

**University of Florida
Department of Political Science
Spring 2018**

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Anderson Hall 210

**Tuesdays 12:25-1:55, Wednesdays 3:00-3:30, Thursdays 10:00-10:30 and by
appointment.**

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Politics of Puerto Rico (POS 4931)

Course Description

This course will offer an examination of the development of politics in Puerto Rico from the late 19th century to the present. This course will focus mostly on the politics in Puerto Rico covering topics such as party politics, social movements, sports, urbanism, colonialism, and debt. It will also discuss certain relevant elements that were and are part of the Puerto Rican diaspora.

Course Objectives

Students will debate the common themes of Puerto Rican politics; analyze how the field of political science has contributed to the understanding of Puerto Rico. Also students will analyze the contributions from other fields that have tried to address power dynamics in Puerto Rico.

About the Syllabus

Based on the composition of the class, our progress discussing these issues, elements beyond our control, and student needs, this syllabus is flexible and may change. Throughout the semester, you will be notified of any changes that might emerge. During the first day of class the professor will read and explain this syllabus at length. It is the student's responsibility to understand the requirements for this class and asking all the appropriate questions about this document to the professor. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalogue.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance>.

Readings

The assigned texts are required and available at the UF Bookstore. It will be our source of discussion and used extensively. In addition, during the course the professor will offer required readings that will be available on our Canvas page identified by a C. This syllabus is a living document, and in case of changes in the readings students will be properly notified.

Class Texts

Required

Ayala, César and Rafael Bernabe (2007). Puerto Rico in the American Century: A History Since 1898. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. ISBN-13: 978-08078595544

Trías Monge, José (1999). Puerto Rico: The Trials of the Oldest Colony in the World. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN-13: 978-03000076189

Optional

Sotomayor, Antonio (2016). The Sovereign Colony: Olympic Sport, National Identity, and International Politics in Puerto Rico. Lincoln: Nebraska University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0803278813

Venator-Santiago, Charles (2015). Puerto Rico and the Origins of U.S. Global Empire: The Disembodied Shade. New York: Routledge. ISBN-13: 978-0415662307

Writing Requirements and Grade

The grade will be based on a four-page paper (15 points), a mid-term examination (25 points), Reaction Papers (25 points), a second exam (25 points), class attendance (5 points), and participation (5 points).

Reaction Papers (25 points)

Class members will be asked to submit via Canvas a one page, single spaced- reaction paper with comments, questions and/or observations based on the assigned readings for the upcoming week that could serve as points of discussion for the class. The professor will randomly grade six weeks, and out of those six reaction papers the five papers with the best grades will be used to calculate your grade. The reaction paper should not be a summary of the readings, but instead it should: *ask probing questions, propose what might come next, compare or contrast this reading or concepts to another paper or concepts we have discussed in class, highlight important implications of the work for understanding Puerto Rican politics.* The rubric and specific details will be made available on Canvas.

Four Page Paper (15 points)

Students will read one of the optional books (see above) and address the questions offered by the professor. This five-page paper will rely only on the selected book as a source.

Midterm Exam (25 points)

The mid-term will be held during class hours. Blue books will be required and the student is expected to complete the exam during the exam period.

Second Exam (25 points)

The second exam will be due at the end of the semester. The format of the exam will be announced in a timely fashion during the semester.

Participation (5 points)

Students are expected to attend and be active components of the class and discussion. It is expected that by the end of the semester all students have participated by offering quality contributions. The rubric for participation will be posted on our Canvas page. If you do not feel comfortable by participating in class feel free to send me an email with your thoughts to casuarez@ufl.edu.

Attendance (5 points)

The professor will take attendance either by roll book, canvas, or index card. Students are therefore allowed three absences from days of class without penalty. Any absence after the third one will be penalized by taking three points per missed class. A student who leaves the class before it is over will not be considered as present in terms of attendance. Written evidence will be required in order to justify absences. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of their number of absences during the semester. If a student has any questions about their attendance on a particular day, this issue should be brought up in writing no later than the following class.

Grade scale

A	94 and above
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
E	59 and below

The Canvas grade book will be updated as class assignments are graded. Please note that the grade book does not include the grades for Participation and Attendance.

On Timeliness

Students are expected to turn in their assigned work on time. If a student is not able to turn in their work on time they will have to offer written evidence in order to justify the tardiness. If said evidence is not produced one letter grade will be deducted per day after due date.

Academic Honesty

An important component in academic work is recognizing one's work as well as others. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are not allowed. **Any violations of the academic honesty policy will be vigorously pursued. All students are expected to adhere scrupulously to the University policy concerning academic honesty.** In order to respect this principle students are expected to abide by the Academic Honesty Policy. A copy of the Academic Honesty Policy can be found in the following link, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/ccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>. It is the student's responsibility to read and understand the policy. Following these guidelines will assure that original academic work will be recognized and celebrated.

Concerns with a Grade

In the case that a student disagrees with a grade that concern should be presented in writing. This statement should be handed in writing the next class day after receiving your grade. The merits of the concern will be evaluated taking into consideration how deeply the student is thinking about the subject at hand, and whether or not this student can provide textual

evidence to justify their claim. After careful evaluation, I will notify the student about my decision and adjust the grade accordingly if applicable.

Incompletes

Students who have not completed the required class work will only be evaluated by the work that was turned in by the day it was due. Incompletes will only be awarded under exceptional circumstances. Incompletes will be given when students comply with the following conditions, (1) notifying the professor two weeks prior to the last day of class, (2) providing written evidence for the medical condition, or situation that has prompted the student to request an incomplete. The student and professor should agree upon a proper arrangement on how the missing work will be submitted. The student will have the following semester as the time period to complete the missing work; failure to do so will result in an E.

