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Fall 2012

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION AND THE UNITED STATES

Students in this course will investigate why the Cuban Revolution of 1959 had an impact beyond its shores, essentially transforming both Inter-American and East-West relations. At the outset, students then will survey the history of Cuban-U.S. relations from the so-called Spanish American War to the Great Depression. We will next analyze the populist period in Cuba that ended up in the dictatorship of General Fulgencio Batista and how a middle-class rebellion forced him from power on January 1, 1959. Then we will take a long look at the process by which Fidel Castro consolidated political power, mobilized the popular classes for revolutionary reforms, and turned to an alliance with the Soviet Union. We pay special attention to the revolution's influence on social organization, gender relations, and education. The students must also understand the relationship between popular demands, political consolidation, and Cuba's external relations. Finally, the class will assess how the Cuban Revolution affected U.S.-Latin American relations and why Castro choose to support other revolutions in Latin America and Africa.

Student requirements and preparations for the course include reading four paperback books and two articles in a reading packet, viewing video documentaries, participating in class discussions, and attending lectures. In addition, each student will turn in a map assignment and a 5-page essay based on a book selected from the bibliography of our readings.

One's final grade will consist of the following graded exercises:

-A map assignment worth 5 % of the final grade or 50 points.
-A mid-term exam worth 20 % of the final grade or 200 points.
-A written book essay worth 35 % of the final grade or 350 points.
-A final exam worth 40 % of the final grade or 400 points.

The accumulation of points at the end of the semester will determine the student's final grade: i.e., 900 points or more for an A, 800 or more for a B, and so forth. Please understand that NO ONE WILL MISS AN EXAMINATION WITHOUT A PHYSICIAN'S EXCUSE. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5 percent.

REQUIRED TEXTS (all paperback)

Sebastian Balfour, *Castro*
Samuel Farber, *The Origins of the Cuban Revolution*
Lois M. Smith, *Sex and Revolution*
Ernesto "Che" Guevara, *Reminiscences of the Cuban Revolutionary War*

Required reading packet, available at Jenn's, 2200 Guadalupe**:**

Theda Skocpol, "A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions"
Jonathan C. Brown, "Cuba since 1959"

VIDEOS on RESERVE at Fine Arts Library, third floor, UGL.

Cuba at the Cross Roads: The Roots of the Revolution. Vidcass 9485.
Cuba at the Cross Roads: A View from Havana. Vidcass 9484.
The Bay of Pigs. Vidcass 7385.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Aug 30	Introduction	
Sep 4-6	What is social revolution? Why US intervention?	Skocpol
Sep 6	MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE	
Sep 11-20	Cuba, the US, and the Old Regime	Balfour, chs 1-3 Smith, ch 1-2 Farber, ch 1-2
Sep 25-Oct 18	Era of Revolutionary Violence *Cuba at the Cross Roads:* Vidcass 9485	Guevara Balfour, 4-5
Oct 23	MID-TERM EXAMINATION	
Oct 25	LECTURE: WRITING THE ANALYTICAL ESSAY	
Oct 30-Nov 15	Era of Revolutionary Consolidation *The Bay of Pigs.* Vidcass 7385.	Brown
Nov 20	BOOK ANALYSIS IS DUE	
Nov 27 -Dec 6	The United States, the USSR & Cuba *Cuba at the Cross Roads,* Vidcass 9484	Smith, chs 3-14 Balfour, chs 6-8
Dec 17	Monday, 2:00. - 5:00 p.m. FINAL EXAMINATION	