People, Politics, and Power in Puerto Rico

Global Seminar Summer 2023
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San Juan, Puerto Rico

• Founded by Spanish colonists in the early 1500s.
• Indigenous pre-Colombian society in Boriken were called Tainos.
• San Juan today is a large, metropolitan area encompassing not just the city of San Juan but several others (Guaynabo, Caguas, Bayamon)
• San Juan itself is made up of numerous barrios and subbarrios
• One of these zones is Rio Piedras, the location of the flagship University of Puerto Rico, where our GS will be based.
BORIKEN TAÍNO ISLAND

TAÍNO YUCAYEKES (VILLAGES) GOVERNED
BY THE GREAT CHIEF AGÜEYBANÁ
AT THE TIME THE SPANISH ARRIVED ON THE ISLAND

CHIEFS NAME  VILLAGE NAME  CHIEFS NAME  VILLAGE NAME
AGÜEYBANÁ      GUAINIA          JUMACA      GUAYATACA
ARAMÁN         TAO             MAJAGUA      BAYAMÓN
ARASIBO         ABACOA          OROCOBIX     GUAYNABO
AYAMÁN         AYAMACO         MAJÁGUINA    GUAYNABO
AYAMACO         CAYNIÁN         URAYAOAN     YAGUECA
AYAMÁN         CAYNIÁN         URAYAOAN     YAGUECA
GUAYAMÁN       GUAYAMA          TURABO       DÁGUAO
GUAYAMÁN       GUAYAMA          DÁGUAO       HAÍMANIO
GUARIONEX      OTOAO
Courses

• Making of a Modern Colony: Puerto Rico in the Twentieth Century
  • Historical overview of key economic, political, and social events and conditions during the 20th century, the first full century of U.S. colonial domination.

• Contemporary Problems, Politics, and Potentialities in Puerto Rico
  • A dive into key events that have shaped Puerto Rico’s recent past and present, as well as exploration of social movements and organizations working for change.
Course Format and Assignments

• Each course will have one main book and several supplementary readings.

• Assignments will include journal reflections and short papers.

• Class will be discussion based. We will have several guest speakers visit our class. Students will give short presentations on designated topics (e.g. what is a current problem Puerto Rico faces and what is a solution being proposed?)
Excursions and Activities

• A variety of excursions will enrich our experiences in Puerto Rico. We will travel to the interior highlands of Puerto Rico, and to the South coast of Puerto Rico. Other trips will be in the San Juan metro area and Northeast coast.

• There will also be ample free time to explore on your own!

• I will also be arranging certain community-based service work, but this is still to be determined.

• Bomba workshop
Viejo San Juan
Parque Ceremonial Indigena Caguana
El Yunque rainforest
Luquillo Beach and Kioskos
Kioskos de Piñones and beach