

GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Professor Emelio Betances

Spring 2016

Meeting times on MWF from 1:10 - 1:50 at Glatfelter Hall 303. Office hours M and W from 2 to 5 p.m.

Office location: Glatfelter 110C

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Final exam: Sunday, May 1 from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Society and Politics in Latin America: A Case Study of the Dominican Republic, Soc/LAS 267

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

A study of historical, social and political development of the Dominican Republic. The course seeks to explain the tensions between dictatorship, democracy, social development, and international migration. These factors are seen in the context of capitalist development and the nation's re-insertion into globalization.

1. Learning outcomes

- Recognize the Importance of Comparative Historical Analysis
- Comprehend the Concepts of Dictatorship, Democracy, and Capitalist Development, Globalization, and International Migration.
- Understand the Legacy of the Authoritarian Tradition and the Difficulties it has created to develop a Democratic Regime.
- Appreciate the role of the Catholic Church in Dominican society.
- Recognize the impact of international immigration in the making of the Dominican Society past and present.

2. Goals for the course

- Explore the geographical, cultural, and historical context of Dominican development
- Explore the influence of Catholicism in Dominican political culture
- Recognize the influence of colonialism and neocolonialism in the making of the Dominican Republic
- Understand how the forces of globalization undermine development of a small nation state

Requirements: Supervised students' work

- 1) Paper proposal: In preparing a proposal students must read four journal articles and read portions of 5 books. They must also consult with the instructor on the process of elaborating the proposal = **10 hours**. (See more below on paper proposal).
- 2) Attend a library workshop for one hour of instruction given by a librarian = **1 hour**.
- 3) Attend two lectures or activities of the Latin American Studies Program = **3 hours**.
- 4) Researching and writing a 12-page research paper includes: reading five to six books, re-reading the four research articles gathered for the proposal, consulting with the instructor on the framing of the research questions and other research related issues, writing a draft of the paper, taking it over to the College's Writing Center, and editing the final copy = **20 hours**.
- 5) Reading the novel (see instructions below) = **10 hours**
- 6) Writing the review includes reading two reviews published in academic journals, drafting the paper, and taking it to the Writing Center. Finally, students will edit the final copy = **5 hours**.

Total= 50 hours.

CLASS PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE, AND READINGS

This course is taught in a seminar format. This means that students must come prepared to every class. Class participation is an integral part of the course and crucial for its successful completion. Thus, attendance is mandatory. Students will be allowed one excused absence. Additional absences will have a negative impact on the final grade. Students must keep in mind that class participation must be *meaningful*, which requires careful readings of materials assigned.

Volunteering to make a presentation may help, but it is not sufficient to receive a good grade. Students who receive an A must always be prepared to *significantly* participate in class discussions. Sports events will not qualify for excused absences. Students must buy a memory stick to save their work. Excuses such as computer malfunction the night before a paper is due will not be acceptable.

Students must also attend two lectures sponsored by the Latin American Studies Program. All assignments must be submitted in a timely fashion. Students will not be allowed to use computer for note-taking unless there is explicit authorization from the instructor. **Finally, all cell phones must be turned off during class time. Students caught texting will be excused the first time. Subsequently, for each time a student is caught texting he/she will lose half a letter grade.**

WRITING SUMMARIES OF SELECTED CHAPTERS

This course requires that students prepare written summaries of selected chapters throughout the semester. They will receive questions before reading the assignments and must hand-in their summaries when they come to class. The preparation of these summaries will ensure that students are prepared for a class

discussion. Students will not be allowed to send these summaries via email.

THE RESEARCH PAPER

The Paper Proposal

The research proposal is the first step in preparing an excellent paper. In the process of elaborating their proposals, students will work with the instructor and Mallory Jallas at the library. The first step is to set up an appointment with the instructor to discuss the topic, the research questions, and the theoretical framework. Then, they will have a library workshop with Mallory Jallas and set up individual appointments with her to discuss library sources, websites, and the preparation of an annotated bibliography. Once the instructor has read and graded the proposals, students will have to meet with him again to go over the comments. Then, students will set up a second appointment with Mallory Jallas to discuss research related issues.

In preparation of the research paper proposal, students will read a minimum of four scholarly journal articles and portions of 5 books. ***The proposal must include an annotated bibliography that indicates students have really started doing serious research. For example, an annotated bibliography where students write at least two paragraphs summarizing the basic points of articles and books would be the best way to show that they are making excellent progress.***

Final Research Paper

This course is on the Dominican Republic and all the papers must focus on some aspect of Dominican social, economic, political or cultural life. If a student wants

to write a research paper about another Caribbean country, he/she will need special permission from the instructor.

