

**ANTH 4370 ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE CARIBBEAN**  
**University of Texas at El Paso. Spring Semester 2020**  
**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

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Phone number 915-747-6467

**Class Code: Studies in Anthropology - 25488 - ANTH 4370 - 011.**

**Class Schedule: TR 1:30 pm -2:50 pm**

Class Meeting: College Business Admin 304



**Picture: Boulevard in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. By Dr. Vázquez, 2017. Aguadilla is a town in the northwestern coast of Puerto Rico. Through the analysis of ethnographic research, we will be able to explore and understand the living conditions, the culture and the government systems in the Spanish Caribbean.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS**

Updated 01-20-2020

This course focuses on the analysis of the Ethnographic Research accomplished in The Caribbean (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba). Through an anthropological approach, the course discusses the political, economic and cultural aspects that conform the Spanish Speaking Caribbean Societies. This is a critical thinking course based on historical readings, documentaries analysis and cultural research. The students will learn about the main Historic Events, Theories, Culture, Music, Myths, The Living Conditions, Government Systems and the Challenges faced by the Caribbean people in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The main goals of the course are:

- 1- Providing the students with a new perspective for looking at the Spanish Caribbean.
- 2- Recognize the cultural diversity of the Caribbean.
- 3- Identify and discuss some of the economic, historic and political problems faced by Caribbean people in the 21st century.
- 4- Applying your anthropological knowledge to propose recommendations and solutions to improve the living conditions in the Caribbean.

**Requirements:**

- Attendance is Mandatory! There will be an in-class quiz or group exercise every class that represents a significant portion of your grade.
- Absences without excused will affected your Attendance final grade.
- There are graded reading quizzes and group activities every class.
- Familiarity with Spanish is not required although it will be **highly advantageous** when searching for additional materials.
- This is a reading and writing intensive course designed to challenge pre-conceived ideas and understandings.
- The subject matter for this course will **include adult themes**. Students are required to be respectful and mature while dealing with this sensitive topic. If, for any reason, anyone becomes uncomfortable in the class, please see me immediately.

**Grading:**

80 points - In class exercises (assignments, quizzes and debates)

20 points – attendance and participation

50 points - Mid-term Oral Presentation (50 pts.)

50 points - Final Written Ethnographic Reflection (40 pts.) opinion in class (10 pts.)

**200 points totals**

**Grade Breakdown**

A – 200 pts. -179 pts.

B- 178 pts. – 160 pts.

C- 159 pts. -140 pts.

D- 139 pts. -120 pts.

F- 119pts. -0 pts.

**\*Note\* There are more possible points available in the class**

*All assignments may be written **in Spanish or English***

**In class exercises and participation** will include a professional development component, i.e. how does one present an argument? How to make a “good” power point. What are valid sources for an academic paper and how do you cite for direct quotes and paraphrases. These are universal skills that will be expected of each student.

**All the assignments** will be upload on blackboard.

**Debates** – Every class period there will be a reading comprehension exercise in the form of a debate.

**The Mid-Term** - It will also cover your knowledge of concepts that we discuss in class.

**Final Ethnographic Reflection:** The final paper will require you to critique the different social problems of Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Cuba (social, economic, political). You will also be required to provide your own interpretation and solutions. I expect you to write a critical account of the different perspectives advanced by the authors we have read and discuss in class.

**It will be ten to fifteen pages, APA Format, 1.5 space, 12-point Times New Roman font with standard margins and include ACADEMIC references.**

#### **Classroom Ethics:**

In addition to University of Texas El Paso guidelines, the class requires a level of maturity and sensitivity beyond what is normally expected. Critical dialogue and debate are essential for us to develop a complex understanding that acknowledges all perspectives. All classmates must be shown the utmost respect. I encourage any student that feels they have been disrespected, or if they are simply having problems with the subject matter, to please see me at once.

#### **Student responsibilities and obligations:**

Regular class attendance is expected of all university students. Attendance is excused, however, on religious holidays for students affiliated with that religion.

Reasonable behavior is also expected of all students. “Reasonable behavior” includes:

**No cell phone use.** Please turn them off before you enter class.

**No email or internet use in class.**

**No talking** over the instructor or other classroom activity.

**No reading** other materials during class.

**Being polite and civil** in the classroom.

If you fail to abide by such basic behavioral guidelines you may be asked to leave the classroom. Students found using their cell phones or laptops for nonacademic purposes will have a private meeting with a member of the teaching team. Students who commit a second violation will have their participation grade reduced.

