

U.S.-Cuba Relations
HIST 315/515 • Fall 2016
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Tuesdays, 5:00 to 7:30 pm, 224 CCC

Instructor:	Dr. Anju Reejsinghani	Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the long and complicated (some would say tortured) relationship between Cuba and the United States. No previous training in U.S., Cuban, or Latin American history is required. We begin with 19th-century filibustering expeditions to Cuba and the rise of an antebellum Cuban diaspora, then move to debates over U.S. annexation of Cuba and the final push for Cuban independence from Spain. Subsequently, we explore the protectorate and neocolonial status of the early 20th century Cuba, and finally, interrogate Cuba-U.S. relations during six decades of Cuba's Revolution and as normalization has proceeded since December 17, 2014.

Goals and Objectives

This course has several aims, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) To obtain a general understanding of U.S.-Cuba relations from the 19th century onwards using a variety of perspectives, from political to economic to cultural;
- (2) To explain U.S. reactions to the insurgent movement of the 1950s that resulted in the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista and installed a revolutionary government led by Fidel Castro and more recently, Raúl Castro;
- (3) To explore how the normalization process has proceeded since Presidents Barack Obama and Raúl Castro jointly announced it on December 17, 2014; and
- (4) To interpret primary and secondary sources in order to gain a deeper awareness of the trajectory of U.S.-Cuba relations and to fashion coherent, well-supported arguments about the historical significance of various events and historical trends.

Grading

Grading in this course is based on the following:

Attendance/Participation	20%
Map Quiz of Cuba	5%
Interactive Timeline	10%
Take-Home Exam	20%
Final Paper Prospectus	15%
Final Paper Presentation	5%
Final Paper	25%

There are no grade curves in this class. Course grades are determined based on the above criteria and are determined according to the following point system:

92.5 points and above	A	72.5 to 76.4 points	C
89.5 to 92.4 points	A-	69.5 to 72.4 points	C-
86.5 to 89.4 points	B+	66.5 to 69.4 points	D+
82.5 to 86.4 points	B	59.5 to 66.4 points	D
79.5 to 82.4 points	B-	59.4 points and below	F
76.5 to 79.4 points	C+		

Required Texts

Texts for purchase (available at the UWSP University Store)

- William M. LeoGrande and Peter Kornbluh. *Back Channel to Cuba: The Hidden History of Negotiations between Washington and Havana*. Updated paperback edition with a new epilogue. 2015.
- Gustavo Pérez Firmat. *The Havana Habit*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010.

Articles/Book Chapters (Available on E-Reserves)

- Rodrigo Lazo. *Writing to Cuba: Filibustering and Cuban Exiles in the United States*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2005. Chapter 2: "Annexation and Independence: Newspaper Wars and Transnational Cuba," pp. 63-98.
- Lars Schoultz. *Beneath the United States: A History of U.S. Policy toward Latin America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998. Chapter 8: "Establishing an Empire: Cuba and the War with Spain," pp. 125-151.
- Kristin L. Hoganson. *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998. Chapter 2: "Cuba and the Restoration of American Chivalry," pp. 43-67.
- Aviva Chomsky, Barry Carr, and Pamela María Smorkaloff, eds. *A Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2003. Excerpts.
- Louis A. Pérez, Jr. *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*. Fifth edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. Chapter 8: "The Structure of the Republic," pp. 150-178.
- John A. Gronbeck-Tedesco. *Cuba, the United States, and Cultures of the Transnational Left, 1930-1975*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015. Chapter 3: "Good or Bad Neighbors? Pan-American Culture and the 1933 Revolution," pp. 83-114.

- Camilla Fojas. *Islands of Empire: Pop Culture and U.S. Power*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2014. Chapter 2: “Imperial Grief: Loss and Longing in Havana before Castro,” pp. 60-92.
- Stephen G. Rabe. *The Killing Zone: The U.S. Wages Cold War in Latin America*. Second edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. Chapter 2: “The Kennan Corollary,” pp. 21-35.
- Additional journalistic readings on the ongoing process of U.S.-Cuba normalization will be posted to D2L one week prior to our December 6 class.

Required Films

- *Crucible of Empire: The Spanish-American War*. Directed by Daniel A. Miller. 1999. 120 min.

