

CUBA IN TRANSITION

IR 529

Fall 2014

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Course Description

The course will focus on the prospects for peaceful transition in Cuba and the pressures for greater openness and democratization. It will examine the relevant aspects of pre-revolutionary Cuba and how the economic and political conditions in the late 1950s created the basis for a successful revolution. It will analyse how Fidel Castro's Revolution was implemented and how he and his brother have retained control for over 50 years.

The course will cover the international impact of the Cuban Revolution and its influence on the policies of the US and other countries.

The discussion of the relevant factors in a transition in Cuba will include: - the current strengths and weakness of the Cuban economy and its capacity to survive; Cuba's international links, its dependence on Venezuela and the potential for developing other key relationships; the state of civil society, the dissidents, the role of women's organizations, churches and NGOs and their capacity to influence the process of change: and the implications of the current economic reforms and new technologies for Cuba's future.

The experience of other countries' will be compared and the possible roles of the Diaspora and the international community in assisting adjustments in Cuba will be examined.

Current events in Cuba which are significant for its transition and for its future, for example in its relations with the US, will be discussed throughout the class.

Required Reading

- 'The Cuban Revolution, ' Origins, Course, and Legacy', Third Edition, Marifeli Perez-Stable, Oxford University Press: Publication Date - December 2011

- 'Cuba : Order and Revolution" . Jorge I Dominguez. Harvard University Press, 1978.

- 'Debating US-Cuba Relations': Edited by Jorge I. Dominguez, Rafael Hernandez and Lorena Barberia, Routledge, 2012.

- 'The Cuba Wars: Fidel Castro and the Next Revolution'. Daniel P Erikson, Bloomsbury Press, 2008.

All books can be purchased at Barnes and Noble or online through Amazon.

Other Reading

In addition to the books above, there are two surveys of contemporary Cuba which have been published recently and will serve as useful general background: -

'Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know', Second Edition Paperback – by Julia E. Sweig, Oxford University Press; 2nd edition April 2013.

'Cuban Revelations: Behind the Scenes in Havana' by Marc Frank, University Press of Florida, 2013

For most classes there will be articles assigned to focus on particular aspects of the Cuban Transition. These are listed below under each week's topics and are available online. We will also have regular discussions about news items reporting on current developments in Cuba.

Academic Honesty

Without exception, students are expected to adhere to the Boston University CAS Academic Code. Please read the Boston University Academic Conduct Code. Accordingly, all instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the CAS Academic Conduct Committee. Please see <http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/>.

Grading

The course will require a short research paper of 5000 words citing at least 10 separate sources. This is due at the end of November 2014, and should be on a topic relevant to Cuba's transition to be agreed with me.

Grading will be based on the following components: 20 % midterm, 30% required paper, 30% final, 20% participation.

Sequence of Classes

WEEK 1

Pre-Revolutionary Cuba: The key characteristics of pre -1959 Cuba and how these suited Castro's objectives and capacity for Revolution

Cuba: Order and Revolution, Jorge Domínguez. Cambridge University Press 1978. Pages 11-109

The Cuban Revolution, Marifeli Pérez-Stable. Oxford University Press 2011. Ps 1-65.

Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know, Julia Sweig. Oxford University Press. Cuba before 1959, Pages 1 -35.

WEEK 2

The making of the Cuban Revolution. The reasons for its success.

Dominguez : Pages 137-190.

Perez-Stable: Pages 66-84

WEEK 3

55 years of Revolution: Cuba's evolution internally and how Fidel Castro consolidated control.

Dominguez : pages 191 - 305

Perez-Stable : pages 85-144

WEEK 4

Cuba's Revolutionary Foreign Policy.

US relations/The Missile Crisis. The Soviet Bloc. Spreading revolution to Africa. Post Cold War developments

Perez-Stable. Pages 119-123 and 145-158

Dominguez : Pages 146-164.

Sweig : Pages 74-125

WEEK 5

The Cuban Communist Party. Its role in history and in contemporary Cuba.

The Cuban Communist Party and Electoral Politics: Adaptation , Succession and Transition. William Leogrande. Cuba Transition Project. Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami, 2002.

Dominguez. Chapter 8 The Communist Party pages 306-341.

Can Cuba Change? Tensions in the Regime. Eusebio Mujal-Leon . Journal of Democracy, January 2009

WEEK 6 :

The Cuban Military. Its importance as an institution in the Cuban politics and in its economy.

