This two-credit seven course is open to all graduate students interested in understanding the evolution of Cuba's economic, political and social institutions and policies. We will begin with an overview of Cuba's history: the colonial period and important events from independence to 1959. However, most of the course will focus on the different phases of Castro's revolution in the 1960-2003 period, when we examine both domestic policy (economic and social) and international relations. The goal is to evaluate Cuba’s progress in socio-economic development during the 1960-2003 periods and produce a report which will be distributed to all the donors to the Cuba trip.

Grades will be based on class participation and presentations, participation in the final policy paper/report and a final take-home exam, due Monday, February 16.

Week 1 (Monday, Jan 12): History (1500-1959)

During the first class we will read about Cuba's history from the colonial period until Fidel Castro came into power. We should examine the society: Who were the different groups that inhabited this island making up the people of today (i.e., indigenous people, colonizers, immigrants)? Politics/Government/International Relations: How Cuba gained its independence from Spain? What forces brought Fidel Castro into power? Cuban-American relations in 1950s? Relations with Latin American countries? Economy: What was the economic base? Growth of GDP/capita? Exports? Poverty/inequality.

Suchliki, James (1997) Cuba: From Columbus to Castro and Beyond , 4 ed.
following chapters:
   Chap. 3: The Emerging Colony, 21-31 (10 pages) (overview of the early Colonial period)
   Chap. 5: The Rise of King Sugar, 40-49 (9 pages) (the economics of the colonial agricultural base)
   Chap. 7: The “Ever Faithful Colony” Rebels, 64-84 (20 pages) (opposition to Spain and Marti)
   Chap. 11: Background to Revolution, 132-152 (20 pages) (1952-59, discontent to Revolution)
   The Platt Amendment, 1903: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/platt.htm
Supplementary Readings:


Students in charge of readings and class presentation: Norm Bishara, Lisa Langdon, Krishan Jhalani, Greg Hansen

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*We should get an understanding of Marxism and how it was implemented in Cuba. What changes were made in economic and social sectors? International relations with Russia, US, Latin America. Important political issues. Impact of the US embargo.*

**Marxism and Socio-Economic Development**


**Foreign Relations**


[http://wps.aw.com/aw_todarosmit_econdevelp_8/0,6111,284582,-00.html](http://wps.aw.com/aw_todarosmit_econdevelp_8/0,6111,284582,-00.html)

Supplementary Readings
Week 3 (Jan. 21): 1990-present: Focus on the Economy (“Transition”)

During this week we will look at the changes in the economy with the collapse of the Soviet Union and subsequent introduction of market force (tourist sector development). Evolution of the GDP, GDP/capita, exports, etc.

Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Cuba Country Report, August 2003 (27 pp)
Monreal, Pedro (ed.) (2002) Development Prospect in Cuba: An Agenda in the Making, School of Advanced Studies, University of London. The following chapters:

Supplemental Reading:

Week 4 (Jan. 28): the Environment and Agriculture

During this class we will discuss what were the internal and external conditions that facilitated the transition to sustainable agriculture in Cuba. In what ways have Cuba’s environmental policies and agricultural policies become inextricably linked? How has the movement toward environmental protection and sustainable agriculture allowed for more social equity to develop? How has the Cuban government balanced economic development with environmental protection?


Supplemental Reading:

UNDP Cuba: Portfolio Highlights 1992-2001 (Focus on Related Projects)

- Video: The Greening of the Revolution -- Cuban perspective of maintaining the environment through sustainable agriculture (30 minutes)
- Guest Speaker: Ivette Perfecto, SNRE, University of Michigan, will talk about the basis of the sustainable agriculture, scientific changes and how it effects environment. (60 minutes)
- Students in charge of readings and class presentation: Dan Poux, Brenda Lin

Week 5 (Feb. 4): Social Policy and Poverty

Class will focus on evaluating the education and health systems developed under socialism and assess the degree of poverty. (80 pages of reading)


Supplemental Reading


- Video: “Forging Ahead for the Future” -- Education project in Pinar del Rio (27 mins)
- Students in charge of presenting readings: Jackie Tan, Bria Barker, Diego Stacy

Week 6 (Feb. 11): Urban Development/ Human Rights/Government

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Roberto Segre, Mario Coyula, and Joseph L. Sacrpaci (1997) "The Hope and Reality of Socialist Housing". In Havana: Two Faces of the Antillean Metropolis " Wiley. (31 pages)

Andrew Farncombe and Rafael Betancourt “Canada Contributes to Sustainable Urban Development in Cuba: Revitalization of el Parque Metropolitano de La Habana”(9 pages) http://www.globalexchange.org/countries/cuba/sustainable/metroPark.html

Cuba: Preventing Poverty through Sustainable Development at Community Level. Human Development Program at the Local Level (PDHL) (7 pages) http://www.undp.org/rblac/wssd/documents/cuba.PDF

HUMAN RIGHTS


Hernandez Article from ReVista on "Democracy and Latin American"
GOVERNMENT


Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Cuba. (No date given.) Section on "Characteristic of the Cuban political and electoral system" (sic) section of "Cuban Political and Electoral System." Published on the world-wide web at: http://www.cubaminrex.cu/English/Focus_On/Cuban%20political%20and%20electoral%20system%20.htm

- **Video:** Voices from the Island of Freedom (Czech documentary)
- **Students in charge of readings:** Stephanie James, Jon Shill, Lipi Saikia

**Week 7 (Feb. 18): Gender issues/Sports/Culture-Literature/Religion**

**Gender Issues:**


**Literature:**

Cristina García (ed.) *Cubanismo! The Vintage Book of Contemporary Cuban Literature*,

Martí, José, “Love in the City” from *War Diaries*, p.3 – 10

Carpentier, Alejo, “Journey Back to the Source”, p.81 – 97

Arenas, Reinaldo, “*Before Night Falls*”, p.263 – 282

**Religion:**

Kirk, John M., “Toward a Rapprochement” Chapter 8 in *Between God and the Party*, p.172 - 178


“Afro-Cuban Religions,” in *The Regla de Ocha* p. 17 – 39

**Sports:**


Supplemental Reading:


- **Guest Speaker: Ruth Behar** Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
- Students in charge of class: Priya Naik, Aaron Skrocki, Matt Jacobs