Special Needs

Testing accommodations and other needs will be addressed for students with proper documentation. Please make sure to inform me of these needs in writing during the first week of class. Retroactive accommodations will not be considered. In case of questions about Disability Resource Center feel free to contact them at <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Classroom interaction

Respect is required at all times. Textual evidence is crucial when engaging in intelligent academic debates. Please make use of this tool when elaborating your arguments in the classroom. Refrain from comments that are not related to class discussion. Video or audio recording of the class is not allowed. The use of cell phones is prohibited; laptops will be allowed until disruptive to the class. The topics we discuss in this course may be controversial, and may touch upon deeply-held positions or beliefs held by you or your classmates. While I want to encourage open discussion, I also encourage you to consider how your interventions affect others. How we say something is often even more important than what we say; if you are struggling with how to articulate your questions or reactions to the readings please inform the professor.

Course evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Course Outline

I. Introduction (1/9)

Review course syllabus

II. The Spanish Colonial Period (1/11)

Readings: Trías Monge Ch.1.

III. 1898 and its political context (1/16)

Readings: Ayala and Bernabe, Ch. 1.

IV. American Colonization (1/18-2/1)

A. Military Period

Readings: Trías Monge Ch. 2 and 3, Ayala and Bernabe Ch. 2.

B. Economic and Political Changes

Reading: Ayala and Bernabe Ch. 3; Trías Monge Ch. 4, 5 and 6.

C. Early Political Resistance

Readings: Trías Monge Ch. 7 and 8.

D. Everyday Life

Readings: Ayala and Bernabe, Ch. 2, 3, 4; Loveman and Muñiz *How Puerto Rico became White*; Truman Clark *Prohibition in Puerto Rico: 1917-1937 C*.

Four Page Paper Questions Distributed (1/30)

V. The 1930s (2/6-2/8)

A. Political Discontent

Readings: Ayala and Bernabe Ch. 5 and 6; Trías Monge Ch. 8.

B. Health

Reading: Godoy (et.al.) Adult male height in an American colony: Puerto Rico and the USA mainland compared, 1886–1955 C.

Four Page Paper Due (2/13)

VI. Rise of the PPD (2/13-2/15)

Readings: Ayala and Bernabe Ch. 7, Trías Monge Ch. 9.

VII. A New Constitution (2/20)

Readings: Trías Monge Ch. 10, Ayala and Bernabe Ch. 8.

VIII. Industrialization and Operation Bootstrap (2/22-2/27)

Readings: Ayala and Bernabe Ch. 9; Padín, *Puerto Rico in the Post War C*.

MID TERM EXAM (3/1)

IX. The Suburbanization of Puerto Rico (3/13-3/20)

A. Urban sprawl and the impact to agriculture

Readings: Tania del Mar López (et.al.) *Urban Expansion and The loss of Prime Agricultural lands in Puerto Rico C*; Sebastián Martinuzzi (et.al.) *Land development, land use, and urban sprawl in Puerto Rico C*.

B. Environmental impact

Readings: John M. Hunter and Sonia I. Arbona, *Paradise Lost C*; H. Ricardo Grau (et.al), *The Ecological Consequences of Socioeconomic and Land-Use Changes in Postagriculture Puerto Rico C*; Thomas K. Rudel, Marla Pérez-Lugo, Heather Zichal, *When Fields Revert to Forest C*.

C. Public Housing

Readings: Dinzey-Flores *Temporary Housing, Permanent Communities* C; Fusté *Colonial laboratories, irreparable subjects* C; Oliver *The Biopolitics of Thirdspace* C.

X. The Status Question (3/22-3/27)

Readings: Trías Monge Ch 11-15; Cámara and Rosas *Social and Ideological Bases of Status Support in Puerto Rico* C; Lecous and Vézina *Politics of Nationalism and Status in Puerto Rico* C.

XI. The 1980s-2000s (3/29-)

A. Census, Race, and Recent Immigrants

Readings: Díaz-Garaya *Neighborhood Characteristics and Values within the San Juan, MSA, Puerto Rico* C; Denton Villarrubia *Residential Segregation on the Island* C. Hernández *If God were Black and from Loíza* C.

B. Gated Communities

Readings: García-Ellín *Gated Communities and Housing Projects* C; Suárez Carrasquillo *Gated Communities and City Marketing* C.

C. Neoliberalism and Nationalism

Readings: Ayala and Bernabe Ch.14 and 15.

D. Debt, Austerity Policies and alternatives

Readings: Alemán *Puerto Rico: Failure of the State* C; Cabán, Pedro *Puerto Rico and PROMESA: Reaffirming Colonialism* C; Quiñones and Seda *Wealth Extraction, Governmental Servitude, and Social Disintegration in Colonial Puerto Rico* C; Page-Hoongrajok, Chakraborty, Pollin *Austerity Versus Green Growth for Puerto Rico* C; Lloveras *Puerto Rico's bankruptcy will make hurricane recovery brutal – here's why* C.

E. Hurricane María and Resiliency

Vandermeer, *Ecological Resiliency in the Face of Catastrophic Damage* C; Rodríguez Díaz *María in Puerto Rico* C; Suárez *Marketing a devastated Puerto Rico should not be the priority* C; Santos-Lozada *Why Puerto Rico's death toll from Hurricane Maria is so much higher than officials thought* C; Cabán *Maria will fundamentally change US policy*; Santos-Lozada *Will Puerto Ricans return home after Hurricane María?* C.

SECOND EXAM (TBA)