

Fairhaven 337L: Race, Culture and Society in the Latino Caribe

Syllabus: Winter 2010

See also: [Fair 337 Syllabus](#) | [Fair 337 Program](#) | [Fair 337 Lectures](#)
[Fair 337 Photo Gallery](#) | [Student Video](#)

Dr. Larry Estrada

Course Rationale and Travel

Increasingly, the Caribbean is becoming a critical area of study and interest to researchers, academicians, theorists and others who wish to understand the growing nexus between the Latino Caribbean and U.S. Society. Recent overtures to Cuba by the Obama administration coinciding with a steady rise in immigration from the region has prompted a greater awareness of the hemispheric linkages and co-dependency between the United States and the Caribbean.

The purpose of the course is to provide students with Spanish language instruction at their particular level of competency and to examine the past and present context of how race and cultural fusion have been experienced among peoples in and from the Latino Caribbean. Particular emphasis will be placed on the various ways in which racial/cultural identities are influenced and complicated by questions of gender, class, religion and sexuality both in the Caribbean as well as those Latino-a Caribbean populations residing in the United States.

In conjunction with the Instituto Intercultural del Caribe (IIC) the course will be a quarter long course with seven weeks spent in country that will provide for Spanish language training each week day morning with afternoon class sessions, seminars and lectures on history, culture and politics of the Caribbean region. The course will also feature Dominican guest lecturers as well as week-end excursion trips that relate to the subject material and cultural understanding of the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean region. Students will also participate in a designated service-learning project with Dominican students and given ample opportunity to intermingle with Dominican as well as other international students at both of the IIC campuses in Santo Domingo and Sosua.

Texts Required:

The Devil Behind The Mirror: Globalization and Politics In the Dominican Republic. S. Gregory (Univerisity of California Press) 2007
Coloring The Nation: Race and Ethnicity in the Dominican Republic, D. Howard, (Signal Books) 2001.
The Cuba Reader, A. Chomsky, B. Carr, P.M. Smorkaloff, (Duke University Press) 2006.
Reyita: The Life Of A Black Cuban Woman In the Twentieth Century, M. Reyes Castillo Bueno (Duke University Press) 2000.
America's Colony: The Political and Cultural Conflict Between the Unites States and Puerto Rico, P. Malavet, (New York University Press) 2004.
Quisqueya La Bella, The Dominican Republic In Historical and Cultural Perspective, A. Cambeira, (M.E. Sharpe Publishers) 1997.

Recommended:

Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War 1956-1958, E. Che Guevara, (Pathfinder Books), 1996.
Why The Cocks Fight: Dominicans, Haitians and the Struggle for Hispaniola, M. Wucker (Hill and Wang Publishers) 1999.
Boricua Power: A Political History of Puerto Ricans In The United States, J.R. Sanchez (New York University Press) 2007.
Modern Latin America 6th Ed., T.E. Skidmore & P.H. Smith, (Oxford University Press) 2005.
Politics of Latin America: The Power Game, H.E. Vanden, G. Prevost, (Oxford University Press) 2006.
Open Veins of Latin America, E. Galeano, (Monthly Review Press) 1997.
The Dominican People: A Documentary History, E. Sagas, (Markus Weiner Publ.) 2003.
Dominican Cultures: The Making of A Caribbean Society. B. Vega (Markus Weiner Publ.) 2007.

Other handout readings as assigned and provided.

Credit/Evaluation:

Since this is a faculty-led travel abroad course, participation within classroom discussions is vital. Students will also be assigned as discussion leaders and discussants on various topics throughout the quarter. There will be assigned 1-2 page response/perspective papers on particular guest speakers, videos and excursions throughout the quarter. These will be determined by the instructor and the teaching assistant. Students are required to maintain a consistent Journal of their

experiences and thoughts that will be reviewed periodically by the instructor and teaching assistant. Students and must also submit a final self-evaluative report that summarizes their perceptions, growth and development of learning while attending this class and residing in the Dominican Republic. Students will also be evaluated on their progress and final assessment in terms of Spanish Language Instruction. A written assessment of all student work in Spanish will be provided by the IIC instructional staff and included in the final teacher evaluation for all students.