(The instructor may schedule additional film screenings as circumstances permit.)

Course Requirements (Attendance, Map Quiz, Interactive Timeline, Take-Home Exam)

Attendance/Participation. Active class discussion is an integral part of this course, as well as an important factor in your final course grade. Should you need to arrive late or leave early, please inform me ahead of time. Documented absences due to serious medical or personal reasons will be excused. Attendance/participation comprises 20% of your course grade.

Map Quiz. The map quiz, held at the start of class on September 20, tests students’ knowledge of Cuba’s provinces and bodies of water. Two study maps and a list of topics are on D2L. Students have 10 minutes to match 10 given geographical names to letters on a blank map. The map quiz is worth 5% of your course grade.

Interactive Timeline. Students will take part in a group exercise to complete an interactive timeline on the Spanish-American War. More information is forthcoming shortly. Students will not have a formal class session on September 27 but will instead be asked to use that time to watch an assigned film online and complete their timeline assignment. The timeline is due on October 4 and is worth 10% of your overall course grade.

Take-Home Exam. Students will have one week to complete a take-home exam. This asks you to synthesize material from relevant class discussions, lectures, readings, and films. The exam requires students to answer two of four possible essay questions with between 750 to 1,000 words of narrative (for a total exam word count of 1,500 to 2,000 words). The take-home exam is due on November 1 and is worth 20% of your overall course grade.

Course Requirements (Final Paper)

The culmination of the course is an original final research paper that you will write in consultation with the professor. There are several steps in the process:

Final Paper Topic. Your final paper is on a topic of your choice related to U.S.-Cuba relations. By November 1, you may consult a list of potential topics (including suggested sources) on D2L,

but you are encouraged to develop your own topic if you choose. You may submit a one-paragraph description of your topic as early as November 8 to obtain my feedback and make suggested changes before writing your prospectus. (Paper topics will be accepted until November 15.) This assignment is not graded.

Final Paper Prospectus. Students will submit a final paper prospectus of 1-2 pages of narrative with attached 1-to-2-page bibliography by November 22. This assignment is worth 15% of your course grade.

Final Paper Presentation. During our last class on December 13, each student will give a brief in-class presentation (no more than 5 minutes) on the topic, thesis, argumentation, and methodology of his/her final paper. Paper presentations count for 5% of the final course grade.

Final Paper. Your final paper should be between 2,250-2,500 words (approximately 9 to 10 double-spaced pages), not including title, bibliography, and citations. The final paper is due during our scheduled final exam meeting time and will count for 25% of your course grade.

Reading, Make-Ups and Extensions, Extra Credit, and Accommodations

Reading. You are expected to finish all reading assignments by the start of the class for which they have been assigned, unless otherwise indicated.

Make-Ups and Extensions. Should there be significant reasons outside your control (major personal or family issues, major illness or injury, bereavement for the loss of a family member) that prevent you from completing an assignment in a timely manner, please contact me immediately to discuss your situation. I require documentation for absences prior to scheduling a make-up or extension. Oversleeping, forgetting a quiz or assignment deadline, vacation plans, or the loss of a pet are NOT acceptable excuses to obtain a make-up or extension.

Extra Credit. Extra-credit opportunities bolster students' attendance/participation grades and are limited to three per student per semester. Each makes up for one-half of one unexcused absence; those with perfect attendance may earn attendance/participation grades in excess of 100 points (105 points maximum). Should more opportunities arise during the semester, I will post them to D2L and announce them in class. These are specific to your attendance/participation grade and are not applicable to any other coursework in this class.

Accommodations. Students with learning and/or physical disabilities requiring special accommodations must provide appropriate documentation to UWSP Disability Services (609 Learning Resource Center, tel. (715) 346-3365, TTY (715) 346-3362, <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/students/studentinformation.aspx>) at the start of the semester. Disability Services staff will work directly with the instructor to provide suitable learning accommodations.

Policy on Electronic Devices and Copyright Notice

You are not permitted to use laptops, tablet computers, smart phones or other cellular phones, MP3 players, smart watches, video and/or audio recorders, cameras, headphones, or any other electronic devices and accessories during our class meetings, whether for personal reasons or as an aid to your note taking. (Such devices may be brought to the classroom but must be stored among your

personal items for the duration of the class period. You may use electronic devices during our break periods, which are usually scheduled for the halfway point of each class except on abbreviated class days, but you must store them once class resumes.)

