

## SYLLABUS

**Professor: Alfred P. Montero**

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**Office Hours: 3:00-5:00 p.m. Tuesdays; 5:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesdays; or by appt. on Skype**

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### Course Description

This seminar examines the modern political, economic and social history of Cuba, placing it in comparative perspective with other Latin American countries during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The course will investigate most intensively the political institutions, patterns of development, leaders, and ideologies of the post-1930 period and particularly the 1959 Revolution and Communist Cuba. This course is not meant to be a research seminar, though students will explore their choice of research questions in Cuban politics through their work on occasional short papers. The seminar is meant to inform and inspire further work on Cuba in independent research. This seminar is not eligible for comps in the political science department.

### What is Expected of Students

Students will be expected to read, think, criticize, and form arguments. That will require keeping up on reading assignments and attending class regularly. Students must be fully prepared *at all times* to discuss the readings and concepts from previous lectures. The best students will be critical but balanced in their assessments, and will develop coherent arguments that they can defend in their writing and their in-class discussion. This course will involve a number of out-of-the-classroom experiences and meetings, including guest speakers and culinary instruction.

### Reading Materials

All the reading materials for this course are available on Moodle. This includes clippings from periodicals such as *The New York Times*, *The Miami Herald* and *El Herald*, *Granma*, the *Economist*, and audio and video materials.

### Grading

Students will be evaluated based on their completion of two short writing assignments, their participation in classroom debates and discussions, and their posts on Moodle. Each student will be called upon during the course of the semester to participate in numerous debates and to present on the readings in structured critiques that will initiate all seminar discussions on the literature. The grade breakdown follows:

<b>Debates</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Paper #1</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Paper #2</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Moodle Posts</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Class Participation</b>	<b>20%</b>

### The Debates

This seminar will use a series of adversarial debates (2x2 or 4x4) to address the literature Cuban politics. Students will be instructed in how to organize these debates and how to participate with an emphasis on rejoinder and argument development.

### The Seminar Papers

At designated times listed on the schedule below, students will be asked to prepare short 8-10 page papers exploring a topic in Cuban politics in some depth. These papers must conform to the style requirements (typed, double-spaced, 12cpi font size, one-inch margins, paginated). Bibliographies must apply the required format described in a separate handout. All papers must be handed in by 5 p.m. on the Courses directory on the due date (see below). All files, except for data files, must be in PDF format. Handouts on each of these paper assignments will be posted on Moodle well in advance of the due dates.

### Class Participation

As a seminar, the classroom discussions play a pivotal role in this course. Prior to each meeting, a selected number of students will be assigned the task of preparing talking points and discussion questions on the readings. These talking points should form the basis for both descriptive *and* critical points about the readings. Some students will be asked to answer these questions prior to class, all will be expected to answer them in the classroom. After each meeting, some students will be asked to post their class notes. All such work will be due on Moodle. In class, each student will present arguments to lead off general discussion in the seminar. Failure to follow through on any of these tasks will be penalized on the participation score.

Typically, I will begin each class session by offering a general overview of the issues to be discussed. I will also present you with a set of critical questions to structure discussion. After the overview portion, the seminar will proceed to student presentations and then general discussion. I will conclude each class session with a brief review of the authors and readings for the next meeting. Whenever possible, each class will have a brief break of about 5 minutes.

## Moodle Posts

Classroom discussion will extend to non-class times in this seminar. As part of the regular participation requirement, students must contribute to an ongoing dissemination of ideas on Moodle forums for designated topics listed below. The professor will moderate the discussion and be responsible for the structure of the forum.

## The Grading Scale

I will be using the following grading scale in this course:

98-100 A+

94-97 A

91-93 A-

88-90 B+

83-87 B

79-82 B-

76-78 C+

72-75 C

68-71 C-

67/below D/F

## **Academic Misconduct**

Given the fact that academe relies upon the ethical conduct of scholars, students are held to the same standards in their own work. Any act of academic dishonesty or misconduct will be referred to the Office of the Dean. For further information, see the useful handout on "[Avoiding Academic Misconduct.](#)"

## **Special Needs**

Students requiring access to learning tools/special schedules approved by Student Support Services should contact me at the beginning of the course.

**NOTE: Readings must be completed for the dates assigned below.**

## **PART I**

### **CUBAN HISTORY FROM WITHIN AND FROM WITHOUT**

#### **Introduction: The Idea of Cuba (Tuesday, January 4)**

Louis A. Pérez, Jr. 2008. *Cuba in the American Imagination: Metaphor and the Imperial Ethos.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, introduction and ch. 1.

