Global Development Studies 305: Cuban Culture and Society, 2017

UPDATED 25 April 2017

Queen’s portion
12 Jan- 16 March (intermittently) Thurs 6:30-9:30
27 April- 4May (daily) 9:30am-12:30 pm.

Instructors:
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S. Belyea, Kinesiology and Health Studies seb9@queensu.ca (Havana portion only)

Course Location:
Queen’s Classroom: Dunning Hall 11 NOTE DIFFERENT LOCATION for April/May sessions: Ellis Hall 333
U of Havana Classroom: University of Havana, Facultad de Filosofía e Historia, Salon Frío (FFH)

Flight Information:
Saturday 6 May Meet at Pearson Airport To Havana West Jet flight 2612 to Varadero depart 10:05 am
(meet at airport approximately 3 hours before, details TBA)
Saturday 20 May Return Toronto West Jet flight 2613 depart Varadero 2:31 arrive Toronto 5:58 pm

Course objectives:
⊙to introduce students to Cuban society and culture
⊙to focus especially on events and highlights of the period from the Cuban revolution (1959) to the present
⊙to engage with Cuban culture and society on paper and in daily life
⊙to critically reflect upon presuppositions about Cuba
⊙to learn about Cuban identity

Required Texts:
NB this is a new revised version of the text previously used in this course. The 2007 version is not a substitute.

Other required readings are indicated on this course outline with links to the URL, and/or posted on course OnQ site.

Recommended texts:
Karen Dubinsky Cuba Beyond the Beach: Stories of Life in Havana (2016)
For the Havana portion: Lonely Planet, Havana (or other guidebook)
Books are available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore. One copy is also on reserve in Stauffer Library.

Students are expected to attend the on-campus classes having read the daily readings.

Assessments and Grading Scheme
Weblog postings 20%
Participation 30% (discussion group facilitation and general participation)
In class quiz. Basic Cuban literacy test 16 March 2017 20%
Term paper 30%

1. WEBLOG: (20%)
You are each required to post weblogs on OnQ. Weblogs should be short (200-300 word) critical or probative discussions that synthesize the assigned readings and other materials. Guiding questions for each day will be posted and are in the syllabus. Remember, synthesize, don’t summarize. These blogs serve a variety of purposes. They: ensure that you take time to carefully read the material assigned and consider it critically; create another space for sharing your thoughts; serve as a type of annotated bibliography to be used as you prepare the essay. But most importantly, they also facilitate discussion because all are able to read the reflections of others.
Submission: We will begin posting weblogs for class Thursday 19 Jan, the second week of classes.
Please post your weblogs by 8 pm the night before class.

2. JOURNAL and SEMINAR PARTICIPATION: (30%)
While in Cuba, you will maintain a journal in which you reflect upon the lectures, field trips, museums, galleries, films, etc. The journal provides you with a means by which to reflect upon your experiences, the lectures, and the transformations in your consciousness and understanding about Cuban culture and society. The journal will not be submitted for grading but will prove invaluable for the seminars held at Queen’s and in Havana. Bring the journal to the seminars.

Seminars are the core of the course. You must attend and participate in each seminar in Kingston and in Havana. For the Queen’s portion of the course, we will regularly divide into small groups and assign a facilitator, to discuss the readings, films and weblog responses.

3. IN CLASS QUIZ   Basic Cuban literacy text. 16 March. (20%)
This will be a quiz (short answer questions) that will simply examine your understanding of the readings, films and discussion towards the end of the Queen’s portion of the course.
Duration: 1.5 hours.

4. TERM PAPER   DUE 9 June 2017. (30%)
For your research paper, you can choose from among the topics and questions we have posed during each of the Queen’s sessions. The majority of your sources should be from the daily readings. (As well as films, and discussions in both Kingston and Havana). However, at least three sources should be academic books or articles you find on your own. You can use
electronic research material from the Internet but do not rely on non-academic websites to substantiate your arguments. Part of your grade is based on the resources that you use to substantiate your argument. Maximum 10 pages.

Late papers will be deducted 5 percent per day. All assignments must be typed and double-spaced. Spelling, grammar and the mechanics of composition will be taken into consideration in the grading of all written work.

SEE APPENDIX FOR AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF SOURCES FOR YOUR PAPER

Course Outline: Queen’s:
Students are expected to attend the on-campus classes having read the daily readings.

1) Thurs 12 Jan 2017

A History of Revolutions
Discussion Question: Why was there a revolution in 1959?