Attendance and Participation:

Your success in this course depends on you coming to class on time for all sessions inclusive of Spanish language instruction, class seminars, guest speakers as well as excursion trips. Illness is the only plausible excuse for missing any component of the course. The course will be handled as a graduate seminar course similar to what you would find at a major research university such as UCLA, U.C. Berkeley, Stanford and Harvard. This places responsibility upon you as a co-learner and contributor to each and every class. The instructor will rarely lecture in this class but instead will act as a facilitator of key questions and will prompt discussion and critical analysis on particular topics and issues. Students are encouraged to bring to class current events or news stories that pertain to the subject matter and content within the class. During most class sessions students at the beginning will be allowed to share items of interest pertaining to politics, culture and current events pertaining to the Latino Caribbean. Students are also encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas with classmates on any experiences or issues they encounter. Throughout the quarter the instructor will assign particular readings to groups of students who in turn act as discussion leaders and facilitators.

Course Objectives:

1. To provide a socio-historic context enabling students to begin understanding the lives of Latino Caribbean peoples and their experience, thoughts and visions as they pertain to questions of race and racism in the Caribbean and /or in the United States. This will be accomplished by also looking at questions influenced by class, gender and sexuality.
2. To engage in critical dialogue about issues of race, class and society as it pertains to the Latino Caribbean and how many of these struggles have resulted in resistance, conflict and revolution.
3. To engage students in the understanding of theoretical frameworks, research and paradigmatic constructs. This will enable students to engage in research on a vital topic pertaining to the Latino Caribbean.
4. To provide a basis for critical assessment of current events, cultural cycles and socio/politico change within the Latino Caribbean.
5. To further the Spanish language literary and conversational competencies of all students enrolled in the class cohort.
6. To enable students to successfully reside and flourish within a Spanish-speaking community and society.

Spanish Language Instruction:

Students will be given assignments and written work by their individual Spanish-Language instructors at IIC. This work is to be completed as assigned by each instructor and will be reviewed in line with the schedule provided to each of the language-learning cohorts. The instructor and teaching assistant for the course will monitor all student progress in Spanish in concert with the IIC instructional staff.

Readings for Class Seminars:

For almost every class, you will be assigned articles and/or a section of a text to have read before the next class. You can find these assignments on the reading schedule under each of the weeks and dates listed in the syllabus. You are responsible for following the syllabus and class itinerary carefully and planning your schedule to complete all the assignments on time. All students will be required to come to class with the assigned texts in hand, and having already read them. This is a vital part of your evaluation.

Response-Perspective Papers:

You will be asked to critique and comment upon selected guest speaker presentations, videos and excursions in a 1-2 page paper. An outline as to how to approach the response-perspective paper will be provided by the beginning of the second week of the course.

Journal:

All students will be required to maintain a journal of their experiences, social interactions and class presentations throughout their seven week stay in the Dominican Republic. Students should maintain a minimum of three entries per week, which will be periodically reviewed and commented upon by the instructor and the teaching assistant throughout the class. With students' permission

some entries may be shared with the class to generate discussion and the review of common concerns or issues.

Self-Evaluative Report:

Each student will be required to turn in a 4-5 page self-evaluative, reflection paper based on concepts and ideas presented throughout the entire seven week class. Although this is not a research paper, it is anticipated that students will be able to cite specific information from each of the readings as well as ideas presented within specific class presentations, and by guest lecturers and their instructors at IIC. Emphasis on this project will be how events, information and experiences have changed or shaped their personal insights and ideas. This paper will be due March 5, 2010.

Important Note:

Students are required to keep a copy of their papers that will also form the basis for their on-line evaluation through Fairhaven College that is due as soon as possible upon their return. During the spring quarter all FC-337-L students will give a presentation on concepts learned as well as their collective experiences while in the Dominican Republic.

A written assessment of Spanish language development will be conducted by the language instructors at IIC. These will be available to students upon their culmination of the trip and entered as part of the evaluation process for each student.

Course Schedule and Itinerary January 6---March 8, 2010:

Jan. 6--Jan. 15 *The course schedule should be followed at all times together with the course itinerary and the guest speaker list.

