INTL 390 Cuban Society and Politics
Fall 2014- Express Semester
Dr. Humberto Miranda

Course description and objectives: A study of 20th and 21st century Cuba, its civilization and culture (Cuban history, people, society and politics, food and agriculture, art, sports and entertainment, religion).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Gain a greater understanding of Cuban political, historical and cultural development
2. Develop an understanding of Cuba’s international position and relationships
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to produce reasoned critiques of social science literature by being able to identify the thesis of a work and formulate their own evaluations of it and defend their positions.

Course requirements:

Attendance 20%: You are expected to attend all class meetings.

A (100%)
A- (95-99%)
B+ (90-94%)
B (85-89%)
B- (80-84%)
C+ (75-79%)
C (70-74%)

Less than 70% of attendance is automatic WA.

Participation 20%: You are responsible for all the readings assigned on syllabus. Readings must be completed prior to class meetings. Class discussion and interaction depends on your degree of participation. You should be prepared to answer questions based on readings materials and to work in small groups. Also you will give informal
presentations base on readings. **If you do not read, prepare for class or actively participate during class meetings, your participation grade will be a 0.**

**Papers and presentations 25%:** You will write 3 papers and make presentation in class previously oriented by the professor based on readings and materials presented in class, and the topics agreed with the professor. Papers will be 2 pages minimum, Times New Roman 12, 1.5 line spacing.

**Unannounced Quizzes 10%:** Based on reading material or assignment for that particular class period.

**Final Exam 25%:** It will consist of critical response short essays based on topics previously agreed with the professor with material read for class or covered in class. It may also include some identification from readings.

**Readings provided for the course.**

Sujatha Fernandez: Island Paradise, Revolutionary Utopia or Hustler’s Heaven (PDF Files provided by Professor)

US Plans to destabilize Cuba during the 1960’s released by the Pentagon

Wayne Smith: Afrocubans in Cuban society

Melinda Mousouris: Island in the stream

Diana Agosta and Patricia Keaton: One way or another. The Havana Film Festival and contemporary Cuban film.

Bill Shoemaker: Made in Cuba

Americans find Cuban food industry anemic.

**For every topic in discussion in class the students must consult**

US government web sites on Cuba.

Cuban government web sites on Cuba

Anti revolution web sites on Cuba

Pro revolution web sites on Cuba