“History as Prologue: Cuba before 2006” A Contemporary Cuba Reader

Fernando Ravsberg (BBC Cuba correspondent) “Cuba Report Card on the UN’s Millennium Goals” Havana Times, April 2013 ONQ

Juan A Tamayo “Cubans ‘make do’ with odd inventions” Miami Herald 26 April 2014 ONQ

Cuba’s Madres y Padres of Invention Craftsmanship September, 2016
http://craftsmanship.net/going-deep-cubas-madres-y-padres-invention/

Films, in class: El futuro es hoy/The Future is here, directed by Sandra Gomez, 2010 40 min
“Cuba’s DIY Inventions” 8 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-XS4aueDUg&feature=share

2) Thurs 19 January Socialism: Another “Failed Development Project?” The Cuba of Today
Discussion Question: What is going on in today’s Cuba?

Carlos Alzugaray Treto “Continuity and Change in Cuba at Fifty: The Revolution at Fifty”
Jorge Mario Sangez Egozcue “Challenges of Economic Restructuring in Cuba”
Philip Peters “Cuba’s Entrepreneurs: Foundations a New Private Sector”
Manuel Orozco and Katrin Hansing “Remittance Recipients and the Present and Future of Microentrepreneurship Activities”
Maria del Carmen Zabala Arguelles “Poverty and Vulnerability in Cuba Today”
all in A Contemporary Cuba Reader


“A New Concept of the Cuban Souvenir” Havana Time 18 June 2016  
http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=119451

Film, in class: “Conducta” (Ernesto Daranas, 2014) 108 minutes

3) 26 January  Between There and Here: How did we get to La Nueva Cuba?

Nation building after the revolution: The Literacy Campaign, Agriculture, and Arts and Culture

Discussion question: Did History Absolve the Revolution?


Film: In Class:
Por primera vez/For the First Time (Octavio Cortázar, 1967) 9 minutes
Unfinished Spaces (Alysa Nahmias/Benjamin Murray 2011), selections from
Maestra (C. Murphy, 2012, 40 min)

4) Thurs 2 February  After the Revolution. Things Fall Apart?
Crises:  P.M., Invasion, Missiles, Peter Pan, Mariel, The Special Period
Discussion Question: Cuba’s Crises: Self-Made, Externally Imposed, or Both?

Carlos Varela “Two Songs” in Contemporary Cuba Reader


Arturo Lopez-Levy “The Real Lesson of the Cuban Missile Crisis” FPIF October 2014
All on OnQ.

In class films:
Video de Familia  Humberto Padron 2001 47 min

5) Thurs 9 February  Cuba represents itself. Revolutionary Cinema
Discussion Question: What is the relationship between film-making and nation making

Ann Marie Stock “Zooming In: Making and Marketing Films in Twenty-First-Century”

Leonardo Padura Fuentes “Living and Creating in Cuba: Risks and Challenges”
in A Contemporary Cuba Reader

In class film:  *Lisanka* (Daniel Díaz Torres, 2010, 110 min)

16  Feb No Class

16 Feb No Class

23 Feb No Class  Reading Week

6) 2 March Solidarity. Why was Cuba so important in the 1960s? Why, and to whom, it is important today?

John Kirk “Cuban Medical Internationalism Under Raúl Castro”
Michael J. Bustamante and Julia E. Sweig “Cuban Public Diplomacy” both in Contemporary Cuba Reader

Cynthia Wright “Between Nation and Empire: The Fair Play for Cuba Committees and the Making of Canada-Cuba Solidarity in the Early 1960s,” in Robert Wright and Lana Wylie (eds) Our Place in the Sun: Canada and Cuba in the Castro Era  OnQ

Film:  (in class)


7) 9 March     A conversation with Telmary (Visiting Scholar/Artist)

Telmary Díaz describes herself as a journalist whose medium is hip hop and jazz poetry. She is an internationally recognized and award-winning Cuban hip hop artist, who has recorded two solo
discs, 23 collaborative recordings, and toured the world. At the same time she has been an active participant in academic and journalistic venues, researching and analyzing some of the main themes of her musical production: Cuban daily realities (including racism), the status of women, particularly in Latin America, and the historical origins of Cuban, especially Afro Cuban, contemporary music.


8) 16 March  Literacy test. In-class. 1.5 hours.

23 March NO CLASS

30 March NO CLASS

Exam break

SECTION TWO: Pre-departure sessions: 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Classroom TBA

9) Thursday 27 April  Sexuality and Gender

NOTE new location Ellis 333

Discussion Question:
“Cuban women want a man that doesn’t exist yet. Cuban men want a woman who no longer exists.” (Popular Cuban saying). Has progress towards gender equality been made in Cuba? How do we measure this?


Clotilde Proveyer Cervantes et al “Fifty Years Later: Women and Social Change in Cuba”
Amy Goodman “Transcript of an interview with Mariela Castro”
all in Contemporary Cuba Reader

Silje Lundgren “‘Mami, you’re so hot!’ Negotiating hierarchies of masculinity through piropos in contemporary Havana” in Laura Alvarez Lopez et al (eds) Stockholm Review of Latin American Studies pp. 5-20. ONQ

Film: in class Fresa y Chocolate/Strawberry and Chocolate, directed by Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, 1994, 108mins.