Students are assigned the Book "**Devil Behind The Mirror**" to be read upon arrival in the D.R. Those students who did not attend the Ernesto Sagas and Michelle Wucker's presentations during the fall quarter as part of the assigned prep sessions are required to view those prior to arrival in the D.R. Both presentations are available for viewing on the Fairhaven College website under World Issues Forum. They are important background information for your understanding of many of the topics and discussions that we will have in the next seven weeks.

Ernesto Sagas: <http://vimeo.com/channels/worldissuesforum#7209373>

Michelle Wucker: <http://vimeo.com/channels/worldissuesforum#7354271>

Week 1

Jan. 16-17, 2010

Arrival in the Dominican Republic and Santo Domingo/

Jan. 18, 2010 (8 A.M.) IIC/Casa Goethe

Class Introductions, Handing out of syllabi and expectations for the course. Orientation, Spanish Instruction and Excursion Trip (see itinerary)

Jan. 19, 2010

General Discussion of Devil Behind the Mirror and further discussion of course assignments, expectations and upcoming excursion trips.

Sagas pp. 1-245

Cultural Conflict and the Plunder of the Latino Caribbean

Jan. 20, 2010

The Historical antecedents and Conquest of the Latino Caribbean. Transformation and Cultural Genocide. The Seeking of "Gold and Glory." (BBQ at IIC)

Chomsky, Carr & Smorkaloff, pp.1-36

Jan. 21, 2010

Dia de la Altigracia (Improvised Class Field Trip?)

Jan. 22, 2010

Dominican Student Interaction/Dance Course (see itinerary)

Jan. 23, 2010

Dominican Day/Dominican Cooking (see itinerary)

Week 2

Jan. 25, 2010

Roots and Causation of racial stratification within the Indies. The imposition of the Colonial Order and the Casta System.

Howard, pp. 1-49 Cambeira, pp. 1-63

Colonization and the Initiation of the Indies Into a Globalized Economy

Jan. 26, 2010

The Establishment and Maintenance of a Captive Work Force and an Export Economy. Sugar Plantations and Slaves. Showing of the film *El Cimarrón*.

Chomsky, Carr & Smorkaloff, pp. 37-87

Jan. 27, 2010

The Devil's Choice: Transference from Indigenous to African Slavery and Roots of Resistance. Submittal of Journals.

Cambeira, pp. 64-126

Jan 28, 2010

Dr. Mario Bonetti, Guest speaker on Dominican Social Stratification (see guest speaker list)
Excursion to Mueso del Hombre (see itinerary)

Jan. 29, 2010

Dominican Student Interaction and Dance Course (see itinerary)

Jan. 30, 2010

Boca Chica Beach Excursion and Fiesta (see itinerary)

Week 3 —Colonization and a Mixed Economy. The Cultivation of Coffee and Tobacco In The Indies

Feb. 1, 2010

Internal Colonialism and Increasing Conflict Within the Indies. The Haitian Revolution

Chomsky, Carr & Smorkaloff, pp. 88-117 Cambeira, pp. 127-146

Feb. 2, 2010

Internal Colonialism contd. Small Group Discussion and Review of general issues

La República

Feb. 3, 2010

The Dominican Republic. The Intersection of Race, Class and Gender Within the Dominican Republic. The concept of nationhood, mestizaje and class consciousness.

Cambeira, pp. 141-163 Howard, pp. 50-94

Feb. 4, 2010

Rosanna German and Solange Pierre, guest speakers on Health Education and Women and Haitian/Dominican Relations. (see guest speaker list)

Feb. 5, 2010

Dominican Student Interaction and Dance Course (see itinerary)

Feb. 6, 2010

Excursion Trip Faro a Colon & Los Tres Ojos (see itinerary)

Week 4

Feb. 8, 2010

On the Path from Independence to Dictatorship and "Yanqui" Domination. The Trujillo Regime and Corporate Greed.

.Cambeira, pp. 164-238

Social Conflict and Racial Demarcations within the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

Feb. 9, 2010

Haitian Migration and class conflict within Hispaniola.

