

University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Department of History

History 135  
**Comparative World History:**  
*Imperial Transitions in the Caribbean*  
Semester I, 2006-2007

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Office hours:  
Wednesday 10:00-12:00 (sign-up only)  
Wednesday 1:00-2:00 (walk-in)

### Introduction

This course examines the transition from Spanish to United States hegemony in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and, to a lesser extent, the Dominican Republic--the Spanish-speaking portion of the insular Caribbean--over a period roughly spanning the years 1868 to 1934. How did this transition take place, and why? What implications did it have for the subordinate nations as well as the dominant ones? And how did the transition fit into larger, worldwide processes by which the old merchant empires crafted beginning in the 1400s were replaced, at the end of the nineteenth century, by more modern capitalist empires--during the "age of imperialism"?

We will approach these questions from several angles. One is the secular decline of Spanish power in the Hemisphere and the rise of American power, which largely took the former's place. Another is the political economy of the transition, i.e., the interaction between political decisions and policies and the economic processes that help frame the criss-crossed histories of these empires in the first place. A third is the nature of local (or *subaltern*) challenges to the exercise of imperial hegemonies. And still a fourth, the effects on the dependent societies of policies undertaken by the imperial states, and the attendant impact of the colonies or neocolonies on the imperial societies themselves.

### FIGging around

The course anchors a Freshman Interest Group called "The Imperial Republic: The United States and its Empire in the Caribbean and Southeast Asia", which also includes History 244 (INTRODUCTION TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, Professor M. Cullinane) and Spanish 311 (ADVANCED LANGUAGE PRACTICE, Professor C. Johnson). The idea behind the FIG is to consider from diverse angles the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century transition from mercantilist to capitalist empire, in two areas of the world (Southeast Asia and the Caribbean) where the transition involved both Spain and the United States; and, at the same time, to immerse students in an environment that will strengthen their ability in expository Spanish writing. (A good reference for information about FIGs at UW-Madison is the following web page: <http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/figs/spice.php>).

The three instructors participating in this FIG have coordinated our courses to share and synchronize certain readings, assignments, and activities outside the classroom. Early in the semester we will hand out a schedule of our common activities. The FIG is also coordinated with a major international conference to be held on campus November 7-9, entitled

"Transformations in the U.S. Imperial State." We will be preparing for the conference by reading some of the presenters' work and discussing several of the main conference themes in class, in anticipation of (and during) the formal academic event.

## Requirements

### **A) Mid-term and Final Exams (50%)**

The mid-term (Tue., Oct. 24, in class) and final examination (Monday, Dec. 18, 12:25-2:25 p.m.) will consist of several identification items and two essay questions each. I will select these questions from a review list handed out several days before the exam date. Students are expected to be creative and original while integrating ideas and information gleaned from the pertinent core readings, as well as from lectures and class discussions. The mid-term will be weighed at 20% of the final grade; the final at 30%. Total for exams= 50% of the final grade.

### **B) Papers (40%)**

One 3-pp. (double-spaced) reaction paper *in Spanish* to a course reading TBA, which you will develop in your Spanish 311 section (**due date: Friday, Sept. 29**). This paper will count 15% of the grade. The second will be a 5 to 7-page essay which concisely develops a thesis or argument based on research done on a selection of primary and secondary readings about the manner in which gender and class perspectives may have affected subaltern (i.e., Cuban, Puerto Rican, Haitian, or Dominican) views of U.S. influence and rule in the Caribbean. The instructor will identify the sources to be used in a separate assignment, given to you in early October. This paper will count 25% of the grade.

### **C) Class participation (10%)**

The success of this course, and indeed of the entire FIG, is predicated in part on how thoroughly and fully you participate in classroom and extracurricular activities. Students are required to take an active role in class exercises and discussions. The extent of this participation, along with its overall quality, will be assessed 10% of the grade.

## Readings

The following books, which will be read in their entirety, are available for purchase at Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, 426 W. Gilman St. (tel. 257-6050) In addition, an assortment of shorter readings--articles and book chapters--will be available online via <https://mywebspace.wisc.edu/fscarano>. Other readings, marked with the double asterisks (\*\*), are available on the web via the URLs indicated.

Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Phillipine-American Wars* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000).

Luisa Capetillo, *A Nation of Women: An Early Feminist Speaks Out/Mi opinión sobre las libertades, derechos y deberes de la mujer* (Houston: Arte Público Press, 2004).

## WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS

### Week 1: Introductory week: What is an Empire? What is this Course About? And the FIG? (September 5-7)

LaFeber, Walter. "The Post September 11 Debate Over Empire, Globalization, and Fragmentation." *Political Science Quarterly* 117 (2002): 1–17.

Schroeder, Paul, "Is the U.S. an Empire?", George Mason University's History News Network, February 3, 2003 <<http://hnn.us/articles/1237.html#>>

### Week 2: Reinventing the Spanish Empire (Sept. 12-14)

Scarano, Francisco A. "Liberal Pacts and Hierarchies of Rule: Approaching the Imperial Transition in Cuba and Puerto Rico." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 78, no. 4 (November 1998): 583–601.

Schmidt-Nowara, Christopher. "National Economy and Atlantic Slavery: Protectionism and Resistance to Abolitionism in Spain and the Antilles, 1854–1874." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 78, no. 4 (November 1998): 603–29.

For the first paper:

Martí, José. "Our America." *La Revista Ilustrada*, 1 January 1891.