#### **Academic Honesty Statement**

The course will follow the University of Texas at El Paso’s policies on academic honesty. These policies can be found at <http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386>

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. **EVERYTHING YOU HAND IN WILL BE RUN THROUGH PLAGIARISM SOFTWARE WHICH TELLS ME EXACTLY WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR PAPER IS NOT ORIGINAL.** *I will be forced to take action against anyone who fails to cite sources adequately.*

All material submitted must be the student's own work. Ideas and expressions cited from the work of others must be credited appropriately. Avoid plagiarism by giving credit where credit is due, using quotation marks when using words directly from another source, and preferably putting things in your own words. I prefer your own phrasing, even if it is imperfect, to a beautifully phrased statement that is borrowed from some other source. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

### **Academic Assistance and Disability Statement**

In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Center for Accommodations and Support Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition that may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services. You may call (915) 747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. You also can visit the CASS website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> or the CASS office in Room 106 East Union Building. Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at The University of Texas at El Paso.



Picture: The Street of Havana, Cuba and the Old Cars "Almendrones".

By Dr. Vázquez 2016. Through an ethnographic approach we will explore the living conditions in Cuba in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**COURSE CALENDAR SPRING 2020 (Calendar is subject to change)****Calendar and Topics****1. January 21 (Tuesday) - January 23 (Thursday)****INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE.***Lecture Topics*

Review of the Syllabus, Review of the general concepts of Cultural Anthropology  
Ethnography. Introduction to the Spanish Caribbean.

**2. January 28 (Tuesday) - September 30 (Thursday)****WHAT IS THE SPANISH CARIBBEAN?***Lecture Topics*

A brief history of the Spanish Caribbean, The Taino Indians, The Spanish  
Conquistador Experiences. The main languages in the Caribbean. Introduction to  
Puerto Rico.

*Readings*

B.J. Higman, 2011, Chapter 1, "A History of Islands," in *A Concise History of the  
Caribbean*, pp. 1-8.

Duany Jorge, 2017, Introduction Puerto Rico – *A Stateless Nation in Puerto Rico  
What Everyone Needs to Know*, pp 1-7.

*Assignment 1 (10  
pts.)*

**Write a Short Essay about the impact of the penetration of the US politics in  
Puerto Rico and explain the concept of "Vaiven" moving back and forth.**

Duany Jorge, 2017, Introduction Puerto Rico – *A Stateless Nation in Puerto Rico  
What Everyone Needs to Know*, pp 1-7. **Upload on blackboard. Due date  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:59 pm.**

Documentary: Yo Soy Boricua Pa Que Tu Lo Sepas! (I'm Boricua Just so you  
Know) Directed by Rosie Perez (2006).

**3. February 4 (Tuesday) PUERTO RICO DURING THE 20<sup>st</sup> CENTURY.***Lecture Topics*

Political and economic development during the 20<sup>st</sup> century. 1952, Estado Libre  
Asociado. Industrialization Process, Main Problems. The Culture of Poverty in La  
Perla. The Legacy of Sidney Mintz and Jack Delano.

*Reading*

Duany Jorge, 2017, Introduction Puerto Rico – *A Stateless Nation in Puerto Rico  
What Everyone Needs to Know*, pp 1-7. Delano Jack, 1990, *Puerto Rico Mio* pp1-  
37.

**4. February 6 (Thursday) PUERTO RICO DURING THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY.***Lecture Topics*

1990 -2000, The Beginning of the Globalization and the Neoliberal Politics.  
The US Navy in Vieques. Documentary: Battle of Vieques - Puerto Rico  
(2001). Isla Chatarra (2007) director Karen Rossi.

*Assignment 2 (10  
pts.)*

**Discuss in class an anthropological opinion regarding the struggle and the  
future in Vieques. Write a short essay about the Ethnographic Research  
Tourism and Language and explain the discourse of laziness 61- 69. Upload  
on blackboard. Due date Sunday February 9, 11:59pm.**

*Reading*

Galanes Valdejulli Luis, 2018, Introduction 9 -20. Chapter 3 Work33-74, Chapter  
6 Decontamination, Reparations, Health and Crime Issues, Chapter 7 The Future  
of Vieques, Conclusions, 117-136 -*Tourism and Language in Vieques*.

