

History 165 and 198:
REVOLUTIONARY CUBA
Havana and beyond – August 1 to August 30, 2019



Alfredo Manzo Cedeño, The Cuba's Soup, Homage to Warhol, Ideology, Revolution, & History
(<http://www.artnet.com/galleries/mla-gallery/artist-alfredo-manzo-cede%C3%B1o/>), 2003.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

History 165 aims to examine the meaning of the Cuban Revolution within the broader sweep of Cuban history. Through reading historical narratives, watching Cuban films, meeting with Cuban scholars and students, and immersing yourself in daily life on the island, you will develop your own interpretation of Cuba's revolutionary tradition. Questions that frame the course include: What historical forces and circumstances led to the Cuban Revolution? How did participants, bystanders, and detractors experience the upheaval, and how have they struggled over its meaning and memory? To what extent does 1959 represent a radical break with the past? How did the revolution impact hemispheric affairs and global politics? What does the future hold for Cuba? Taking advantage of our stay here, we will have numerous excursions in and beyond Havana. You are also strongly encouraged to see as much of Cuba as possible outside of class, and bring to class your questions and observations. Walk around, talk to people, go places!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Pre-departure assignment (textbook chapter)
- Journal entries (at least 8 of ~500 words) **
- Group project on an aspect of Cuba today, informed by the course
- Final paper that requires the synthesis of readings, lectures, and discussions
- Participation (attendance, reading assignments, quality of contributions)

<u>Grade Breakdown</u>	<u>HIS 165</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Pre-departure Assignment	5%	August 1
Group Project	15%	Aug. 28/29
Final Paper	50%	Sept. 8
Participation	30%	<i>All the time</i>

** To fulfill the requirements for History 198 (Pass/No Pass), you must participate in the organized excursions and keep a journal that includes at least eight entries (at least two each week) that **explicitly connect topics or themes from the course to your experiences in Cuba**. We will collect your journals on August 18 and 28.

SCHEDULE

Our class will not follow a static schedule. This syllabus and daily updates from Lucia, Felix, or me will help you plan your time. We will make every effort to notify you promptly about any schedule changes that arise (they will). On some days, class will consist of a guided field trip to a historical site or museum. On other days, there may be a guest lecture and perhaps a group discussion of related readings. On days without field trips or guest lectures, we will meet for about three hours (with a break) at Casa Vera, usually in the morning. Each class will begin with a discussion of Cuban life and culture, based on your questions and observations. I will then lecture and/or pose questions to you about the readings, and we will discuss the material in relation to the course themes and our experiences in Cuba. Please note that during the first two weeks of the program, the reading load is heavier, and we will hold class daily. There will be fewer opportunities to hold formal meetings once we are on the road, but you are expected to keep up with the assigned readings, pay attention to guides and local experts, ask questions, take notes, and write journal entries during the trip.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

Arrive in Havana
Check-in at accommodations
Early dinner

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

Class: Orientation and Course Introduction
Bring a news article about Cuba that interests you, and read:

- *Cuba's Next Chapter*
- *"Visit Cuba Before It Changes!"*
- *History in an Age of Fake News*
- *The Abuses of History*

Walk around the neighborhood (Vedado)
Early dinner
Walking tour of Old Havana with Gerardo Bencomo

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Class: Studying the Cuban Revolution in the 21st Century

- *La Ventolera: Ruptures, Persistence, and the Historiography of the CR*
- *Whither the Empire?*

Visit Museo Bellas Artes, "La posibilidad infinita. Pensar la nación" (exhibit)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

No scheduled activities

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

Class: Race, Nation, and Revolution in Colonial Cuba

- *Writing the Nation*
- *The Birth of the American Empire (political cartoons)*
- *The Monroe Doctrine*
- *"Our America"*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

Class: Film and discussion

- *Insurrection and Slavery*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

Class: Republican Cuba

- *Sugarcane*
- *Where is Cuba Headed?*
- Group readings TBA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

Class: The Forgotten Revolution?

- *Fidel Castro's Road to Power, 1952-59*
- *Searching for the Messiah: Staging Revolution in the Sierra, 1956-59*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Depart for overnight trip to Matanzas/Varadero

Visit Triumverato/Rebel Slave Monument

Afternoon arrival in Varadero

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

No scheduled activities.

Afternoon return to Havana

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

No scheduled activities

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

Class: Women, Gender, and the Cuban Revolution

- *The New Woman and the Old Left, 1959-1960*
- *Women in the Swamps*
- *Socialism and Man*
- *The Literacy Campaign*
- *The Family Code*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

Class: Art, Culture, and Revolution

- *Words to Intellectuals*
- *Between Espiritu and Conciencia*

Visit Casa de las Americas

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

Class: A Nation for All? Race and the Cuban Revolution

- *Where the Island Sleeps Like a Wing*
- *Conflicting Legacies of Race in Cuba*
- *Silence on Black Cuba*
- *Black Man in Red Cuba*
- *Postmodern Maroon in the Ultimate Palenque*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Depart for Old Havana

- *"Transculturation" and Cuba*
- *Afrocubanismo and Son*

Visit the Casa de Africa w/ Dr. José Matos, Fundación Fernando Ortiz

Visit Colegio Universitario San Gerónimo w/Dr. Felix Julio Alfonso

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

Depart for overnight trip to Viñales

- *The Cuban Counterpoint*

Visit to tobacco farm, optional horseback riding

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Santo Tomás Cave

Afternoon return to Havana

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

No scheduled activities.

DUE: Please turn in your journal to Lucia. We will return them two you asap.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

Travel to Trinidad, with stops

- *The United States Rules Cuba, 1952-58*
- *U.S. Responses to Revolution*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

Walking tour of Trinidad and Museo de la Lucha Contra Bandidos

- *Beyond Paradox*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

Visit Valle de los Ingenios

Ancón Beach (optional)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

Travel to Santa Clara

Hiking in Topes de Collantes National Park

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Travel to Camagüey

Visit Che Guevara Memorial and Museum

- *Che's Way: Rural Guerilla Warfare*
- *The Harsh Angel*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Walking tour of Camagüey

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Travel to Santiago de Cuba (long bus ride), with stops

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

Visit Cemeterio Santa Ifigenia, Cuartel Moncada, El Morro

- *Three Comandantes Talk it Over*
- *"History Will Absolve Me"*
- *Commentaries on Fidel Castro's Death*
- *The Virgin of Charity of Cobre*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

Travel to Guadalavaca, with stops

Class: The "Special Period"

- *"Special Period in Peacetime"*
- *Silvio Rodríguez Sings of the Special Period*
- *Forty Years Later*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

Class: Cuba in the Twenty-First Century

- *Short Stories*
- *The Promise Besieged*
- *The Antiracist Debate in Today's Cuba*
- *Afro-Cuban Activists Fight Racism Between Two Fires*
- *Race and Cuban Hip-Hop*
- *Benevolent Domination*

DUE: Please turn in your journal to Lucia. We will return them two you asap.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

Final Projects and *Despedida*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

Depart for Miami