\*\*"The White Man's Duty," *The American Missionary*, 53, 2 (July 1899): 49-51 <Cornell University, The Making of America>

### Week 3: Nations of the Future: Cuban and Puerto Rican Nationalisms in the Making (Sept. 19-21)

Casanovas, Joan. "Slavery, the Labour Movement and Spanish Colonialism in Cuba, 1850–1890." *International Review of Social History* 40, no. 3 (1995): 367–82.

Pérez, Louis A., Jr. "Between Baseball and Bullfighting: The Quest for Nationality in Cuba, 1868–1898." *Journal of American History* 81, no. 2 (1994): 493–517.

### Week 4: The Cuban Insurgency (Sept. 26-28)

Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*.

## Week 5: From Old to New Empire in the United States (Oct. 3-5)

LaFeber, Walter. "The 'Lion in the Path': The U.S. Emergence as a World Power." *Political Science Quarterly* 101, no. 5 (1986): 705–18.

Cooney, Stephen. "Political Demand Channels in the Processes of American and British Imperial Expansion, 1870–1913." *World Politics* 27, no. 2 (January 1975): 227–55.

\*\*A. Laurence Lowell, "Colonial Expansion of the United States," *The Atlantic Monthly* LXXXIII, No. CCCCXCVI (February 1899): 145-155 <Cornell U. Making of America>.

## Week 6: Manhood and the Genesis of Empire (Oct. 10-12)

Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood*.

## Week 7: Organizing the Caribbean Empire (Oct. 17-19)

Schwartz, Stuart B. "The Hurricane of San Ciriaco: Disaster, Politics, and Society in Puerto Rico, 1899–1901." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 72, no. 3 (August 1992): 303–34.

García, Gervasio L. "I Am the Other: Puerto Rico in the Eyes of North Americans, 1898." *Journal of American History* 87, no. 1 (June 2000): 39–64.

Pérez, Louis A., Jr. "The Pursuit of Pacification: Banditry and the United States' Occupation of Cuba, 1889–1902." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 18, no. 2 (1986): 313–32.

\*\*"The Nature of the Government in Cuba," *The American Journal of International Law*, 1, 1 (Jan.-Apr. 1907): 149-150.

## Week 8: Negotiating Imperial Politics in Cuba and Puerto Rico (Oct 24-26)

Helg, Aline. "Black Men, Racial Stereotyping, and Violence in the U.S. South and Cuba at the Turn of the Century." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 42 (2000): 576–604.

Gillette, Howard, Jr. "The Military Occupation of Cuba, 1899–1902: Workshop for American Progressivism." *American Quarterly* 25, no. 4 (1973): 410–25.

Martínez Fernández, Luis. "Political Culture in the Hispanic Caribbean and Building of US Hegemony, 1868–1945." *Revista Mexicana del Caribe* 11 (2001).

Trigo, Benigno. "Anemia and Vampires: Figures to Govern the Colony, Puerto Rico, 1880–1904." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 41, no. 1 (January 1999): 104–23.

## Week 9: Engendering (Neo)Colonialism (Oct. 31-Nov. 2)

Luisa Capetillo, *Nation of Women/Mi opinión sobre las libertades*.

Shaffer, Kirwin. "The Radical Muse: Women and Anarchism in Early Twentieth-Century Cuba." *Cuban Studies* 34 (2003): 130–53.

## Week 10: The World of Work in the American Sugar Kingdom (Nov. 9-11)

\*\*Charles A. Crampton, "The Opportunity of the Sugar Cane Industry," *The North American Review*, vol. 158, no. 508 (March 1899): 276-285. <Cornell U. "The Making of America">

Ayala, César J. "Social and Economic Aspects of Sugar Production in Cuba, 1880–1930." *Latin American Research Review* 30, no. 1 (1995): 95–124.x

*Transformations in the U.S. Imperial State Conference (Nov. 9-11)*

## Week 11: The Expanding Empire: Haitian and Dominican Boundaries (Nov. 14-16)

Derby, Lauren. "Haitians, Magic, and Money: Raza and Society in the Haitian-Dominican Border, 1900–1937." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 36, no. 3 (July 1994): 488–526.

"Testimony of Dilon Victor <1922> about the Caco War in Haiti," in *Inquiry into Occupation and Administration of Haiti and Santo Domingo by the United States Senate Select Committee on Haiti and Santo Domingo* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1922).

\*\*John H. Coatsworth, "United States Interventions. What For?," *ReVista, Harvard Review of Latin America*, Spring 2005  
<[http://drclas.fas.harvard.edu/revista/?issue\\_id=28&article\\_id=828](http://drclas.fas.harvard.edu/revista/?issue_id=28&article_id=828)>.

## Week 12: The American Caribbean, ca. 1930 (Nov. 21)

*No readings for this week.*

## Week 13: The Cuban Revolution of 1933 and the Making of the Good Neighbor Policy (Nov. 28-30)

Dur, Philip, and Christopher Gilchrease. "U.S. Diplomacy and the Downfall of a Cuban Dictator: Machado, 1933." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 34 (2002): 255–82.

Carr, Barry. "Identity, Class, and Nation: Black Immigrant Workers, Cuban Communism, and the Sugar Insurgency, 1925–1934." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 78, no. 1

(1998): 83–116.

**Week 14: Puerto Rico between Misery and Nationalism: The Crisis of the 1930s (Dec. 5-7)**

Johnson, Robert David. "Anti-Imperialism and the Good Neighbour Policy: Ernest Gruening and Puerto Rican Affairs, 1934–1939." <*Journal of Latin American Studies* 29 (February 1997): 89–110.

**Week 15: Review Week (Dec. 12-14)**