Fidel Castro. 1962. Excerpts from the Speech, "Second Declaration of Havana" on the Plaza de la

Revolución, February 4. (Published in Julio García Luis, ed. *Cuban Revolution Reader: A Documentary History of Fidel Castro's Revolution*. New York: Ocean Press, pp. 127-134).

Rafael Hernández. 2003. *Looking at Cuba: Essays on Culture and Civil Society*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, ch. 2.

### **The Seeds of Revolution in Cuban History (Thursday, January 6)**

Jaime Suchlicki. 2002. *Cuba: From Columbus to Castro*. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Washington, D.C.: Brassey's, chs 6-11.

### **The Causes of the Revolution Considered Part I (Tuesday, January 11)**

Michael J. Mazarr. 1988. *Semper Fidel: America and Cuba 1776-1988*. Baltimore, MD: Nautical and Aviation Publishing, ch. 9.

Marifeli Pérez-Stable. 1998. *The Cuban Revolution: Origins, Course, and Legacy*. New York: Oxford University Press, ch 1-2.

Louis A. Pérez, Jr. 2011. *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. New York: Oxford University Press, chs. 9-10.

### **The Causes of the Revolution Considered Part II (Thursday, January 13)**

Marifeli Pérez-Stable. 1998. "Reflections on Political Possibilities: Cuba's Peaceful Transition that Wasn't (1954-1956)." Paper presented at the Second CRI Congress on Cuban and Cuban-American Affairs, Miami FL.

Esteban Morales Domínguez and Gary Prevost. 2008. *United States-Cuban Relations: A Critical History*. Boulder: Lexington Books, ch. 1.

George Kennan. 2007 (orig. 1950). "Latin America as a Problem in U.S. Foreign Policy." In *Neighboring Adversaries: Readings in U.S.-Latin American Relations* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Boulder: Lexington Books.

Lars Schoultz. 2009. *That Infernal Little Cuban Republic: The United States and the Cuban Revolution*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, ch. 3.

### **El Comandante Fidel (Tuesday, January 18)**

Tad Szulc. 1986. *Fidel: A Critical Portrait*. New York: William Morrow and Co., pp. 184-95; 200-02; 205-61; 279-98; 347-56; 364-82.

Brian Latell. 2005. *After Fidel: Raúl Castro and the Future of Cuba's Revolution*. New York: Palgrave, ch. 3.

Fidel Castro. 1953. "History Will Absolve Me." Speech given on October 16, 1953, at his trial for leading the Moncada Barracks raid in Santiago de Cuba. (Published in David Deutschmann and Deborah Shnookal, eds. 2007. *Fidel Castro Reader*. New York: Ocean Press, pp. 45-105).

### **Building the Post-Revolutionary State (Thursday, January 20)**

Marifeli Pérez-Stable. 1998. *The Cuban Revolution*, chs. 3-5.

Louis A. Pérez, Jr. 2011. *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*, ch. 12.

### **DEBATE #1 (Tuesday, January 25)**

Wayne S. Smith. 1996. "Cuba's Long Reform." *Foreign Affairs* 75:2 (March/April): 99-112.

### **NO CLASS/NO READING – WORK ON PAPERS (Thursday, January 27)**

### **PAPER #1 DUE (Friday, January 28)**

## **PART II**

### **THE POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITS OF SOCIALISM**

#### **Institutionalization of the Revolution (Tuesday, February 1)**

Marifeli Pérez-Stable. 1998. *The Cuban Revolution*, ch. 6.

Fidel Castro. 1961. Declaration of the socialist character of the Revolution, May Day. (Published in David Deutschmann and Deborah Shnookal, eds. 2007. *Fidel Castro Reader*. New York: Ocean Press, pp. 194-211).

Irving Louis Horowitz. 2001. "Military Origin and Evolution of the Cuban Revolution." In Irving Louis Horowitz and Jaime Suchlicki, eds. *Cuban Communism* 10<sup>th</sup> ed. New Brunswick: Transaction.

#### **Rectification and Crisis (Thursday, February 3)**

Marifeli Pérez-Stable. 1998. *The Cuban Revolution*, ch. 7.

Susan E. Eckstein. 1994. *Back from the Future: Cuba Under Castro*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chs. 3-4.

#### **The Cuban Economy (Tuesday, February 8)**

Jorge Domínguez. 2004. "Cuba's Economic Transition: Successes, Deficiencies, and Challenges." In Jorge Domínguez, Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva, and Lorena Barberia, eds. *The Cuban*

*Economy at the Start of the Twenty-first Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Emily Morris. 2008. "Cuba's New Relationship with Foreign Capital: Economic Policy-making since 1990." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 40: 769-92.

Viviana Togores and Anicia García. 2004. "Consumption, Markets, and Monetary Duality in Cuba." In Domínguez et al.