As an enrolled student in this class, you may download and/or utilize the instructor's course materials for your own personal academic purposes outside of class time, although doing so does not in any way infringe upon the instructor's copyright protections. You are not permitted to video record, audio record, photograph, digitize, upload to another web site, or otherwise reproduce or distribute any images, data, and other course materials – including syllabus, lecture outlines, reading lists, timelines, short paper prompts, quiz prompts, and handouts – produced by the instructor.

This electronic device and copyright policy will be strictly enforced. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave class. Violators may also be subject to Academic Misconduct charges (see below). Exceptions may be made for students with prior written documentation of a disability from UWSP Disability Services and with the instructor's written consent.

Student Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of student academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this class. They are a mark of disrespect to your peers, your instructor, your university, and yourself. Students who violate University policy on this matter will be subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) the possibility of failing this course. Please consult Chapter 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" (<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>), for more information on what types of activities are considered "academic misconduct" and what the disciplinary sanctions are for students who engage in them.

Course Drops and Withdrawals

Students wishing to "clear drop" this course may do so via myPoint until the end of the business day on Thursday, September 15, 2016. After that, students withdrawing from this course no later than Friday, November 11, will receive a "W" on their transcripts. After November 11, drops are generally not permitted. See <http://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/AddDropSchedule.aspx> for information.

Use of Email for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is an official mode of university correspondence; you are therefore responsible for reading your email for university- and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible for keeping the university informed about changes to your email address. Please check your email regularly to stay current with course-related communications, some of which may be time-critical.

Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change (though major change is unlikely). Should there be a modification of lecture topic, guest lecturer, reading assignment, deadline, or other item, I shall strive to give you adequate notice.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (September 6): Introduction

“Ties of Singular Intimacy”: Cuba and the United States

Reading: None

Week 2 (September 13): Spanish Colonialism

Annexationism, Nationalism, and the Growth of Expatriate Communities

Reading: Pérez Firmat, *The Havana Habit*, Introduction, all, and Chapter 1 to page 34
Lazo, *Writing to Cuba*, Chapter 2 (on E-Reserves)

Week 3 (September 20): Independence, Yes – Freedom, No?

Causes of the Spanish-Cuban-American War

Reading: Schoultz, *Beneath the United States*, Chapter 8 (on E-Reserves)
Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood*, Chapter 2 (on E-Reserves)

Assignments:

- The Cuba map quiz will be held at the start of today’s class.

Week 4 (September 27): Mapping the Spanish-Cuban-American War

No in-person class today. Instead, you are expected to do today’s film screening and reading, attend a tutorial this week on using our web-based timeline software at the CCIT office (optional), and continue working on your interactive timeline. No additional readings have been assigned, though I have posted sources on the Spanish-American War to our D2L site that will likely assist you with producing your timeline. We will discuss the timelines and films at our next class along with the required readings for October 4.

Understanding a 19th-Century War Using 21st-Century Tools

Screening: “Crucible of Empire: The Spanish-American War”
(Online access available through UWSP library; YouTube link also on D2L)

Week 5 (October 4): Occupation, Neocolonialism, and Hegemony

The U.S. in Cuba, 1898-1920s

Reading: Pérez Firmat, *The Havana Habit*, Chapter 1, pp. 34-52
Chomsky, et. al., *A Cuba Reader*, excerpts (on E-Reserves)
Pérez, Jr., *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*, Chapter 8 (on E-Reserves)

Assignments:

- Interactive timelines are due by the start of today's class.

Week 6 (October 11): From the Turbulent Thirties to World War II

Batista, FDR, and the Good Neighbor Policy

Reading: Pérez Firmat, *The Havana Habit*, Chapters 2-3
Gronbeck-Tedesco, *Cuba, the United States.*, Chapter 3 (on E-Reserves)

Assignments:

- We will discuss the interactive timelines at the start of class today. Your grades and instructor comments will also be available on D2L today.

