

The Cuban Revolution

The Cuban Revolution was a seminal event in the history of the modern world. Fidel Castro's movement changed Cuba and became a determinant factor in the relations between Latin America and the United States during the second half of the twentieth century. The Cuban Revolution continues to be a controversial topic, eulogized by its admirers and vilified by its critics.

The aims of this course are twofold. First, to introduce students to the ongoing debate on the merits of the Revolution and second, to study the Cuban Revolution and its legacy from the Cuban point of view. In order to achieve these goals, the course content is divided into two parts. The first will explore the social, political and economic forces that gave rise to the Cuban revolution. The second part will analyze the Revolution's social achievements and the economic and political challenges it faces in the era of neoliberal globalization.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify, describe, analyze and evaluate the major events of the Cuban Revolution.
2. Students will be able to discuss and interpret the major texts and proclamations of the early period of the Cuban Revolution.
3. Students will be able to relate and reflect upon the contemporary challenges of the Cuban Revolution

STUDENT PRESENTATION - Groups of students will make a 10 – 15 minute in-class presentation about one aspect of the Cuban Revolution or revolutionary development that they find particularly significant. Presentations will start after the third week of the term.

MIDTERM EXAM - A take home essay exam.

FINAL EXAM - A take home essay exam

CORE READINGS - The following books and articles must be read before the class for which they are assigned. Articles will be provided digitally in .PDF format.

Max Azicri, **Cuba Today and Tomorrow**. U. of Fla. Press.

Timeline - History of Cuba

Eric Wolf – **Cuba (From, Peasant Wars of the 20th Century)**

Eduardo Galeano – **Open Veins of Latin America**

Las Casas – **Devastation of the Indies**

Defonzo – **Cuban Revolution**

The United States Rules Cuba, 1952-1958

Four Hundred Year Struggle - the Platt Amendment

Platt Amendment

“History will Absolve Me” - Fidel Castro

Manifesto of 26th of July Movement

First Agrarian Reform Law
First Declaration of Havana
Proclamation of the Socialist Character of the Cuban Revolution
Bay of Pigs
Second Declaration of Havana
The Assassination Plots
From Counterrevolution to Modus Vivendi: The Church in Cuba
Blockade
10 Million Ton Sugar Harvest
People's Power
The Mariel Crisis
Rectification
The Battle of Cuito Cuanavale
 Carlos Moore – **Silence on Black Cuba**
 Rafael Hernandez – **On Cuban Democracy**
 Raisa Pages – **Status of Cuban Women**
 Leonardo Padura – **Living and Creating in Cuba**
 Douglas Friedman – **Civil Society in Contemporary Cuba**
 Susan Eckstein – **Cuban Internationalism**
 Claes Brundenius – **Cuba: Redistribution and Growth with Equity**
The Economic Crisis and the “Special Period”
Helms-Burton Act is Declared Immoral
 Donald E. Schulz, **Can Castro Survive**
 Saul Landau, **What Should Progressives Think & Do? The Cuba Conundrum**
 Emily Morris – **Unexpected Cuba**
 Claes Brundenius – **Whither the Cuban Economy after Recovery?**
 Karen Wald, **Democracy, CUBAAN-STYLE**
 Nancy Morejon – **A Black Woman from Cuba, That's All**
 Hernandez – **The Collapse of Socialism is Beyond the Present Horizon**
 Philip Peters – **Viewer's Guide to Cuba's Economic Reform**
 Olga Fernandez – **Cuba's Socialist Transition**
 Philip Peters – **Cuba's Entrepreneurs**
 Harnecker – **Cuba's New Socialism**
 Sanchez – **Challenges of Economic Restructuring in Cuba**
Factsheet: Reforms in 21st Century Cuba
 Erisman – **Raulista Foreign Policy**
 Kettle - **It's not Cuba that has just decided to rejoin the modern world – it's the US**

