

Georgia Institute of Technology
School of History and Sociology
HTS 3069: Modern Cuba
Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. John L. Tone

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Meeting Place/Time: 107 Architecture East, t/th 3:05-4:25

Office Hours: 117 Old C.E., t/th 1:30-2:30

Course Description

Cuba is a small country with a big history. The island played an important role in the nineteenth-century global economy, was the site of the most destructive war of independence in the Americas, served as midwife to the United States overseas empire, produced the most thorough socialist revolution in the Western Hemisphere, and is a flashpoint in global politics. It has always had a uniquely intimate and conflictual relationship with the United States. Now more than ever, Americans need to know the history of our Cuban neighbors as they stand poised to emerge from authoritarian socialism into a new phase of their history.

This course has no prerequisites, carries social science credit, and fulfills the country and region requirement for the international plan.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- discuss the evolution of Cuba's economy and society under the global system of slavery and capitalist resource extraction.
- demonstrate in discussion and writing knowledge of the interplay of social, political, and economic forces in the history of Cuba.
- debate the meaning of what it means to be Cuban.
- identify successes and failures of Cuban socialism.
- demonstrate familiarity with the character and historical roles of key figures from Cuban history, including José Martí, Antonio Maceo, Máximo Gómez, Valeriano Weyler, Fulgencio Batista, Frank País, Celia Sánchez, Fidel Castro, Haydée Santamaría, and Che Guevara.
- evaluate the role of the United States in Cuban history.

Grading

Grades are determined as follows:

1. Quizzes: 30%.
2. Final project: 40%
3. Final exam: 30%

A = 90 points
B = 80 points
C = 70 points
D = 60 points = pass
F = fewer than 60 points = fail

Course Requirements

To succeed in this course, you will need to attend and participate in class, complete readings ahead of time, take careful reading and lecture notes, study for quizzes and the final exam, and complete an independent research project.

Please bring the readings to class as we are working with them. This will make the discussions more productive.

The quizzes will be short answer, short in duration, and test your comprehension of assigned reading.

The final exam will be both essay and short answer.

The project is an eight-page book review of one of the additional readings from the list provided at the end of this syllabus. You should bring other sources to bear upon your chosen text. Use *Chicago Manual of Style* for notes and bibliography. The short guide is at http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Reading

The following are available for purchase:

Miguel Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*

Aviva Chomsky, *The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics*

John Lawrence Tone, *War and Genocide in Cuba, 1895-1898*

Additional readings marked with an asterisk are on T-square.

Weekly Assignments

Week 1: 1/12, 1/14
Colonial Cuba
Chomsky, 12-25.

Week 2: 1/19, 1/21
The Sugar Plantation
Chomsky, 44-57, 83-90.
Film: "The Last Supper."
Quiz 1

Week 3: 1/26, 1/28
Slavery
Chomsky, 65-73, 91-96.
Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*.

Week 4: 2/2, 2/4
Sugar and Tobacco
*Fernando Ortiz, *Cuban Counterpoint*, 4-56, 84-93.
Chomsky, 264.
Film: "The Fabulous History of the Cuban Cigar."
Quiz 2

Week 5: 2/9, 2/11
The Wars of Independence
Tone, *War and Genocide in Cuba*, chs. 1-10.
Chomsky, 115-139.

Week 6: 2/16, 2/18
American Intervention
Tone, chs. 11-18
Chomsky, 147-156, 163-166.
Quiz 3

Week 7: 2/23, 2/25
The Republic
Chomsky, 244-263, 265-269, 283-299.

Week 8: 3/1, 3/3
Revolutionary War
Chomsky, 300-335.
Quiz 4

Week 9: 3/8, 3/10
Socialist Revolution
Chomsky, 337-353, 363-369, 375-405, 419-423.

Week 10: 3/15, 3/17
Fidel Castro
Film and discussion: "Fidel."

Week 11: 3/22, 3/24
SPRING BREAK

Week 12: 3/29, 3/31
The United States and Cuba
Chomsky, 517-565,
Quiz 5

Week 13: 4/5, 4/7
Che Guevara
Chomsky, 370-374.
Film and discussion: "El Che."

Week 14: 4/12, 4/14
Socialist Cuba
Chomsky, 74-78, 588-598.
*Julio García Luis, *Cuban Revolution Reader*, 175-181, 195-205.
Quiz 6

Week 15: 4/19, 4/21
The Special Period
Chomsky, 599-627, 635-643, 664-677.

Week 16: 4/26
Final Discussion and Review.

- **Hard copies of papers are due in class on 4/26. Please also send me a copy as an email attachment by the start of class on 4/26.**
- **Final Exam is scheduled for May 5 at 11:30 am.**

Course Policies

- Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code:
www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18b.php
- Students can anticipate a respectful classroom environment. My purpose, as a member of the Georgia Tech faculty, is to encourage learning and do my best to help each of you succeed. To review GT faculty and student expectations in this regard:
www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22.php
- I am glad to grant accommodations for students with disabilities arranged in advance with the Office of Disability Services:
www.adapts.gatech.edu
- I do not allow the use of any electronic devices by students, as they have been shown to harm the classroom learning environment. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Additional Readings for Book Reviews:

Louis Pérez, *Lords of the Mountain*.
Manuel Moreno Fraginals, *Sugarmill*.
Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898*.
Alejandro de la Fuente, *A Nation for All: Race, Inequality, and Politics*.
Francisco José Moreno, *Before Fidel*.
Mariola Espinosa, *Epidemic Invasions*.
Jorge Ibarra, *Prologue to Revolution*.
T. J. English, *Havana Nocturne*.
Marifeli Pérez-Stable, *The Cuban Revolution*.
Aviva Chomsky, *A History of the Cuban Revolution*.
Herbert Matthews, *The Cuban Story*.
Tad Szulc, *Fidel: A Portrait*.
Jorge Castañeda, *Compañero: The Life and Death of Che Guevara*.
Jon Lee Anderson, *Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life*.
Che Guevara, *The Motorcycle Diaries*.
Margaret Randall, *Haydée Santamaría, Cuban Revolutionary*.
Howard Brinkley, *13 Days in October: A History of the Cuban Missile Crisis*.
Michelle Chase, *Revolution within the Revolution: Women and Gender Politics*.
Fernando Funes, *Sustainable Agriculture and Resistance*.
Carey Clouse, *Farming Cuba*.