**5. February 11 (Tuesday) - February 13 (Thursday)**

- PUERTO RICO'S ECONOMICAL AND POLITICAL CRISIS**
- Lecture Topics* Crisis, Government Bankruptcy, Poverty, University of Puerto Rico's Strike, May 1 manifestations 2017-2018, Field work experiences of poor communities in Puerto Rico. The recovery process after Hurricane Maria 2017.
- Readings* Duany Jorge, 2017, Chapter 3 Puerto Rico As a US Commonwealth since 1952 Politics and Economy – *A Stateless Nation in Puerto Rico* *What Everyone Needs to Know*, pp 73-103. Documentary: Fault Lines - Puerto Rico: The Fiscal Experiment (2011).

**6. February 18 (Tuesday) – February 20 (Thursday)**

**PUERTO RICO, CULTURE AND SOCIETY.**

- Lecture Topics* The Middle Class, Boricuas in US. Identity – Salsa Music. Documentary: PBS Latin Music USA: The Salsa Revolution.

**Assignment 3  
(10 points)**

**Discuss in class an anthropological opinion regarding Salsa music movement in the US. Write a short essay about the How has the United States influences Puerto Rican culture? 117-119. Upload on blackboard. Due date Due date Sunday February 23, 11:59 pm.**

- Reading* Discuss in class an anthropological opinion  
Duany Jorge, 2017, Chapter 4 Puerto Rico As a US Commonwealth since 1952 Population and Culture. Chapter 5 The Puerto Rican Diaspora to The United State in- *Puerto Rico What Everyone Needs to Know*, pp 106-131. 134-170.

**7. February 25 (Tuesday) - February 27 (Thursday)**

**REGGAETON MUSIC CULTURE.**

- Lecture Topics* What is Reggaetón music? The beginnings, Reggaeton as a Cultural Practice of The Diaspora, General Concepts, what means Perreo? Documentary The beat that changed pop music (2018). Reggaeton – Race and Social Class. Reggaeton and feminism.

- Reading* Rivera – Rideau Petra, 2015, Remixing Reggaeton. Chapter Two The perils of Perreo, 52-80.

**Assignment 4 (10 points) Discuss in class an anthropological opinion regarding the success of reggaetón music in US. Write a short essay about the correlation between reggaetón and poverty discuss the concept of Caserios 33- 35. Upload on blackboard. Due date Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 11:59pm.**

**8. March 3 (Tuesday) -March 5 (Thursday)**

**MIDTERM ESSAY MATERIALS.**

**(Verify the rubric and the readings on blackboard)**

<i>Lecture Topics</i>	Analysis of the Movie “Talento de Barrio Daddy Yankee” (2008).
<i>Reading</i>	Rivera -Rideau Petra, 2015, <i>Remixing Reggaeton</i> . Chapter Two The perils of Perreo 52-80.

**9. March 10 (Tuesday) – March 12 (Thursday)**

Mar 16-20th Spring Break

**MIDTERM ESSAY (50 pts.) Upload on Blackboard Due date Sunday 15, 11:59 pm. Discuss in class March 24 Tuesday.**

**Midterm grade report due date March 24.**

**10. March 24 (Tuesday)- March 26 (Thursday)**

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DURING THE 21ST CENTURY.**

*Lecture Topics* Political and economic development during the 21st Century.  
Documentaries: Divided island: How Haiti and the DR became two worlds (2017). Selling Sex: Underage victims of sex tourist in DR (2018).

*Assignment 5(10 pts.)* **Discuss in class an anthropological opinion regarding inequality and living Conditions in DR. Write a short essay about the Improvising a livelihood: the informal economy in DR pp. 30 -36. Due date Sunday March 29, 11:59 pm**

*Readings* B.J. Higman, 2011, Chapter 7, “The Caribbean since 1945,” in *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 259-268.  
  
Gregory Steven 2014, Chapter 1, The Politics of Livelihood in a The Devil Behind the Mirror. pp. 11-49. Chapter 4 Sex Tourism and Political Economy of Masculinity, 130-165.

**11. March 31 (Tuesday) -April 2 (Thursday)**

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CULTURE AND SOCIETY.**

*Lecture Topics* Politics of exclusion, Neoliberalism impact, Corruption and Drug trafficking, Music and Migration to New York. Documentaries: Dominican Republic plans to push out undocumented Haitians (2015). Why do Dominicans own so many New York corner stores? (2018).

*Reading* Gregory Steven 2014, Chapter 2, The Spatial Economy of Difference. Behind the Mirror. pp. 50-81. Chapter 5 Race, Identity and the Body Politic 186 – 208.

**12. April 7 (Tuesday) – April 9 (Thursday)**

**CUBA DURING THE 20ST CENTURY.**

L. Kaifa Roland 2010, Cuban Color in Tourism and La Lucha: An Ethnography of Racial Meanings (Issues of Globalization: Case Studies in Contemporary Anthropology) Chapter 1 -2.