1. Introduction: Sugar, Slavery, and Cuban Identity

Max Azicri, **Cuba Today and Tomorrow**
Timeline – Rock around the blockade ...
 Eric Wolf – **Cuba (From, Peasant Wars of the 20th Century)**
 Eduardo Galeano – **Open Veins of Latin America**
 Las Casas – **Devastation of the Indies**

2. The “Revolution”

Max Azicri, **Cuba Today and Tomorrow**
Timeline – Rock around the blockade ...
 Defonzo – **Cuban Revolution**
The United States Rules Cuba, 1952-1958
 Fidel Castro, **History will Absolve Me**

Platt Amendment
Manifesto of 26th of July Movement
First Agrarian Reform Law
First Declaration of Havana
Proclamation of the Socialist Character of the Cuban Revolution
Bay of Pigs
Second Declaration of Havana
The Assassination Plots
From Counterrevolution to Modus Vivendi: The Church in Cuba

3. Building a Revolutionary Society: Politics and Economics

Max Azicri, **Cuba Today and Tomorrow**

Blockade

***10 Million Ton Sugar Harvest**

People's Power

The Mariel Crisis

Rectification

The Battle of Cuito Cuanavale

Carlos Moore – **Silence on Black Cuba**

Rafael Hernandez – **On Cuban Democracy**

Raisa Pages – **Status of Cuban Women**

Leonardo Padura – **Living and Creating in Cuba**

Douglas Friedman – **Civil Society in Contemporary Cuba**

Susan Eckstein – **Cuban Internationalism**

Claes Brundenius – **Cuba: Redistribution and Growth with Equity**

4. The "Special Period"

Max Azicri, **Cuba Today and Tomorrow**

The Economic Crisis and the "Special Period"

Helms-Burton Act is Declared Immoral

Donald E. Schulz, **Can Castro Survive**

Saul Landau, **What Should Progressives Think & Do? The Cuba Conundrum**

Emily Morris – **Unexpected Cuba**

Claes Brundenius – **Whither the Cuban Economy after Recovery?**

5. Cuba Today

Max Azicri, **Cuba Today and Tomorrow**

Karen Wald, **Democracy, CUBAAN-STYLE**

Joel Edelstein, **The Future of Democracy in Cuba**

Nancy Morejon – **A Black Woman from Cuba, That's All**

Hernandez – **The Collapse of Socialism is Beyond the Present Horizon**

Philip Peters – **Viewer's Guide to Cuba's Economic Reform**

Olga Fernandez – **Cuba's Socialist Transition**

Philip Peters – **Cuba's Entrepreneurs**

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Sanchez – **Challenges of Economic Restructuring in Cuba**

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Kettle - **It's not Cuba that has just decided to rejoin the modern world**
– **it's the US**

Class Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. More than five un-excused absences will produce a grade of "F" (since only I can excuse you, check with me first)

Electronics Policy

All laptops, tablets, and cell phones must be turned off during class time. If you must have your cell phone on for emergency purposes it must be set to vibrate only. Do not leave these items on your desk. Papers may not be submitted by email unless cleared with me first.

Paper submissions

I will not accept papers placed in my office mailbox nor under my door nor by email. Papers must be handed to me at the appropriate time when they are due.

Class Discussion

In addition to oral reports, you are required to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments. At the last class of the week you will be informed of the required readings for the following week. These must be read before coming to class. Participation in class discussion will constitute 15% of your final grade.

Deadlines

Deadlines for exams will be set in class. You will have at least one week's notice before an essay is due. Failure to meet a deadline will result in a failing grade on that portion of the course. However, a legitimate excuse for failing to meet a deadline may be considered.

OFFICE HOURS

Formal office hours are:

Monday and Wednesday - 3:00 - 4:00 and by appointment

GRADES

Presentation -	25%
Midterm -	30%
Final Exam -	30%
Participation/Preparation -	15%

GRADES

A 4.00	C 2.00
A- 3.70	C- 1.70
B+ 3.30	D+ 1.30
B 3.00	D 1.00
B- 2.70	D- 0.70
C+ 2.30	F 0.00

Center for Student Learning

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843)953-5635.

Disability Services

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved. Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance. Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>