LLS/HIS 260  HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY CUBA  Summer 2017

Special Study Abroad Topic:
Race, Republic and Revolution in Cuba

Instructor:
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Catalog Course Description
This course will trace Cuban history, from the War of Independence of 1868, through the establishment of the Republic, up to and including the Revolution of 1959. The revolutionary period will be the main focus of the course.

Special Study Abroad Course Description:
Through study, research, and firsthand experience, this course invites students to analyze the history of race in Cuba during the critical years of Republic (1902-1958) and Revolution (1959-Present). The course surveys the historical forces that framed the construction of race in Cuba including slavery, science, immigration and notions of "modernity" and "civilization. Emphasis is on uncovering the history of conceptions of race (and the political and economic policies that emerged from those conceptions) from the birth of the Republic through the Revolution.

Course Learning Outcomes
In this course, students will be able to

1. Describe changing racial norms in Cuba from the late colony through the present day.
2. Explain similarities and differences in the ways Cuba's political leaders during the Republican and Revolutionary periods addressed issues of racial conflict on the island.
3. Recognize the ways in which immigration--Spanish, West Indian, etc.--intersected with Cuban racial debates.
4. Identify the various ways in which Afrocubans contested racial discrimination and contributed to the formation of the island's Republican and Revolutionary identities.

Required book:


Optional books for advanced reading:


Course requirements:
1. A pre-departure examination on the essentials of Cuban history (100 points)
   An “objective” exam based upon the class sessions and readings of the first week of class

2. A personal essay (1,000 – 2,000 words) on your reflections during the stay in Cuba (100 points)
   Emphasis on your reactions to what you are experiencing in Cuba

3. Presentation/photo essay (100 points)
   PowerPoint photo essay to be shared with the class, the LLS Department, and the broader college community during the following Fall semester

4. Do-at-Home Examination (100 points)
   Essay format, study guide will be provided

5. Final Debrief Essay (100 points)
   Reflective essay on course and field experience.

5. Extra credit points may be earned, at the discretion of the instructor, through a combination of excellent attendance and punctuality, class participation, and being a positive influence on the group during our stay in Cuba

Grading scale:
Maximum number of points: 400

A = 372 (93%) and above
A- = 360 (90%) to 371
B+ = 348 (87%) to 359
B = 332 (83%) to 347
B- = 320 (80%) to 331
D+ = 240 (60%) to 251
D- = 239 and below

C+ = 308 (77%) to 319
C = 292 (73%) to 307
C- = 280 (70%) to 291
D+ = 268 (67%) to 279
D = 252 (63%) to 267
F = 239 and below

Plagiarism and Cheating
Plagiarism and cheating are violations of CUNY's policy on academic integrity (see: http://www1.cuny.edu/portal_ur/content/2004/policies/image/policy.pdf). By registering in this course, you are promising to abide by all the requirements stated in this policy. Students in breach of this policy are liable to severe penalty, including disciplinary action. See also p. 225 of the Undergraduate Bulletin for further explanation.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited.

Students who are unsure how an when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation.
Students with Disabilities
Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student’s eligibility from the OAS which is located at L66.01 NB (212-237-8031). It is the student’s responsibility to initiate contact with the office and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK ONE: at John Jay College

Introduction  
Readings: Pérez, chapter 1  
Course mechanics and themes  
• Geography and the indigenous population

The Colonial and Republican Legacy  
• Pérez, chapters 2-10  
• De La Fuente, chapters 1-6

The Cuban Revolution  
• Pérez, chapter 11-13  
• De La Fuente, chapters 7-8, epilogue

WEEKS TWO AND THREE: at CEDEM, University of Havana, and at Casa de las Américas  

Itinerary and field guide

August 5: personal essay and final exam due electronically by 5:00 pm  
Send each separately as Word attachments to: jgutierrez@jjay.cuny.edu

Photo essay will be presented to the class at a mutually-convenient time after returning from Cuba.