

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1985-86

History 441

Thomas E. Skidmore

"Revolution and Conflict in Twentieth-Century Latin America"

This semester History 441 will focus entirely on the Cuban Revolution: its origins and its development.

I. Colonial and Nineteenth-Century Background

- Sept. 2: (Labor Day)
Sept. 4: Introductory
Sept. 6: The Early Centuries: Spanish Settlement and European Rivalries

Sept. 9: Spanish Colonial Institutions in Cuba
Sept. 11: The Nineteenth Century: The Rise of Sugar

Sept. 16: The African Presence
Sept. 18: 1860-1895: Agonies of a Rebellious Colony

Required Reading:

Rius, Cuba for Beginners, (New York, 1970), entire

"Cuba: Late Colony, First Socialist State," in Thomas Skidmore & Peter H. Smith, Modern Latin America (New York, 1984), 256-285

II. The Cuban Republics

- Sept. 23: Jose Marti: Apostle of Nationalism
Sept. 25: 1895-1902: From Spanish Colony to U.S. Protectorate (Title for book report due)

Sept. 30: 1902-1933: A Sugar Republic in the Shadow of Uncle Sam
Oct. 2: The Revolution that Failed: 1933-34

Oct. 7: Batista and U.S. Hegemony: 1934-52
Oct. 9: The Cuban Economy of the 1950's
Oct. 11: 1952-59: The Dictatorship and the Insurrection

Oct. 14: Review
Oct. 16: Six Weeks Exam

Required Reading:

Ramon Ruiz, Cuba: The Making of a Revolution (New York, 1970), entire

Hugh Thomas, The Cuban Revolution (New York, 1977), 3-252; 311-409
(this is the shortened version of Thomas's Cuba: The Pursuit of Freedom. For anyone using the latter, the corresponding sections are entitled "The Struggle, 1952-9," and "Old Cuba at Sunset")

III. The Cuban Revolution: The Heroic Years

- Oct. 18: A Nationalist Revolution Takes Shape: 1959
Oct. 21: The Turn to Socialism and the East: 1960
Oct. 23: The Bay of Pigs: Graveyard of the Exiles

Required Reading:

Thomas, The Cuban Revolution, 255-308; 413-593 (equivalent sections in Cuba: The Pursuit of Freedom are entitled "Victory: L'Illusion Lyrique, 1959," and "The Clash, 1959-62"--minus the last four sections of the latter)

Juan M. del Aguila, Cuba: Dilemmas of a Revolution (Boulder, 1984), 45-184

- Oct. 28: Consolidating the Social Revolution: 1961-63 (Book report due)
Oct. 30: Guest lecture
Nov. 1: Applying the Soviet Model, 1961-63 (Topic for paper due)
Nov. 4: Pragmatic Interlude, 1963-66
Nov. 6: The "New Man": Moral Incentives Under Socialism
Nov. 11: Exporting the Revolution
Nov. 13: Che Guevara: Death in the Altiplano

Required Reading:

Lee Lockwood, Castro's Cuba, Cuba's Fidel (New York, 1969), entire

Carlos Franqui, Family Portrait with Fidel (New York, 1984), entire

IV. The Cuban Revolution: Facing Realities

- Nov. 18: 1970: Back to Orthodoxy (Paper due)
Nov. 20: The Arts & the Revolution: Creativity and Conformity
Nov. 25: "People's Power" and the Military: Key Institutions
Nov. 27: Cuba's African Adventures
Dec. 2: The Cubans Who Flee
Dec. 4: What Future for the Revolution?
Dec. 9: The Nicaraguan Link
Dec. 11: The U.S. and Cuba
Dec. 13: Review and Overview

Required Reading:

Thomas, The Cuban Revolution, 594-720 (the equivalent sections in Cuba: The Pursuit of Freedom are the last four sections of "The Clash, 1959-62" and all of "Epilogue")

Fidel Castro Speeches vol. II: Our Power is that of the Working People (New York, 1983), 7-24; 91-136; 154-214; 280-298; 316-358

Irving Louis Horowitz, ed., Cuban Communism 5th ed. (New Brunswick, 1984), 13-42; 268-300; 331-366; 655-677; 678-724

Lectures and Discussions:

This course meets three times a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11:00. Normally there will be two lectures and one discussion per week, with the discussions usually during the class hour on Friday. Any variations will be announced in advance. Students can expect to have ample opportunity to discuss the lecture and reading material.

Course Requirements:Undergraduates:

There will be a six-weeks examination and a final examination. (The format of the exam--take-home or classroom--will be discussed in class.) Undergraduates will also be required to write a book report and a short paper.

The book report should be a critical analysis of the author's assumptions, line of argument, evidence used, and conclusions. The book is to be chosen by the student and should be a significant work not included among the required reading for the course. Many appropriate titles may be found in the footnotes and bibliographies which will be distributed. The choice of book must be approved by the instructor, who will be happy to make suggestions of books that correspond to areas of special interest. The book report should be approximately 4-6 pages long.

The paper is to be a topic of student's choosing, and should be approximately 10 pages long. The paper should draw on several secondary sources and present an original interpretation of the topic discussed, i.e., it should not simply summarize the sources. Again, the topic must be approved by the instructor. Early choice of a topic is advisable in order to insure availability of books. Students may wish, in the paper, to expand upon a topic discussed in their book report. Or they may prefer to work on a completely different topic.

Title of book for Book Report due on September 25.

Book Report due on October 28.

Topic for paper due on November 1.

Paper due on November 18.

Graduate Students:

Graduate students are required to take the six-weeks examination and the final examination. They will also be required to write a term paper (of approximately 20 pages) on a topic of the student's choosing. Students should feel free to pursue any special interests (political sociology, economic history, the military, relations with the USSR, literary history, the Church, land systems, student politics, etc.) in choosing their paper topic. The instructor will be happy to suggest bibliography, of which there is a rapidly growing quantity. Graduate students are expected to use Spanish language sources, where such sources are relevant and available (the Memorial Library collection is excellent).

If enrollment justifies, there will be a separate discussion section for graduate students, at an hour to be arranged. Attendance at these sections is required, since each graduate student will be asked to present an oral report to the section, which will then discuss the report. The topic will usually be in the area of the term paper and is to be agreed upon with the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Graduate student term papers due on December 2.