Francisco Domínguez. 2008. "The Rise of the Private Sector in Cuba." In Alexander I. Gray and Antoni Kapcia, eds. *The Changing Dynamics of Cuban Civil Society*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.

### **The Cuban Exile: Transnational Ties that Bind (Thursday, February 10)**

Susan Eckstein. 2009. *The Immigrant Divide: How Cuban Americans Changed the U.S. and Their Homeland*. New York: Routledge, chs. 3 & 5.

Susan Eckstein. 2004. "Transnational Networks and Norms, Remittances, and the Transformation of Cuba." In Domínguez et al.

*Recommended:* Andreas F. Lowenfeld. 1996. "Congress and Cuba: The Helms-Burton Act." *The American Journal of International Law* 90:3 (July): 419-34.

### **Debate #2 (Tuesday, February 15)**

Pedro Monreal. 2004. "Globalization and the Dilemmas of Cuba's Economic Trajectories." In Domínguez et al.

Susan Eckstein. 2009. *The Immigrant Divide*, ch. 7.

Sarah Blue. 2007. "The Erosion of Racial Equality in the Context of Cuba's Dual Economy." *Latin American Politics and Society* 49:3 (Fall): 35-68.

### **Reform Delayed or Deleted? (Thursday, February 17)**

Carmelo Mesa-Lago and Jorge F. Pérez-López. 2005. *Cuba's Aborted Reform: Socioeconomic Effects, International Comparisons, and Transition Policies*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, chs. 2-3 & 6.

**Guest Speaker: Marifeli Pérez-Stable, Florida International University and Inter-American Dialogue, will give the Wynia Memorial Lecture at 4:30 p.m. in the Athenaeum (Friday, February 18)**

### **Cuban Civil Society (Tuesday, February 22)**

Antoni Kapcia. 2008. "Setting the Stage for a Discussion of Cuban Civil Society: The Nature of

Cuban ‘Communism’ and the Revolution’s Political Culture.” In Alexander I. Gray and Antoni Kapcia, eds.

Rafael Hernández. 2003. *Looking at Cuba: Essays on Culture and Civil Society*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, ch. 6.

Michelle Marín-Dogan. 2008. “Civil Society: The Cuban Debate.” In Alexander I. Gray and Antoni Kapcia, eds.

Christine Ayorinde. 2008. “‘A Space within the Revolution’: Religious Cubans and the Secular State.” In Alexander I. Gray and Antoni Kapcia, eds.

### **Debate #3 (Thursday, February 24)**

Carlos Alberto Montaner vs. Ignacio Ramonet. 2007. “Was Fidel Good for Cuba?” *Foreign Policy* (January/February): 56-64.

Laura J. Enríquez. 2003. “Economic Reform and Repeasantization in Post-1990 Cuba.” *Latin American Research Review* 38:1: 202-18.

### **PAPER #2 DUE (Monday, February 28)**

## **PART III**

### **AFTER FIDEL / AFTER CUBAN COMMUNISM, WHAT?**

#### **The Possibilities for Continued Nontransition (Tuesday, March 1)**

Brian Latell. 2005. *After Fidel*, ch. 12.

Javier Corrales. 2004. “The Gatekeeper State: Limited Economic Reforms and Regime Survival in Cuba, 1989-2002.” *Latin American Research Review* 39:2: 35-65.

Jorge I. Domínguez. 2001. “Why the Cuban Regime Has Not Fallen.” In Irving Louis Horowitz and Jaime Suchlicki, eds. *Cuban Communism* 10<sup>th</sup> ed. New Brunswick: Transaction.

Josep M. Colomer. 2001. “After Fidel, What? Forecasting Institutional Changes in Cuba.” In Irving Louis Horowitz and Jaime Suchlicki, eds.

#### **U.S. – Cuban Relations in the post-Cold War Period (Thursday, March 3)**

Morris Morley and Chris McGillion. 2002. *Unfinished Business: America and Cuba After the Cold War, 1989-2001*. New York: Cambridge University Press, chs. 1, 3-4.

Marifeli Pérez-Stable. 2011. *The United States and Cuba: Intimate Enemies*. New York: Routledge, chs. 4-5.

Lars Schoultz. 2009. *That Infernal Little Cuban Republic*, conclusion (pp. 553-567).

**Debate #4 (Tuesday, March 8)**

Diana Raby. 2009. "Why Cuba Still Matters." *Monthly Review* 60:8 (January): 1-13.

Yinghong Cheng. 2007. "Fidel Castro and 'China's Lesson for Cuba': A Chinese Perspective." *The China Quarterly* (March): 24-42.