

Dr. A. Oñate
Science 220
onate@sfsu.edu
<http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~onate/>
(415) 338-6177

Spring of 2006
Office hours: TTh 11-12am
and Th 3-4 pm

HISTORY 520
HISTORY OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Course description.

This course offers a thematic approach to the study of societies in the Caribbean basin since 1492. It is designed to examine the culture, the economics, and the politics of a region whose history and development have been determined by its incorporation into the Atlantic economy. The course emphasizes such themes as colonization and slavery, government and nationhood, and literature and cultural identity. In this class students will also ponder some of the options to bring about democracy and sustainable economic growth in the coming years.

This course meets General Education, Segment III requirements in the cluster "Latin America: Society and Culture."

Grading

The course requires reading, writing, and class participation. The writing component consists of a short position paper (2-3 pages) for discussion in class, and a term paper (10-12 pages minimum) which will be evaluated for both composition and content. Students will be expected to sign up for a panel (four to five people), and to lead discussion sessions. Directions for the topics and the formation of teams will be given during the first two weeks of class.

The final grade will be based on the following:

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| - A midterm exam on March 23 | 20% |
| - Short discussion paper | 15% |
| - A term paper due on May 5 | 40% |
| - A final exam on May 25 | 25% |

History 520
S Y L L A B U S

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
PART ONE: INTRODUCTION.		
Feb 2	The Caribbean today. Questions about method. History and culture.	Booth, 1-2; Trouillot, 1.
PART TWO: INVASION AND INVENTION OF THE CARIBBEAN.		
Feb. 9	The native cultures. Caribbes and Arawaks.	Knight, 1; Steward.
Feb. 16, 23	Spain, Europe, and Africa. "Discovery" and Conquest.	Todorov; Knight, 2, 3.
Mar. 2	Hispaniola: The first plantation. Colonialism and slavery in the <i>Antilles</i> .	Knight, 4, 5; Trouillot, 2.
PART THREE: THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.		
Mar. 9, 16	Independence and nationhood. Haiti's Revolution: The Black Jacobins.	Knight, 6, 7; Trouillot, 3, 4.
Mar. 23	MIDTERM EXAM	
Mar. 30	No class meeting. Research/writing session.	
Apri. 6	Spring recess. No class meeting.	

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
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Apr. 13,20	Puerto Rico: an ambivalent identity. Nationalism in the Caribbean today.	González; Knight, 9; Trouillot, 5.
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***PART FOUR: THE CROSS AND THE SWORD IN
CENTRAL AMERICA.***

Apr. 20,27	The Kingdom of Guatemala. Colonial society: race, class, and gender. The central American Confederation.	Woodward,3-119; Arias. Booth,pp.117-51
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PART FIVE: THE AGE OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

May 4,11	The export economies to 1932. The 1959 Cuban Revolution	Allahar; Knight, 8.
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May 18	U.S. Responses to Revolution. The Panama Canal. Prospects for democracy.	Booth,105-114, 129-171; Ropp.
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May 25	FINAL EXAM	
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allahar, Anton I. "Women and the Family in Cuba: A Study Across Time," Humboldt Journal of Social Relations, V. 20:1, 1994.
- Arias, Arturo. "Changing Indian Identity: Guatemala's Violent Transition to Modernity," in Carol A. Smith (ed.) Guatemalan Indians and the State: 1540 to 1988. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990.
- Booth, John A., and Thomas W. Walker. Understanding Central America. Boulder: West View Press, 1993.
- González, José Luis. Puerto Rico, Princeton, N.J.: Markus Weiner, 1994.
- Knight, Frankilin W. The Caribbean. The Genesis of a Fragmented Nationalism, New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Ropp, Steve, C. "Panama and the Canal" in Jan K. Black (ed.), Latin America. Its Problems and Its Promise. Boulder, Colorado: West View Press, 1991. (reader)
- Steward, Julian H. and Louis C. Faron, Native Peoples of South America. New York: McGraw Hill, 1959. (reader)
- Todorov, Tzvetan. The Conquest of America. New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1984. (reader)
- Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. Silencing the Past. Power and the Production of History. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995.
- Woodward, Ralph Lee. Central America, New York: Oxford University Press, 1990. (reader)