The paper must include a bibliography and proper references. Papers must have 12 double-space pages, title, introduction, body, and conclusion. Students must number all the pages and sign the honor code at the end of the paper. ***They must use the APA format for citations and bibliographical references.*** They might want to consult with the Writing Center at the CUB (extension 7574) to ensure the use of proper grammar and excellent organizational mechanics.

Instructor's comment on the research paper proposals must be attached to the final paper. This means that students cannot change their research topic without prior consultation with the instructor. If a student changes the topic without authorization, the instructor will give the paper an F.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BOOK REVIEW.

A book review is not a book report. A book report tells us what the book says. A review seeks to put the work under discussion in the larger context of the literature and how effectively the author communicates his/her arguments to the readers. Summarizing the content of the book is important, but it should not take more than 2 pages. The real task is to think about the book, how it relates to this course, and what it means.

Two-third of the review must focus on the following areas: 1) Why did Urania Cabral return to the Dominican Republic and what is her relationship with Trujillo? 2) What caused the plotters of the assassination to organize and kill the dictator? 3) How does this novel relate to the main topics discussed in class? 4) What is your evaluation of this novel and why you hold such evaluation? These four questions are not necessarily separate, but you must address them. Take time to read this novel, think about it as you read it and try to summarize it in your own words. Avoid lengthy quotes.

This review must have 10 double-spaced pages. It must include a title page, indicating the title of the book, author's name, your name, date, course and instructor's name. Please number on the pages. Good grammar and correct

spelling are essential. Consult with the Writing Center on the second floor of the CUB. This review must include a bibliography and proper references.

In preparing their work, students should consult journals that specialize in Latin American literature. A number of journals can be found in the College library. The MLA (Modern Languages Association) or Lanic web sites can be useful. Go to the site, type the name of the novel and you will find the latest reviews. These reviews will enable you to understand the novel better. Preferably, students will read reviews prior to reading the novel.

GRADING POLICY:

Research paper proposal: 10
Examination 1: 20
Examination 2: 20
Research paper: 25
Review of novel: 15
Films, lectures, and
Class participation: 10

IMPORTANT DUE DATES:

Handout topics for research paper, 1/22
Research workshop at the Library, 1/29
Research paper proposal, 2/15
Mid-term examination, 2/29
Discussion of Vargas Llosa's novel, 3/21
Critical Review of Vargas Llosa's novel, 3/28
Research paper, 4/11
Final exam: Sunday, May 1 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Latin American Lectures:

All the following lectures will take place at 6:30. Location: McCreary Hall Room 115, Bowen Auditorium.

Monday, February 15.

“Beauty Shop Narratives: Spaces, Sexualities, Solidarities in Puerto Rican Literature” by Professor Radost Rangelova. Gettysburg College.

Monday, March 14:

“The Soviet Legacy in a Post-Socialist Cuba: A Paradox Explained” by Professor Damaris Puñales-Alpíza, Case Western Reserve University

Monday, April 4:

“Building the Comune: Venezuela’s Radical Democracy” by Professor George Ciccariello-Maher. Drexel University.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Emelio Betances. **State and Society in the Dominican Republic** (Westview 1995). Hartlyn, Jonathan. **The Struggle for Democratic Politics in the Dominican Republic**. University of North Carolina Press, 1998. Betances, Emelio. **The Catholic Church and Power Politics in Latin America: The Dominican Case in Comparative Perspectives**. Rowman and Littlefield, 2007. Vargas Llosa, Mario. **The Feast of the Goat**. Journal articles and chapters from books appear in the readings indicated below.

PART 1: THE FORMATION OF THE MODERN STATE AND SOCIETY

Week 1: 1/18- 1/22: Social, Economic, and Political Development in the Dominican Republic. Betances, 1: **Documentary: “the Americas,” section Mirrors of the Heart**, which focuses on the Dominican Republic. 1/22. *Write a summary of chapter 1 in Betances, (1995).*

Hand out topics for research paper, 1/22

Week 2: 1/25 – 1/29: Merchants and the Emergence of the Modern Dominican State. Betances, chapters 2, 3, and 4. *Write a summary of chapter of Betances, chapter 2.*

Library research workshop instructional Room (Room 20) in basement of the College Library on 1/29.

Week 3: 2/1 - 2/5: The U.S. Military Occupation (1916-1924) and the Emergence and Development of the Trujillo Dictatorship. Betances, 5 and Frank Moya Pons’ La Era de Trujillo (1930-1961). *Write a summary of Betances, chapter 5.*

(Instructor will provide handout for Moya Pons' chapter.

