COURSE DETAIL

CUBA: AN ISLAND WORTH AN EMPIRE
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Free University Berlin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Latin American Studies History American Studies
UCEAP Course Number 117
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title CUBA: AN ISLAND WORTH AN EMPIRE
UCEAP Transcript Title CUBA: ISLAND EMPIRE
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

Cuba, the "Pearl of the Antilles" had long been the heartpiece of imperial aspirations. One of the last Spanish colonies after the revolutions in South and Central America, it played a defining role in Spanish imperial identity. Meanwhile in the US, intellectuals had argued all throughout the 19th century that the island was a natural extension to the Nation, and should be conquered as a logical conclusion to the Monroe Doctrine. When after the war of 1898 the island came into American hands, Spain fell into a deep crisis of identity. The United States though took its first steps into the arena of colonial world politics, in turn becoming an empire. All the while, the Cuban’s desire for independence became a mere footnote in the aftermath. The colonial and imperial struggles had another dimension to them: Gender. A common propaganda theme in the US depicted the Spaniards as raping Cuba. While Theodore Roosevelt and his "Rough Riders" came to define the ideal American masculinity after the war, Spaniards questioned if they were still manly enough to belong to the club of civilized European nations. This seminar will follow three objectives: First, understanding the importance of Cuba to Spain and the United States before the war of 1898, as well as the events leading up to the war. Second, comparing the ascent of the American Empire with the decline of the Spanish Empire. Third, introducing the analytical category of gender as a tool to understanding geopolitical conflicts in the age of colonialism.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
32402

Host Institution Course Title
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Host Institution Course Details
https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/795648?query=Cuba&sm=682860

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department John-F.-Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien
Course Last Reviewed 2022-2023

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