

HISTORY 326

Cuba from Independence to the Revolution



St. Francis Xavier University
2009-2010

Dr. Chris Frazer

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY
HISTORY 326 – Cuba From Independence to the Revolution
Winter Term 2009-2010

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a three-credit course on Cuban history from the early 19th century to the present. Topics include the late Spanish colonialism and the impact of a slave economy based on the production of sugar, coffee and tobacco; the struggle for abolition of slavery and national independence; the Spanish-American war of 1898 and U.S. domination in the 20th century; the 1933 Revolution against Machado; the armed struggle against Batista in the 1950s; Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and the socialist experiment; the Cold War and Cuba's role in Latin America; and Cuban society on a post-Soviet world. This course will also explore Afro-Cuban culture, gender and sexuality, and human rights.

EVALUATION:

There is a mid-term (20%) and a final exam (30%). Students will also write a 10-12 page research essay (40%). The remaining grade is based on class discussions (10%).

REQUIRED READING:

Richard Gott. *Cuba: A New History*.
Che Guevara. *Reminiscences of the Cuban Revolutionary War*.
Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda y Arteaga. *Sab and Autobiography*.
Aviva Chomsky, et al, editors. *The Cuba Reader*.

Dates for Assignments and Exams:

Midterm Quiz:	February 26	Last Class:	April 5
Research Essay:	March 26	Final Exam:	Take Home

Introduction to Cuba: its Colonial Foundations

January 4-January 8

Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*, pp. 5-38.

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: Indigenous Society and Conquest*, pp. 7-36

Imperial Crisis and the Sugar Revolution: 1763-1825

January 11-January 15

Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*, pp. 39-48.

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: Sugar, Slavery, and Colonialism*, pp. 37-112

Planters and Slaves: 1825-1888

January 18-January 22

Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*, pp. 48-70.

Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda y Arteaga, *Sab and Autobiography*, entire

Struggles for Freedom and Independence: 1825-1898

January 25-29

Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*, pp. 71-103.

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: The Struggle for Independence*, pp. 113-142

Independence, Intervention and Occupation: 1898-1917

February 1-February 5

Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*, pp. 104-129

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: Neocolonialism*, pp. 143-188

A Pseudo-Republic and the Revolution of 1933

February 8-February 12

Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*, pp. 129-146

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: Neocolonialism*, pp. 189-243, 264-286

Batista's Republic: From Populist to Dictator, 1934-1952

February 15-February 19

Batista's Republic: The Yankee Playground, 1952-1959

February 22-26

Midterm Exam February 26

Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*, pp. 135-146.

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: Neocolonialism*, pp. 244-263, 287-299

Midterm Recess March 1-5

The Cuban Revolution: Moncada to the Sierra, 1953-1959

March 8-March 12

Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*, pp. 147-178.

Che Guevara, *Reminiscences of the Cuban Revolutionary War*, entire.

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: Neocolonialism*, pp. 300-332

The Revolution in Power: the Socialist Turn, 1959-1961

March 15-March 19

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: Building a New Society*, pp. 333-394

Struggle for Survival: Cuba Confronts the USA, 1961-1962

March 22-26

Research Essay Due March 26

Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*, pp. 178-214.

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: Building a New Society*, pp. 395-447

Cuba Builds a New Society, 1962-2002

March 29-April 1

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: Culture and Revolution*, pp. 449-513

Cuba on the World Stage, 1962-2002

April 5

Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*, pp. 215-325.

Chomsky, et al, *Cuba Reader: The Cuban Revolution and the World*, pp. 515-594

Final Exam (Take Home)

Policies

1. Research Papers: Basic Guidelines

I will not accept papers that do not meet the basic requirements set by me and the department of history. I may assign a failing grade or require you to re-write your paper. Research essays 10-12 pages in length need a bibliography with at least five sources (scholarly books and articles), all of which must be cited in a minimum of thirty footnotes or endnotes. Book reviews do not require sources beyond the book under review; however, they do require a minimum of thirty citations. In this course, students are required to use the Chicago style for their bibliography and citations. For

more details see Storey and Jones, *Writing History*, pp. 38-46 or views the guidelines posted on the history department website <http://www.stfx.ca/academic/history/essayguide.html>.

2. Extended Deadlines on Assignments

It is your responsibility to organize your time and ensure that assignments are complete by the due date. I understand that you cannot anticipate emergencies and extenuating circumstances and will grant an extension if necessary. In such cases, you must provide proof of need for an extension (a note from a physician, employer, coach, instructor, the registrar, or student services). False requests for extensions are subject to academic discipline (see the university calendar, Academic Integrity Policy, 3.9.2, p. 14).

3. Late Penalties on Assignments

The penalty is 2 percent per weekday and 1 percent per weekend for students who submit their assignments late, without prior permission for an extension.

4. Attendance at Exams

It is your responsibility to ensure that you attend exams on the day, time, and location set by me or the registrar. There is no rule against three exams in 24 hours. In the case of an emergency, I will make arrangements to write make-up exams. Students must provide proof of an acceptable reason for not writing the exam. Travel plans for personal or non-academic purposes are not an acceptable reason. For more information, see the course calendar (Academic Regulations, Examination, 3.10, p. 14).

5. Plagiarism and Cheating

Neither the university nor I tolerates plagiarism or cheating. The university calendar describes "Plagiarism [as] the misrepresentation of another's work – whether ideas or words, intellectual or creative works, images or data, published or unpublished – as one's own" (St.FX 2007-2008 calendar, p. 14). Make sure you know what constitutes plagiarism and cheating. For more info visit the Writing Centre website and read the material at the following URL about plagiarism, <http://www.stfx.ca/resources/writingcentre/Plagiarism.htm>, as well as the StFX MacDonald library website at <http://library.stfx.ca/help/plagiarism.php>.

6. Class Equity Policy

For all members of our class to learn effectively, this class must be an inclusive and safe learning environment. To ensure this, my policy is that no one shall be discriminated against or harassed on the basis of age, race, colour, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, physical disability or mental disability, health status, ethnic, national or Aboriginal origin, family or marital status, income, or political belief. Discrimination is the distinctive treatment of a person on the basis of one or more of the above characteristics, which imposes a burden, obligation or disadvantage, or withholds benefits or disadvantages from such individuals. Harassment, including sexual harassment, is offensive and objectionable conduct or comment toward another person or persons.