

CUBA IN TRANSITION

IR 529

Spring 2012

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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, churches and NGOs and their capacity to influence the process of change.

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.

Required Reading

- 'The Cuban Revolution' : Marifeli Perez-Stable Oxford University Press. 1998
- " Cuba : Order and Revolution" . Jorge I Dominguez. Harvard University Press, 1978.
- 'The Cuban Economy at the Start of the 21st century'. Edited by Lorena Barberia, Omar Everleny and Jorge Dominguez. Harvard University Press 2005
- 'The Cuba Wars: Fidel Castro and the Next Revolution'. Daniel P Erikson, Bloomsbury Press 2008

All books can be purchased at Barnes and Noble

Optional Reading

Articles assigned below are available through BU libraries or Online. The University of Miami Cuba Transition Project, which contains several articles is online

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 on a topic to be agreed.

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 . Pages 11-109 Cambridge University Press 1978.

The Cuban Revolution, Marifeli Pérez-Stable. Pages 3-60 Oxford University Press 1998. Ps 3-81.

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WEEK 2

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

Dominguez : Pages 137-190.

Perez-Stable: Pages 61-97

Inside the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground by Julia E. Sweig, Harvard University Press 2002. Pages 1-82

WEEK 3

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

Dominguez : pages 191 -305

Perez-Stable : pages 98-120

The Cuban Economy at the Start of the 21st century. Chapters 1 and 2. Edited by Lorena Barberia, Omar Everleny and Jorge Dominguez. Harvard University Press 2005

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 121-152 and 179-210

Dominguez : Pages 146-164.

Cuba : The Pursuit of Freedom : Hugh Thomas, Da Capo Press New York. Updated Edition 1998. Pages 1483-1508

WEEK 5

The Cuban Communist Party.

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

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

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, Andres Gomez

-The Cuban Diaspora, Susan Eckstein, Chapter 12 in The Cuban Economy at the Start of the 21st Century.

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.

WEEK 9

Comparative Models of Transition : China, Spain

-"Economic Reform and the Military: China, Cuba and Syria in Comparative Perspectives" Frank Mora and Quinton Wiktorowitz., International Journal of Comparative Sociology (August 2003).

-"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. University of Miami Cuba in Transition Project 2002.

WEEK 10

The Case of Eastern Europe. The New Partner of Venezuela

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

The Czech Republic’s Transition Experiences: Jaime Suchlicki .University of Miami research seminar October 2005

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 Institution, October 2010.

The Cuban Economy Today : Salvation or Damnation : Carmelo Mesa-Lago University of Miami Transition Project 2005.

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

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

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

Erikson : Pages 277- 314

WEEK 12

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

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: September 2011: <http://www.cubanaffairsjournal.org> Vol. 6, Issue 2-2011

GRADING

The course will require a short research paper of 5000 words on a topic to be agreed. This is due by the end of April 2012. Grading will be based on the following components: 20 % midterm, 30% required paper, 30% final, 20% participation. Assignments must be handed in on time.

WEBSITE : There is no website

LATE WORK and ABSENCES

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

DATES OF EXAMINATIONS

Midterm examination TBA

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