Dominguez: The Civic Soldier. Pages 341-380

The Cuban Military and Transition Dynamics, by Brian Latell. Institute for Cuban and Cuban –American Studies, University of Miami 2002.
http://ctp.iccas.miami.edu/Research_Studies/BLatell.pdf

Cuba's Military 1990-2005: Revolutionary Soldiers during Counter-Revolutionary Times (Studies of the Americas) by Hal Klepak, Palgrave MacMillan 2005. Pages 41-102

WEEK 7

The Cuban American Community. Its role in Cuba's Future

- Erikson : pages 106-135
- Florida International University/Brookings Institution: Polls of Cuban American Opinion
- Value Orientations of Cubans in Miami, University of Miami Institute of Cuban American Studies, Dr. Andy S. Gomez & Dr. Eugenio M. Rothe
- Diplomacy & Statecraft , [Volume 20](#), [Issue 2](#), 2009 "From Building Barriers to Bridges: Cuban Ties Across the Straits" [Susan Eckstein](#) & [Catherine Krull](#) pages 322-340

WEEK 8

Cuban Civil Society and the internal opposition.

- "Civil Society and Religion in Cuba: Past, Present and Future." Margaret E. Crahan and Aurelio Alonso, " Relations between the Catholic Church and the Cuban Government " in Joseph Tulchin et alia (eds) Changes in Cuban Society in the Nineties. (Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, 2005).
- The Cuba Wars, Daniel P. Erikson. The Dissenters Pages 54-77.
- 'Social Challenges Facing Cuba'. Dr Andy S Gomez, Author House 2014.

WEEK 9

Comparative Models of Transition : China, Spain, Eastern Europe.

-"China's Lessons for Cuba's Transition?" William Ratliff. Cuba Transition Project, Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami. 2004

Lessons for Cuba from Vietnam and China. Dwight Perkins. Pages 199-207 in The Cuban Economy at the Start of the 21st century.

The Spanish Transition and the Case of Cuba, Carlos Alberto Montaner. Article I University of Miami Cuba in Transition Project 2002.

The Lessons for Cuba of the Romanian Transition : Michael Radu..Univeristy of Miami Cuba in Transition project 2004.

WEEK 10

The History of EU-Cuba Relations : The New Partner of Venezuela

"The Odd Couple: The EU and Cuba 1996-2008", Paul Webster Hare, the Brookings Institution, September 2008.

Chasing Chavez in Erikson. Pages 254-276.

" Is Three a Crowd: the Venezuela factor in Cuban Policy Toward the United States" Carlos Blanco and Paul Webster Hare, Brookings October 2010.

'The Cuba-Venezuela Alliance: The Beginning of the End? Ted Piccone and Harold Trinkunas, Brookings Institute, Policy Brief, June 2014.

WEEK 11

Implications for US policy towards Cuba

US Policy Toward a Cuba in Transition : The Brookings Institution March 2009.
Available Online

" US Public Diplomacy for Cuba: What to Do and How to do it." Paul Webster Hare, Brookings March 2010

Comparative Authoritarianism: Steve Levitsky, Journal of Democracy Vol 13, No 2 April 2002

Erikson : Pages 277- 314

Intimate Enemies: Paradoxes in the Conflict between the United States and Cuba, Rafael Hernandez in Debating US-Cuban Relations.

WEEK 12

Raul Castro and Cuba's Economic Reforms: What Might Happen Now

Richard E Feinberg : The New Cuban Economy : What Roles for Foreign Investment? Brookings Institution December, 2012
http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Papers/2012/12/cuba%20economy%20feinberg/cuba%20economy%20feinberg%209.pdf?_lang=en

Arturo Lopez-Levy: Change in Post-Fidel Cuba: <http://thecubaneconomy.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Arturo-Lopez-Levy-May-2011.pdf>

Paul Webster Hare: Cuba; What Might Happen Now, The CDR Index Cuban Affairs University of Miami: September 2011:
<http://www.cubanaffairsjournal.org> Vol. 6, Issue 2-2011

Collin Laverty: "Cuba's New Resolve. Economic Reform and its. Implications for U.S. Policy. Center for Democracy in the Americas , **2011**

WEBSITE : There is no website

LATE WORK and ABSENCES

All absences must be reported. The Research Paper is due by the end of November 2014.

DATES OF EXAMINATIONS

Midterm examination TBA

Final examination – to be advised as arranged by IR schedule.