

Cuban Public Health: Past and Present

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In the decades since the success of the 1959 Cuban Revolution, the tiny island has gained a global reputation for its pioneering health system. Although Cuba's GDP is only a fraction of its northern neighbor's, the island boasts a lower infant mortality rate than the U.S., and has among the highest life expectancies and doctor- patient ratios in the world. In recent years, Cuba's "medial internationalists" – medical workers sent overseas to help shore up other countries' health systems or combat new disease outbreaks – have also gained widespread acclaim. What factors account for the seemingly outsized importance of medicine and public health under the Cuban Revolution? What can the study of public health and medicine tell us about broader themes in Cuban history?

This course is designed to introduce students to the history of public health and medicine in Cuba. Taking a long historical approach, this course explores both the development of medicine in colonial and early post-independence Cuba as well as recent innovations in Cuban medical care and public health systems. Some topics that students will explore include: the relationship between slavery and medicine in colonial Cuba; the nationalist politics of health in republican and revolutionary Cuba; popular medicine and its relationship to biomedical ideas; and Cuba's controversial yet successful fight against HIV/AIDS.

Cultural History of Cuba

Dr. Ricardo Quiza Moreno, with the assistance of Prof. Gerardo Hernandez. Dr. Quiza Moreno is full professor and researcher at the University of Havana's Casa de Altos Estudios "Fernando Ortiz." He has published a variety of books, articles and essays in Cuba, Colombia, Spain and England, including *El cuento al reves: historia, nacionalismo y poder en Cuba (1902-1930)*, Editorial Unicornio, La Habana, 2003; *Nuevos voces... viejos asuntos. Panorama de la reciente historiografía cubana*, Editorial de Ciencias Sociales, La Habana, 2005, and *Imaginarios al ruedo: Cuba y los Estados Unidos en las exposiciones internacionales (1876-1904)* Ediciones Union y Ruth Casa Editorial, La Habana, 2011, which was awarded the Annual Award from the Academy of Sciences and the Annual Research Award for Cultural Research Juan Marinello, both in 2012. He has served as a visiting guest lecturer in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Holland and Mexico.

This course examines the moments in the history of Cuba that have been key to its national and cultural formation, focusing on the most important aspects of its

history, including its social composition, architecture, religion and popular traditions. The concepts of nation and culture, and the country's notions of identity, idiosyncrasies and Cuban identity will be reviewed by the instructors from a variety of perspectives. Beginning with a review of the principal events of the colonial and republican periods and leading up to the Revolution, the course will focus on those elements that have come to define Cuba in the last 20 years, including its economic development, international relations, social changes and generational conflicts. As a complement to the lectures, students will read a variety of carefully selected Spanish texts, observe audiovisual offerings, observe "in situ" locations of historical and patrimonial importance, visit museums and exchange ideas with specialists on these topics. Field visits associated with the course include the cities of Baracoa, Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara and Mantanzas.

Gender, Race and Inequalities in Cuba: Visions from Cuban Scholars

Professor Marta Núñez Sarmiento, Ph.D. with the assistance of Roberto Zurbano Torres. Dr. Núñez Sarmiento is a professor of sociology and a researcher at the Center for Studies of International Migrations (CEMI) at the University of Havana. Her research has concentrated on transition projects for Cuba; women and employment in Cuba; gender studies in Cuba, images of women in Cuban and foreign mass media. At the University of Havana, she teaches courses related to ethodology and methods of sociological research, gender studies and contemporary Cuba. She has serve as a consultant for several agencies of the United Nations (1988-2003), for the Association of Caribbean States (1999) and for several NGOs. She is one of the founders of the Cuban Federation of Women.

For more than half a century scholars, journalists and artists from all over the world and basically from the United States have intensely explored Cuba, and their visions have been widely spread by the "mainstream media". But although Cuban social scientists living in the island have produced their studies while experiencing and being part of the transformations that started in 1959, their works have been scarcely published outside of Cuba.

This program summarizes recent studies produced by Cuban scholars on three of the most relevant challenges to eliminate discrimination in society: gender, race, and inequalities. Although the works refer to historical events explaining the evolution of the present situation in each of these topics, they will basically focus on case studies elaborated since the crisis and reforms of the 90s in Cuba – following the disappearance of the Soviet Union and the Eastern European socialist countries as well as the strengthening of the US embargo/blockade on Cuba.

The Imagined Island: Cuban Cinema

Professor Gustavo Arcos is a cinema critic and professor at the *Instituto Superior de Arte* (ISA).

In 1959, following the revolutionary victory, the Cuban Institute of Arts and Industries Cinematographic (ICAIC) was established to oversee a vast array of cultural projects and related work, and well into the 1990s, it continued to oversee nearly all of the country's film production. With new technologies emerging in Cuba, through digital media and two new schools of cinema and television, productions have been and will continue to become more diversified, as the ICAIC previously controlled all productions. In the last two decades, new generations of filmmakers and audiovisual artists have been emerging who intend to tell stories from a more independent lens.

This course uses film as a way to understand Cuba through its own images. We will verify how the artistic discourse of filmmakers interprets, legitimizes, dialogues or generates conflict with the official discourse. Students will learn about aesthetic values, formal and artistic, as proposed by Cuba's filmmakers in recent decades. This course will also aim to stimulate creativity between the students, encouraging student discussions based on their own experiences during their time in Cuba.

Slavery: Manifestations of Its Legacy in Contemporary Cuban Society

Professor Bárbara Danzie León is a history researcher and specialist in resources on the African presence and lecturer of the *Instituto Superior de Ciencias Aplicadas del Ministerio de Ciencia Tecnología y Medio Ambiente*. Several professors have been invited to guest lecture the course as well.

The enslavement of Africans and their forced arrival in Cuba from the 16th to 19th centuries is an important axis around which a significant part of the history of Cuba moves. This course proposes to address, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the African influence and contribution to the shape of Cuba's nationality, where they are recognized as members of an important part of the values with which Cubans identify themselves. The multiethnic and multiracial state of the country is based on Cuba's historical memory and diverse contemporary expressions. In the same way, the course will also distinguish the implications of the period of discriminatory and racist ideology based on skin color. Many times this is and has been expressed unconsciously and through colonial systems of marginalization, through which slavery came about.

The Culture of the Transition

A native of Peru, Professor Julio Ortega is an accomplished scholar, poet, playwright, and novelist. Since 1989, he has worked at Brown's Department of Hispanic Studies. He has also been a visiting professor at numerous universities both in the United States and abroad. Professor Ortega's commitment to literature goes beyond his own writing and teaching to include his involvement in several international publishing houses.

This seminar is dedicated to the narratives (historical, political, literary, and artistic) of the Transition in Latin America. The course will begin with its historic model, that of the Spanish transition, and after considering the Argentinian and Chilean experiences, the course will pause at the current reform process in Cuba. Discussions will be on documents, accounts, movies, memories, poems, and essays. The course will look at texts in their contemporary settings: the exiles, the debates, the testimonies, and the genre (hybrid, hyperbolic, and controversial) of the transition's discourse through a few key examples. We will discuss the legal processes that build a culture of transition as a discipline whose intellectual history is underway. We will look at this culture from the new internationalism, the tensions between what is public and what is private, the critique of politics, the movements of citizen participation, the role of digital technology, and the citizenship and ethics of solidarity. This analytical study will seek to design the ways of futurity being debated today in both Spanish literature and ideas.