Week 4: 2/8 - 2/12: The Dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo (1). (**Documentary: Trujillo: the Power of the Generalissimo**, scheduled on 2/8). Read Betances, chapters 7 and Hartlyn, pp. 36-59. ***Write a summary of Betances, chapter 7.***

Research Paper Proposal is due on 2/15.

Week 5: 2/15 - 2/19: The Dictator's Seduction. Read Lauren Derby, chapters 3 and 4. ***Write a summary of chapter 3 "The Master of Ceremonies."*** (Instructor will provide a handout).

PART II: EARLY STAGES IN THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY

Week 6: 2/22 - 2/26: Democratic Struggles and Failures. Read Moya Pons' "Democracy vs. Neo-Trujillismo" and Hartlyn, chapters 3 and 4. ***Write a summary of Moya Pons's "Democracy vs. Neo-Trujillismo."*** (Instructor will provide a handout)

Week 7: 2/29 - 3/4: The Violence of Power under Joaquin Balaguer. Documentary: **The Violence of Power** is scheduled on 2/29 and 3/2. Betances in Socialism and Democracy, Vol. 19, No. 1, March 2005, pp. 33-47).

MID-TERM EXAMINATION: 2/29

Spring Recess begins March 4 at 5 p.m. and ends March 14 at 8 a.m.

Week 8: 3/14 - 3/18: **CONSOLIDATION OF THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY.** Read Moya Pons's "Social Democrats in Power, 1978-1986) and Hartlyn, chapters 5 and 6. ***Write a summary of Moya Pons's "Social Democrats in Power, 1978-1986). Instructor will provide a handout of Moya Pons.***

Discussion of Vargas Llosa's novel is on 3/21

Week 9: 3/21 - 3/25: Balaguer Returns. Read Moya Pons' "Balaguer Returns, 1986-1990" and Hartlyn, chapters 6 and 7. ***Write a summary of Moya Pons' "Balaguer Returns."*** Instructor will provide a handout of Moya Pons.

Week 10: 3/28 – 4/1: The Challenge from Below: Social Movements and the Construction of Social Citizenship. See Betances' "The Dominican Grassroots Movement and the Left, 1978-1986" in *Science and Society*, Vol. 79, No. 4, October 2015 and Betances' "Building Social Citizenship: Popular Movements in the Dominican Republic" forthcoming in Betances and Figueroa-Ibarra's Popular Sovereignty and Constituent Power in Latin America: Democracy from Below, 2016). **Write a summary of "The Dominican Grassroots Movement and the Left, 1978-1986."**

Critical Review of Vargas Llosa is due on 3/28.

PART III: A SOCIETY BETWEEN IMMIGRATION AND EMMIGRATION

Week 11:4/4 – 4/8: The Impact of Haitian Immigration on Dominican Society. Read Andre Corten's "Five Hundred Thousand Haitians in the Dominican Republic" in *Latin American Perspectives*, Vol 22, No. 3, 1995, pp. 94-110 and Laurel Fletcher and Timothy Miller's "New Perspectives on Old Patterns: Force Migration on Haitians in the Dominican Republic" in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 4, July 2004, pp. 659-679. **Write a summary of "Five Hundred Thousand Haitians in the Dominican Replibc."**

Week 12: 4/11 – 4/15: Dominican International Migration and the Emergence of a new identity. Read José Itzegsohn et al. "Mapping Dominican Transnationalism: Narrow and Broad Transnational Practices" in **Ethnic and Racial Studies**, Vol. 22, Number 2, March 1999, José Itzegsohn's "Incorporation and Transnationalism among Dominican Immigrants. In *Caribbean Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Caribbean Migration to Metropolitan Centers: Identity, Citizenship and Models of Integration, Jan –Jun, 2004, p. 43-72). R. S. Oropesa's "Dominican Immigrants and Discrimination in a New Destination: The Case of Reading, Pennsylvania" in *City and Community* 9:3 September 2010. **Write a summary of "Incorporation and Transnationalism among Dominican Immigrants."**

PART IV: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND POWER POLITICS

Week 13: 4/18 - 4/22: The Development of the Dominican Catholic Church, Betances, chapter 1, 2 and 3. *Write a summary of chapter 3.*

Week 14: 4/25 – 4/29: Religion and politics: Catholics and Evangelicals, chapters 4, 5, and 6. *Write a summary of chapter 4.*