

Puerto Rico and the United States: Culture and Colonialism

TRAVEL SEMINAR LA 251B - TX 200B

On-campus course fall 2014; study in Puerto Rico Jan. 8 to 18, 2015



Why is Puerto Rico part of the US? How do Puerto Rican and US cultures affect each other? This course introduces Puerto Rico, an ambiguous territory the US acquired from Spain over 100 years ago after the Spanish American War. Neither state nor colony, independent country or occupied territory, this former Spanish colony is today “a four-storeyed country” whose past and present raise important questions of national identity, cultural autonomy, political processes, and economic integration. Located in the Caribbean, with which it shares a colonial past and current popular culture, Puerto Rico is an island of contrasts—rich and poor, urban and rural, Spanish- and English-speaking. Students will explore Puerto Rico’s complex cultures and the impact of colonialism through such experiences as listening to reggaeton, engaging with island emigrants and immigrants, visiting an old coffee plantation and the Caribbean’s largest mall, eating *asopao*, and talking with contemporary artists and educators.

Puerto Rico and the United States is a two-course learning experience (4 credits total) combining class work and readings on campus during the Fall semester and a field trip with class work and lectures in Puerto Rico during January break.

LA 251B (2 credits) meets Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and may be taken as a stand-alone course.

TX200B (2 credits) is the travel segment of the experience. Students who take this faculty-led Travel Seminar (Jan. 8-18, 2015) **must** be registered for the on-campus class.

Applications for the four-credit experience are available from Professor Rangil in Palamountain 410, OCSE in Starbuck Center 202, or online on the OCSE webpage. Approximate cost for the travel portion will be \$3,200. **Financial aid is available for eligible students.**

Application Deadline is April 4, 2014.

Applicants are required to submit a \$250 nonrefundable deposit at the time of application to hold their space on the program (100% refundable if not accepted to program). This deposit will be applied to program fee.