Week 7 (October 18): Cuba as Fantasy, Cuba as Reality

Cultural Ties in the Postwar Era

Reading: Pérez Firmat, *The Havana Habit*, Chapters 4-6
Fojas, *Islands of Empire*, Chapter 2 (on E-Reserves)

Week 8 (October 25): No More Good Neighbor: The U.S. in Latin America

The Cold War, Fulgencio Batista, Fidel Castro, and U.S. Responses

Reading: Pérez Firmat, *The Havana Habit*, Chapters 7-8 and Epilogue
Rabe, *The Killing Zone*, Chapter 2 (on E-Reserves)

Assignments:

- Take-home exam prompt (including paper guidelines, grading rubric, and citation information) will be distributed and discussed in today's class.

Week 9 (November 1): How Cuba Nearly Brought the World to War

Embargos, Travel Bans, Counterrevolution, and the Cuban Missile Crisis

Reading: LeoGrande & Kornbluh, *Back Channel to Cuba*, Introduction and Chapters 1-2

Assignments:

- The take-home exam is due by the start of today's class.
- The reading list of suggested final paper topics and sources is now on D2L. We will briefly discuss it, but you are advised to look at it on your own time.
- We will discuss guidelines for choosing your final paper topic.

Week 10 (November 8): Shifting U.S.-Soviet-Cuba Ties

No in-person class today. Instead, as it is Election Day – **don't forget to vote!** –, we are having online assignments in lieu of formal class. You are still expected to do today's reading, which will be the basis for your participation in an online discussion board. (I will grade that as part of your regular attendance/participation grade.) We will also discuss today's material in class on November 8. More information will be forthcoming shortly.

Cuba Policy under LBJ, Nixon, and Ford, 1963-1977

Reading: LeoGrande and Kornbluh, *Back Channel to Cuba*, Chapters 3-4

Assignments:

- Today is the first day you may submit final paper topics for instructor feedback. This assignment is not graded.

Week 11 (November 15): Missed Opportunities and Proxy Wars

Cuba Policy under Carter, Reagan, and G.H.W. Bush, 1977-1989

Reading: LeoGrande and Kornbluh, *Back Channel to Cuba*, Chapters 5-6

Assignments:

- Today is the last day to submit your final paper topics. If you submitted a topic last Tuesday, you will have received feedback by today. Topics submitted today will receive feedback by the end of this week.
- The guidelines and grading rubrics for writing the final paper prospectus and the final paper will be distributed and discussed in class.
- Take-home exam comments and grades will be available on D2L by today.

Week 12 (November 22): Cuban Americans and the Long Cold War

The Special Period, Bill Clinton, Elián González, and Gore v. Bush

Reading: LeoGrande and Kornbluh, *Back Channel to Cuba*, Chapter 7

Assignments:

- The paper prospectus and bibliography is due by the start of today's class.

Week 13 (November 29): Cold War Retrenchment

George W. Bush and Visions of a New (Old) Cuba

Reading: LeoGrande and Kornbluh, *Back Channel to Cuba*, Chapter 8

Assignments:

- Prospectus comments and grades will be available on D2L by today.
- The final paper presentation guidelines and draft presentation schedule will be distributed.

Week 14 (December 6): Cold War No More?

Barack Obama and Raúl Castro: Toward Normalization at Last

Reading: LeoGrande and Kornbluh, *Back Channel to Cuba*, Chapters 9-10
Additional journalistic readings to be posted on D2L

Assignments:

- Any edits to your proposed final paper presentation titles need to be submitted by the end of class today. The final presentation schedule will be posted online tonight.

Week 15 (December 13): New Research on U.S.-Cuba Relations

Class Presentations

Reading: None; read for your final paper

Assignments:

- Students grouped into small panels will each give a brief presentation (up to 5 minutes long) on their final papers.
- The last 15 minutes of today's class will be saved for student evaluations.
- Today is the last day to complete extra-credit opportunities toward your attendance/participation grade, which is being posted to D2L tomorrow.
- Final paper presentation grades will be available by the end of this week.

FINAL PAPERS are due by the end of our regularly scheduled final exam meeting time, which is Tuesday, December 20, 2016, from 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. To avoid late penalties, you will need to upload your final paper to the relevant D2L drop box by 9:15 p.m. CST on Tuesday, December 20, 2016.