10  Friday 28 April  Afro-Cuban Culture and Politics

Discussion Question: Racism is Illegal. So what?
11) Monday May 1 Contemporary Cuban Music
Discussion Question: Does contemporary Cuban culture (i.e. music, film or art) subvert, expand and/or confirm the process of revolution begun in 1959?

Readings:
- Caridad Cumaná and Karen Dubinsky “Beginning a New Cuban Dream: an Interview with Carlos Varela” Latin American Music Review
- Geoffrey Baker Buena Vista in The Club: Rap, Reggaetón and Revolution in Havana
- Roberto Zurbano “El Rap Cubano: Can’t Stop, Won’t Stop the Movement!” in Ariana Hernandez-Reguant (ed) Cuba in the Special Period

Films and Videos: In class. TBA

12) Tuesday 2 May Tourism: Sustainable Development Strategy, or The Devil’s Candy?
Discussion Question: What are the benefits and what are the problems with tourism, especially in the realm of culture and the economy?

Film: in class La Película de Anna/Anna’s Film 1 hr 40 min

Marguerite Rose Jiménez “The Political Economy of Leisure”
Archibald R. Ritter “Economic Illegalities and the Underground Economy in Cuba” both in Contemporary Cuba Reader

Lara Week, “I am not a tourist: Aims and implications of “traveling”” Tourist Studies 12(2) 2012. ONQ

14) Wednesday 3 May Food and Daily Life in Havana Today
Discussion Question: What does La Nueva Cuba (The New Cuba) offer the ‘average Cuban’ today?

Guest Speakers: Susan Belyea (PhD candidate, Queen’s School of Kinesiology and Health Studies) “Daily life in Havana’s markets and kitchens.”
Film (in class) Tierrialismo, re Cuban urban agriculture

Sinan Koont “Cuba’s Recent Embrace of Agroecology: Urban and Suburban Agriculture”
John Kirk “Surfing Revolico.com: Cuba’s Answer to Craig’s List”
Armando Nova Gonzalez “Cuban Agriculture and the Current Process of Economic Transformation”
All in Contemporary Cuban Reader

John Lee Anderson “Open for Business,” The New Yorker July 20 2015 ONQ

Hope Bastian Martinez “Housing in Havana” Anthropology News 2013 February 2013 ONQ

Susan Belyea “The Everyday Insecurity of Food” Cuban Counterpoints September, 2016
http://cubacounterpoints.com/archives/3623 ONQ

15) Thurs 4 May LAST CLASS, preparations for Havana

Read Devs 305 Havana handbook
In class film: Canción de Barrio (Neighbourhood Song) Alejandro Ramírez Anderson 2014 80 min

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APPENDIX: SOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH
Websites with Information on Cuba
The following websites reflect a variety of political positions and deal with a wide array of topics. The list is designed to provide the reader with useful starting points for further research into Cuba, and has been divided into categories that should facilitate the examination of general and specialized topics. Because of the polarized nature of information regarding most topics on Cuba, readers are encouraged to view several different sites, and draw their own conclusions. All sites are available in English, unless otherwise indicated.

General Sources
http://cuba-l.unm.edu
Perhaps the most comprehensive website on "things Cuban," with hundreds of links, and daily reports on Cuba. Run by Cuba-L Direct, a non-profit research organization.
http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/cb/cuba
An excellent starting point for virtually any aspect of research on Cuba, with links to many other sources and organizations. Run by the Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC) at the University of Texas at Austin.
http://www.cubasource.org
An excellent source for documents, bibliographies, and links to other organizations. Run by the Canadian Foundation for the Americas, it also includes publications and analysis.
http://danalubow.org/SPT
A searchable collection of Internet resources published in Cuba, with over 3,000 entries and links.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CubaNews
CubaNews, a newsgroup on events in Cuba, includes English translations of many articles from the Cuban media. Moderated by Walter Lippmann.
See also http://www.walterlippmann.com
http://cubanet.org/desdcuba.html
CubaNet, based in Miami, compiles reports on Cuba, including links to various opposition groups.

Research Centers
http://lacc.fiu.edu/centers_institutes/?body=centers_cri&rig
The Cuban Research Center at Florida International University
An interdisciplinary research program on Cuba, at the Bildner Center of the City University of New York.
http://drclas.fas.harvard.edu/index.pl/programs/cuba
The Harvard University program on Cuba, with information on research projects and some recent publications.
http://www.miami.edu/iccas
The Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami, with a good database. Also useful is http://ctp.iccas.miami.edu/main.htm,
The website for the "Cuba Transition Project."
http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/asce
The Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy, based in Washington, D.C., publishes articles and conference papers from their annual conferences. Proceedings of annual conferences are at
The Lexington Institute, source of a number of excellent and highly readable reports on various aspects of contemporary Cuba.

