismo* and the Silencing of Nation in Puerto Rico, 1930s-1940s *Discussion of Helg, Our Rightful Share.*

Th Mar 10th Lecture 16: From Batista to Batista, 1933 to 1952
NO NEW READING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 15TH. IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION. STUDY SHEETS WILL BE HANDED OUT AND DANIEL WILL LEAD A PREPARATION WORKSHOP, DATE AND TIME TBA. REMEMBER TO BRING IN 2 BLUE BOOKS.

T Mar 15th (double class period) IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION.

Th Mar 17th In-class viewing of “The Story of Operation Bootstrap” (1983) James L. Dietz, Economic History of Puerto Rico: Institutional Change and Capitalist Development. (Princeton Paperbacks, 1983), Chapters 4 and 5 [available through SAKAI]. Reading for discussion next week, Tues March 22nd.

Unit IV. Anti-Imperialism, the United States and the Struggle for Revolutionary Change in Cuba, 1959-1989

T Mar 22nd (double class period) Lecture 17: Making Revolutionary Cuba, 1952-59
Discussion of Dietz.

Th Mar 24 Lecture 18: Revolution, Unanimity and Social Change, 1959-1961
Reading for discussion next week, Tues March 29th Thomas Paterson, Contesting Castro. (Oxford University Press, 1994). Selections to be assigned. [Required book]

T Mar 29th (double class period) Lecture 19: Internal Struggles for Freedom in Cuba, 1961-1968. *Discussion of Paterson.*

Th Mar 31st Lecture 20: Disciplining the Masses: Sovietizing Cuba: From the Revolutionary Offensive to the Era of the Fat Cows, 1968-1970s
Reading for discussion next week, Tues, April 5th: Lillian Guerra, Visions of Power in Cuba: Revolution, Redemption and Resistance, 1959-1971 (University of North Carolina Press, 2012), Introduction, Ch. 1, 2 and Ch. 3 [recommended book; also available through SAKAI]

Class Mtgs: Tu 11:45-1:40 & Th 12:50-1:40
Location: CSE E119
Office hours: Th 2:00-4:00

Prof. Lillian Guerra
Office: Grinter Hall #307

Tu Apr 5th (double class period) *Lecture 21: Cuba in the “Soviet Age” and Beyond: Communism and the Enforcing of Unanimity, 1970s-1980s*
Discussion of Guerra, Visions of Power in Cuba.

WATCH "Fresa y Chocolate" Cuba, 1993 (on reserve); FILM VIEWINGS WILL ALSO SCHEDULED FOR OUR CLASS AT SMATHERS LIBRARY, LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION. There are two different film screenings from which to choose one for Tuesday (today, the 5th) and the other for Wednesday (the 6th.) TIMES ARE TBA. If you did not write a 1-2 response to "La Ultima Cena", you must write one for this film.

Th Apr 7th *Discussion of “Fresas y Chocolate”*

Reading for discussion next week, Tues April 19th: Cuban hip-hop songs [songs and lyrics in Spanish and English available through SAKAI] and Slam poetry by Willie Perdomo [audio and poems available though SAKAI]

SECOND ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 8TH by 4:00 PM. ALL PAPERS MUST BE HANDED INTO THE SECRETARY (KYM DALTON) AT THE FRONT DESK OF THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES or put under my door by 4:00 PM.

Unit V. Dependent Development and the “None of the Above” Nation in Puerto Rico & Cuba Today

Tu Apr 12th(double class period) *Lecture 22: Cuba in the Special Period: Capitalist Communists and the Legacies of Fidelismo. Discussion of hip-hop and slam poems.*

Th Apr 14th *Lecture 23: Reclaiming the Nation: Unarmed Guerilla Warfare in Today's Puerto Rico and Today's Cuba. Reading for discussion next week, Tues April 19th: Esmeralda Santiago, When I Was Puerto Rican. Perseus Books, 1993 [Required book]*

Tu Apr 19th *Lecture 24: Final Thoughts: Why Study Cuba and Puerto Rico? ; Discuss Santiago.*

READING PERIOD APRIL 21-22ND. FINAL EXAM SCHEDULED BY REGISTRAR. BRING BLUE BOOKS. EXAM SCHEDULED FOR 2 HOURS.