Cuba: From Spanish Colony to Socialist Republic (HILA 122)

Fall 2014
CSB 004
Office: Mandeville Coffee Cart
Class: Tu/Th 12:30-2

Our course explores the “modern” history of Cuba, using the analytic categories of race, empire and culture as windows into the contested process of Cuban nationhood. Our principle focus will remain on two central contradictions of cubanidad, the struggle for self-determination in the shadow of the United States, and the contested search to forge, define, or comprehend a single peoplehood from the fires of music, migration, slavery, colonialism, revolution, socialism, austerity, and war.

Assignments:
Midterm Examination 50%
Final 50%
Book Review (1) [extra credit] (10%)

Extra Credit Assignment: Each student will prepare a written review of a book related to the history of Cuba. This book must be published by a university press. Examples will be provided.

Academic Integrity: UC San Diego has a strong policy on academic honesty. You can find it here: http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html

Required Readings:
A number of articles will be placed on electronic reserve at the library. They, like the assigned reading from the books, should always be completed prior to the course in which they are referenced. You are to buy both of the books. The course texts are:

1. Louis Perez, Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution (Oxford University Press)

Course Outline

Metanarratives of the colony:
Oct 2 Course Introduction and Themes
Oct 7 Sugar, Slavery, and the Ever Faithful Isle
Read: Perez, ch. 1-3

Cuba Libre!
Oct 9 Tanto Negro, Tanto Chino: revolutionary dialectics of race and power
Oct 14 “Our Islands & Their People:” from Cuba Libre to Yanquilandia
Read: Perez, ch. 4-5
the sober reality of domination

Oct 16  “Film: Elpidio Valdes
Oct 21  “En Cardenas, Funerario:” from “race war” to racist peace
Oct 23  Cuban Counterpoint: the revolution of 1933 & the Second Republic
Oct 28  midterm examination #1

Read:  Perez, Perez, ch. 6-9
Helg, Our Rightful Share, “The Racist Massacre of 1912”, pp. 193-220
George Brandon, The Dead Sell Memories, 79-99.

the end of the beginning

Oct 30  Last Call: the fall of Batista
Nov 4  The Youngest Revolution

Read:  Perez, ch. 10-11
Fidel, “History Will Absolve Me”

Week VI & VII: cuándo lo extraordinario se vuelve cotidiano

Nov 6  Building a Revolutionary Culture
Nov 11  no class—veteran’s day observance
Nov 13  Con Azúcar No Hay País: The Political Economy of Tropical Socialism
Nov 18  Death of a Bureaucrat

Read:  Perez, ch. 12
Che, “Man and Socialism in Cuba”
Mona Rosendahl, Inside the Revolution: Everyday Life in Socialist Cuba, ch. 3

Due:  Title of Book to be reviewed

from the island to the world

Nov 20  Memories of Cuito Carnavale: Cuba’s African Dream
Nov 25  Visions of Calle Ocho: Cuba’s Florida, Florida’s Cuba

Read  Che, “A Message to the Tricontinental”
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, “Operation Carlotta”
Anita Casavantes-Bradford, The Revolution is for the Children (selections)
el “período especial” and after

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 27</td>
<td>class cancelled</td>
<td>in celebration of the genocidal destruction of the North American indigenous population, plus gluttony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>The Political Economy of Collapse and Recovery</td>
<td>Book Review Essays Due 3PM, Department of History, 5th floor HSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>review of class themes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>Final Essays Due 3PM, Department of History, 5th floor HSS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>