Course title: Contemporary Dominican Republic: Political and Socioeconomic Processes
Course code: LAST 3003 DRAS
Programs offering course: Liberal Arts
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2021

Course Description

Course content is based on a selection of key aspects of the historical, political, cultural, social, and economic fabric of contemporary Dominican Republic. Included in the course are topics that address both the internal dynamics as well as some of the most significant international aspects in the development of Dominican life today. These include: the governments of Trujillo, Balaguer, and Bosch, the democratic political system, education, health, poverty, marginalization, the role of women in Dominican society, environmental and ecological problems, Dominican-Haitian relations, Dominican relations within the Caribbean Basin and with the United States, and internal and external migration.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Understand the principal characteristics of political institutions and components of the Dominican political culture.
- Compare the key trends in the Dominican economy and recent changes that have taken place.
- Contextualize the nation’s international relations, with emphasis on relations with the Caribbean, the Republic of Haiti, and the United States.
- Characterize public services as well as the reality of Dominican life for women and aspects of the Dominican environment.

Course Prerequisites

Four (4) semesters of college-level Spanish, or equivalent. Placement exam administered on site.

Methods of Instruction

The subject is developed from an interactive and dynamic perspective, promoting the socialization of knowledge between teacher and students. In this sense, the following strategies are proposed to be shared, taking as a reference framework the Dominican socio-political development, proposed in the contents:

- Individual and group exhibitions.
- Film Forum and discussion of documentaries.
- Visits to museums, free zone and marginalized neighborhood.
- Preparation of work guides proposed by the teacher.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Written Reports 15%
2. Essay 15%
3. Oral Presentation 15%
4. Final Essay 25%
5. Participation 30%
   TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
Written Reports

2 reports according to the student’s bibliographical selection

Essay

Text on the contributions and reflective analysis of the visit to the free zone or the marginalized neighborhood

Oral Presentation

On one of the subjects of the program, according to selection made by the students

Final Essay

Reflection that includes all the units of the program

Participation

Integration and contributions of the student during the teaching-learning process. Self and hetero evaluation

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at every class and fieldtrip, and as per the universal rules of tardiness and absences at the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, excess absences and/or tardiness are cause for failure. Attendance is mandatory for all fieldtrips, the same as for classes. Ten (10) minutes of tardiness equal one hour of absence—not one class, but one hour of class. The rule for allowed absences is the number of credits X 3 plus 1 (except for language classes, which allow students to miss no more than 10% of their classes). This means, since it is a 3-credit class, there is no penalty for absences—except that you will miss out on important material and participation in discussions/debates if you are absent—until or unless you reach a 10th hour of absence, at which point you fail the class, no matter what your grade average is at that point in time; the only legitimate excuse accepted is a doctor’s written testament that you were hospitalized at the time of an absence. Plagiarism is also cause for failure, no matter what your grade average is at the point in time when the plagiarism is discovered.

Note that if you are absent the day of a presentation quiz, or the due date of a report, final essay, mid-term exam, or final exam, you will receive an F on said presentation, report, essay, or exam. No coursework or final papers will be accepted after the last day of class.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class: Weeks 1-2

Unit I: Introduction

1.1 Socialization of the group, course content and the homework assignments.

1.2 Historical approach to the Dominican Republic.

Week 3

Class: Weeks 3-6

Unit II: The Culture of Dominican Politics and Democracy

2.1 Trujillo, Bosch and Balaguer in the Dominican political scene

2.2 The Dominican state and political institutions. The Dominican nation and its distinctive features.

2.3 Manifestations of political culture in the Dominican Republic.

2.4 Political conflicts and social struggles.
2.5 Alternative project for Dominican political power: Juan Bosch
2.6 The “Whitening” of Dominican national identity. The Return to Constitutionality: The framework of democratic struggles.

**Week 7**
Class: Weeks 7-8

**Unit III: Globalization of Poverty**
3.1 Agro-exportation economics vs. a service economy? Toward a second generation in the supply of services.
3.2 Tertiary sector of the economy: free zones, tourism and remittances.
3.3 Marginalization and urban poverty.

**Week 9**
Class: Weeks 9-11

**Unit IV: Xrays of Dominican Society**
4.1 Public services: water, electricity, health, and education.
4.2 Environmental and ecological problems.
4.3 Marginalization of women: marianismo vs. machismo.
4.3.1 The conquests of women: the captives, a symbol of the feminine in the Dominican Republic
4.3.2 Slavery in women: African roots and the new postmodern slavery
4.4 The rural space: Region of oblivion.
4.5 Chasing a future through sport.
4.5.1 Dominican Baseball

**Week 12**
Class: Weeks 12-14

**Unit V: Dominicans Confronting the World**
5.1 Dominican Republic and international organizations.
5.2 One island for two nations: Dominican-Haitian relations.
5.3 Migratory phenomenon
5.3.1 Legal framework of migrations
5.3.2 Being in transit or passing through Dominican legislation
5.4 Dominican Republic in the Caribbean geographical context.
5.5 Foreign policy of the United States towards the Caribbean
5.5.1 The United States Free Trade Agreement with Central America and the Dominican Republic (DR-CAFTA). Caricom, CARIFORUM, ACP Countries, SICA.

**Course Materials**

**Readings**


Complementary Readings:


**Media Resources**

**Cinema:**

El poder del Jefe I

Bosch, Presidente en la frontera Imperial

Sugar

Los tres Abriles

La Cuarta Mariposa

**Audio:**

La política compay

Cuando cambiará la cosa

Como toda mujer

Ojalá