Instituto de Estudios Cubanos, an association of mainly Cuban-American Scholars devoted to research on Cuba.

**Cuban Journals**

http://www.temas.cult.cu
Since 1995, Temas, a journal on contemporary social thought and culture, has been providing valuable insights and debates on Cuban reality. In Spanish.

http://www.casadelasamericas.com
Casa de las Americas, the leading journal on Cuban culture. In Spanish.

http://www.eleconomista.cubaweb.cu
El Economista focuses on contemporary economic matters. In Spanish.

http://www.cubaencuentro.com
A Cuban exile perspective on contemporary culture on the island.

http://www.palabranueva.net

http://www.cubasocialista.cu/indexeng.html
English version of Cuba Socialista, the theoretical Journal of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party.

http://www.cubanow.net
Digital magazine of Cuban culture.

http://www.lajiribilla.com
Cultural journal dealing with a number of contemporary matters.

**Media Sources/Blogs**

http://www.granma.cu/ingles/index.html
English version of Granma, Cuba’s daily national newspaper.

http://www.juventudrebelde.co.cu
English version of Juventude Rebelde, Cuba’s second-largest circulation newspaper.

Coverage of Cuba from the Miami Herald.

http://www.radiohc.cu/ingles/portada.htm
State-run radio station Radio Habana Cuba, whose website contains a great deal of updated news and some links.

Generation Y
Yoani Sanchez, important blogger, translated into English at:
http://www.desdecuba.com/generationy/
Havana Times (“Open Minded Writing from Cuba”) in English
http://www.havanatimes.org/

**Databases**

Database of speeches and writings of Fidel Castro (available in several languages).
http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/cb/cuba/castro.html

Castro Speech Database, maintained at the University of Texas at Austin, comprised of broadcast translations from the U.S. government’s Foreign Broadcast Information Service.
http://www.cuba.cu/gobierno/documentos/index.html

Documents from the Cuban government 1998-2004, (available in several languages).
http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/latin_america/cuba.htm

Excellent archival resources, particularly of official documentation surrounding the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the CIA’s role in Cuba.
http://cuba.iccas.miami.edu.htm

Database on a wide variety of socio-economic topics at the Institute of Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami.
http://cubapolidata.com

Florida-based site with general overview of political conditions and issues in Cuba.
http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/cuba.html

General background data on the situation of children in Cuba.
http://who.int/countries/cub/en

Data on health issues from the World Health Organization.
http://www1.lanic.utexas.edu/la/cb/cuba/granma/index.html

A searchable list of articles (in Spanish) in the daily newspaper, Granma.
Cuban Government Resources

http://www.cubagob.cu/ingles/default.htm
Official website of the Government of Cuba, with some useful links.

http://www.pcc.cu/pccweb
Official website of the Communist Party of Cuba. In Spanish.

http://america.cubaminrex.cu/English/index.asp
Official website of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, with links to key speeches, Cuban foreign policy statements, and analysis.

Official declarations of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Cuba. In Spanish.

http://www.one.cu
Cuba’s Office of National Statistics, which includes a link to the annual statistical data book on Cuba. The most recent volume of the Anuario Estadístico de Cuba (2006) is at

http://www.one.cu/aec2006.htm

http://www.medioambiente.cu
Official website with information on Cuba’s approach to environmental concerns. In Spanish.

http://america.cubaminrex.cu/English/cooperation/cooperation.htm
Website outlining Cuba’s extraordinary development assistance program. The Spanish version is more comprehensive, with a greater number of links and reports:

http://www.cubacoop.com/CubaCoop/inicio.html

http://www.2x3.cu
Cuban government search engine with useful links. In Spanish.

http://www.terroristas.cu
Cuban government website on “the 5 heroes,” five Cuban men being held in U.S. prisons on disputed charges of spying.

http://www.cubavsbloqueo
Website detailing Cuba’s struggle against U.S. embargo. In Spanish.

http://www.cubaminrex.cu/English/60CDH/CDH60_index.htm
A collection of documents on human rights, as seen from the perspective of Havana.

Electronic Academic Journals

Cuban Studies
Latin American Perspectives
Latin American and Caribbean ethnic studies [electronic resource].
Latin American Research Review
Economic and social progress in Latin America
Journal of Latin American studies
Studies in Hispanic cinemas
Bulletin of Latin American research
Canadian journal of Latin American and Caribbean studies
The journal of Latino-Latin American studies
Latin American politics and society.
Journal of Latin American cultural studies
Studies in Latin American popular culture
Journal of Latin American and Caribbean anthropology
Country profile. Cuba
Country review. Cuba