Howard, pp. 95-202

Feb. 10, 2010

Cuban Independence and Neocolonialism. The Beginning of Anglo-Cubano symbiotic Love and Hatred.

Chomsky, Carr & Smorkaloff, pp. 115-218

Feb. 11, 2010

Matthias Muller, guest speaker on the Environment and Ecotourism (see guest speaker list)

Feb. 12, 2010

Dominican Student Interaction and Packing Day

Feb. 13, 2010

Departure from Santo Domingo and Excursion to Jarabacoa (see itinerary)

Week 5—Pan-Socialism and the Cuban Revolution

Feb. 15, 2010

Walking Excursion of Sosua and visit to the Jewish Museum and Los Charamicos (see itinerary)

Feb. 16, 2010

The Development of the Cuban Autocracy/Class Structure and “Yanqui” Control. Small Groups and Discussion. (BBQ IIC)
Chomsky, Carr & Smorkaloff, pp. 219-336

Feb. 17, 2010

The Revolution Heard around the World. Cuban/Pan Africanism and Anti-Colonial Solidarity. Showing of the film, *Fidel Castro: History of a Commander*. Carmen Hernandez, Guest Speaker on Sex Tourism in the D.R. (see guest speaker list)
Chomsky, Carr & Smorkaloff, pp. 337-411, pp. 424-426

The Establishment of a Revolutionary Society within Cuba.

Feb. 18, 2010

Cuban Life and Society Within the Revolution. The Creation of a Socialist Utopia and Order. Handing in of Journals. Excursion to Cabarete, Sandrine Roussos, guest speaker on Tourism (see itinerary and guest speaker list)
M. Reyes Castillo Bueno, pp. 1-80 Chomsky, Carr & Smorkaloff, pp. 451-489

Feb. 19, 2010

Visit to Dominican School (see itinerary)

Feb. 20-21, 2010

Service Learning Project (see itinerary)

Week 6

Feb. 22, 2010

Showing of Movie “My American Girls: A Dominican Story” and Obe Lagombra, guest speaker on Emigration and Immigration of Dominicanos-as (see guest speaker list)

Feb. 23, 2010

The aftermath of the Revolution. Its Continuing Influence on U.S./Cuban Relations. The stepping down of Fidel and the Succession of Raul. Showing of the film *Cuba: After The Revolution*. Leo Diaz, guest speaker on Dominican Art and Culture (see guest speaker list)
M. Reyes Castillo Bueno, pp. 81-170 Chomsky, Carr & Smorkaloff, pp. 517-551

Feb. 24, 2010

Puerto Plata Excursion Trip and University Visit (see itinerary) Luis Mendez Jimenez & Maria Josefina Paulino, guest speakers on human trafficking and Dominican higher education (see guest speaker list)

Feb. 25, 2010

Dr. Timothy Schwartz, guest speaker on U.S./Hispaniola relations, (see guest speaker list)

Feb. 26, 2010

Excursion trip to view the Haitian Integration Project (see itinerary)

Feb. 27, 2010

Excursion to La Vega for Carnaval (see itinerary)

Feb. 28, 2010

Dia de Fiesta with students from Ausberto Lagombra Luna school

Week 7-America’s Colonial Possession In the Caribbean: The Case of Puerto Rico

March 1-2, 2010

Puerto Rican Political Culture and Its Nexus to the United States. The rise of the Neorriqueños.
Malavet, pp. 1-99

Puerto Rico/Expanded Immigration, Nationalism and the Case for Independency

March 3, 2010

Vieques and the Tide of a national spirit and identity. Statehood or Revolution?
Showing of the Film, *The Double Life of Ernesto Gomez Gomez*.
Malavet, pp. 100-161

March 4, 2010

Planning of Class Presentation/FCIS Fiesta During the Spring Quarter
Course Evaluations/Submittal Of Self-Evaluative Reports

March 5, 2010

Class Wrap-Up Fiesta

May 6, 2010

Excursion Trip to Playa Grande (see itinerary)
Evening Fiesta—IIC and WWU Group

May 7, 2010

Packing Day and Relaxation

May 8, 2010

Departure from Sosua for home and pleasure!