Historical Studies B-64

The Cuban Revolution, 1956-1971: A Self- Debate

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Office Hours: MW, 11:15-12:00
Fall term 2009 or by appointment
MWF at 10, plus section
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Course web site: http://isites.harvard.edu/k63453/

WEEK 1

W Sep  2 01.Introduction

F Sep  4 02.The Unnecessary Revolution


WEEK 2

(Weekly sections with Teaching Fellows begin meeting this week, times to be arranged.)

M Sep  7 HOLIDAY

W Sep  9 Section in lecture hall: Why might revolutions occur?

F Sep 11 03.Modernization and Revolution


WEEK 3

M Sep 14 04. The Necessary Revolution: State Structures

W Sep 16 05. The Accidental Revolution

F Sep 18 Question period


WEEK 4

M Sep 21 06. The Rebellion: Castro’s Strategic Genius

W Sep 23 07. The Rebellion: Collective Insurgency

F Sep 25 08. Revolution Betrayed: a New Dictatorship


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300-307, 316-329


WEEK 5

M Sep 28  “Meeting of US Secretary of State Advisers” section in lecture hall.
W Sep 30  09. Revolution Fulfilled: the Logic of Socialism
F Oct  2 10. US/USSR I: The Structure of US Hegemony

Suchlicki, Cuba, pp. 137-151
Pérez, Cuba, pp. 237-256

[Sourcebook] O’Connor, The Origins of Socialism in Cuba, pp. 279-314

WEEK 6

M Oct  5  FIRST PAPER DUE at class time.
M Oct  5  General Hour Test Review in lecture hall
W Oct  7  HOUR TEST: in lecture hall
F Oct  9 11. US/USSR II: The U.S. Pushed

WEEK 7

M Oct 12  HOLIDAY
W Oct 14 12. US/USSR III: Cuba’s Initiatives
F  Oct 16  Extra section just for Freshmen in lecture hall


WEEK 8


M  Oct 19  Cuban feature film “Memories of Underdevelopment” at 7 PM, CGIS South, Tsai Auditorium #S010, 1730 Cambridge St., followed by discussion.


F  Oct 23  Question period. Freshman parents welcome.


[Sourcebook] Gonzalez, Cuba under Castro, pp. 146-189


WEEK 9

M  Oct 26  15.Economy I: The Transition to Socialism
M Oct 26  Cuban feature film “One Way or Another” at 7 PM, CGIS South, Tsai Auditorium #S010, 1730 Cambridge St., followed by discussion.

W Oct 28  16. Economy II: The Transition to Chaos

F Oct 30  Question Period

[Sourcebook] Carmelo Mesa Lago, The Economy of Socialist Cuba (University of New Mexico Press, 1981), pp. 7-28


[Sourcebook] Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution, pp. 203-204, 210-230

WEEK 10

M Nov 2  17. The Making of a New Society

W Nov 4  18. The State versus the Society

W Nov 4  Documentary film “Nobody Listened” at 7 PM, CGIS South, Tsai Auditorium #S010, 1730 Cambridge St.

F Nov 6  19. The Totalitarian Regime


[Sourcebook] Lowry Nelson, Cuba: The Measure of a Revolution (University of Minnesota Press, 1972), pp. 147-162


[Sourcebook] Oscar Lewis, Ruth Lewis, and Susan Rigdon, Four Women: Living the


WEEK 11

M Nov 9 20. The Good Socialist Citizen

W Nov 11 HOLIDAY

F Nov 13 PBS Documentary film: “Castro’s Challenge,” in lecture hall


[Sourcebook] Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution, pp. 231-245, 365-370


[Sourcebook] Fagen, The Transformation of Political Culture in Cuba, pp. 69-103


WEEK 12

M Nov 16 21. The Duty of Internationalism

W Nov 18 22. The Cuban Threat
F  Nov 20  23. Building the State


Selected Speeches of Fidel Castro, pp. 87-125


Jorge I. Domínguez, To Make a World Safe for Revolution: Cuba’s Foreign Policy (Harvard University Press, 1989), pp. 61-77


WEEK 13

M  Nov 23  24. Building a Socialist Nation

W  Nov 25  25. Cuba Today

F  Nov 27  HOLIDAY

[Sourcebook] Morley, Imperial State, pp. 301-316

Pérez, Cuba, pp. 257-266, 270-288

[Sourcebook] Gonzalez, Cuba under Castro, pp. 190-216


WEEK 14

M  Nov 30  “Emergency Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of
Cuba*: section in lecture hall.

W Dec 2  26. Presentation of Final Exam and Concluding Lecture

W Dec 2  SECOND PAPER DUE at lecture

READING PERIOD ASSIGNMENT. Read one of the following:

OR

Course Requirements:

This course meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:00 a.m., plus a section at some other hour to be arranged. Four films will be shown, three of them in the evening. You are required to attend all of these activities.

GRADING PATTERN:
Monday, October 5, first paper due, 15% of grade
Wednesday, October 7, hour test, 15% of grade
Wednesday, December 2, second paper due, 15% of grade
Section participation: 15% of grade, includes 5 ONE-PAGE PAPERS
Final examination, Thursday, December 17, 40% of grade
Failure to fulfill any one of the requirements leads to failure in the course. No pass/fail. Late papers will receive a grade penalty.

PAPERS: times font, type-size 12, double-spaced.

FIRST PAPER (7-8 pp.): You are an Adviser to the U.S. Secretary of State or to the White House Chief of Staff. It is 1957 or 1958. You chair a meeting called to forecast events in Cuba. Write a memorandum to your boss. First, summarize briefly what you as the Adviser think are the facts; cite and refer to primary documents from WEEK 4 of the course. Second, sketch two policy options that emerge from the discussion. Assume that all public statements made by Cuban rebels are known to you as Adviser but assume also that the private correspondence in the Franqui and Guevara readings is not. Third, step outside of your role as Adviser: identify what difference (if any) would it have made for the statement of the facts or for either option if the private correspondence had been public. Refer to primary readings from the course. A good argument anticipates the objections that other reasonable people will raise. The first paper is due Monday, October 5 at class time.
SECOND PAPER (6-7 pp.): You can choose either of two topics: 1) Calculate the Soviet economic subsidy to Cuba through sugar purchases under two different quantitative assumptions. Formulate arguments that contradict each other based on the two calculations. Assess which calculation and which argument makes most sense. Data will be given. Or 2) Assume that you are a political actor in Cuba in the 1960s and that you wish to promote or to change a particular policy. Design a strategy to accomplish your goal. Identify your likely supporters and opponents and assess the chances of success. Refer explicitly to course readings. The second paper is due Wednesday, December 2 at lecture.

SECTION PARTICIPATION AND GRADING: To improve your learning and the quality of section discussion, YOU WILL WRITE FIVE ONE-PAGE PAPERS, AT LEAST TWO OF WHICH MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE HOUR TEST. Turn them in to your Teaching Fellow prior to Section. You will receive “discussion questions” in advance of section; pick a question to write your paper. You will get a check-mark on these papers; if warranted, you might get a “check-minus” or a “check-plus.” These papers will be part of the Teaching Fellow’s assessment of your section participation.