*Lecture Topics* Cuba during the 20st Century, The Revolution in 1958, The Government system, Education and Economy, Special Period. Documentaries: The Cuba Libre Story Chapter 1-2 (2015) Cuban Counterpoint.

*Readings* B.J. Higman, 2011, Chapter 7, “The Caribbean since 1945,” in *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 259-326. Fernando Ortiz 1947, Cuban Counterpoint Tobacco and Sugar.

*Assignment 6 (10 pts.)*

**Discuss in class an anthropological opinion regarding the Cuban Revolution Write a short essay about the rise and fall of the economy of the Revolutionary government: 256 – 259. Upload Sunday April 12, 11:59**

**13. April 14 (Tuesday) – April 16 (Thursday)**

**CUBA CULTURE, MUSIC, EDUCATION, HEALTH SISTEM AND SOCIETY.**

*Lecture Topics* Cuban Culture and the living conditions. Documentary: Periodo Especial 1993. Nothing to do in Cuba. How Buena Vista Social Club Impacted the World?

*Reading* Gutiérrez Pedro Juan 2002 Dirty Havana Trilogy. (Selected readings Oral report) L. Kaifa Roland 2010, Cuban Color in Tourism and La Lucha: An Ethnography of Racial Meanings (Issues of Globalization: Case Studies in Contemporary Anthropology) Chapter 3-5.

**14. April 21 (Tuesday) Education, Health System/ Oral Report Focus on Cuba.**

*Lecture Topics* Education and Health System, Why the Cuban youth don’t want to study?

*Reading* Margarita Quintero López 2011, Education in Cuba: Foundations and Challenges. 55-71.

*Assignment 7 (10 points)* **Discuss in class an anthropological analysis focus on Cuba: Economy, Living conditions, Everyday life, Sport, Gastronomy, Public Health, Revolution, etc. (Verify the rubric and the readings on blackboard)**



**15. April 16 (Thursday) Migration, La crisis de los Balseros (Cuban Rafter Phenomenon), Sex tourism.**

*Lecture Topics*      The crisis of Balseros and the Sex Tourism. Documentary: Balseros Cubanos en Guantanamo 1995. Jineteras y Jineteros en Cuba. Surviving in Cuba. Field work experiences 2015.

*Reading*              Amalia L. Cabezas 2011, Intimate Encounters: Affective Economies in Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

*Assignment 8 (5 pts.)*      **Discuss in class an anthropological opinion regarding the Living conditions in Cuba in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

**16. April 21 (Tuesday) April 23 (Thursday)  
CUBA AND THE BIG CHALLENGE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY.**

*Lecture Topics*      Cuba and the big challenge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The new relation with USA, President Obama Visit Cuba in 2016. The Rolling Stones in Cuba.

*Reading*              William m. Leogrande 2015, Normalizing us–Cuba relations: escaping the shackles of the past.

*Assignment 9 (5 points)*      **Discuss in Class an anthropological opinion regarding the new relationship between Cuba and USA.**

**17. April 28 (Tuesday) April 30 (Tuesday)  
THE CUBAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY.**

*Lecture Topics*      Voices of the Exiled in Miami. The Impact of Castro's Death. The political impact of the Cuban exile in USA.

*Movie*                  Cuban American (2016)

*Assignment 10 (5 pts bonus)*      **Discuss in Class an anthropological opinion about the Cuban Exile in US.**

**18. May 5 (Tuesday)- May 7(Thursday)FINAL RECAP, THE FUTURE OF THE SPANISH CARIBBEAN.**

**Final Written Paper Printed (50 pts.) Verify the rubrics, guideline and glossary on Blackboard.**  
Due date May 7.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Books**

B.J. Higman, 2011, *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, Cambridge.

Duany Jorge, 2017, *A Stateless Nation in Puerto Rico What Everyone Needs to Know*, Oxford University Press.

Fernando Ortiz 1995, *Cuban Counterpoint Tobacco and Sugar*. Duke University Press.

Galanes Valdejulli Luis, 2018, *Tourism and Language in Vieques*. Lexington Books.

Gutiérrez Pedro Juan 2002 *Dirty Havana Trilogy*. Harper Perennial.

Gregory Steven 2014, *The Devil Behind the Mirror*. University of California Press.

Rivera -Rideau Petra, 2015, *Remixing Reggaeton*. Duke University Press.

Additional Course Readings (CR's) will be made available on Blackboard as PDF files or as class handouts.

**Welcome to the incredible anthropological journey of the Caribbean.**