

**Department of World Languages Studies  
Winter Session 2015**

<b>Professor's Information</b>	<b>Course Information</b>
Dr. Enrique Morales-Díaz Email via PLATO	LCUL 0220: Envisioning the Americas CORE: Global Diversity/Social Understanding

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course focuses on the examination of the experiences and social structures, which have shaped the ethos of Anglo America and Latin America respectively. Emphasis is placed on the nature and origins of the two societies' perceptions of the new continent, of the indigenous populations and of each other.

This winter session the primary focus of the class will be on the year 1898 – a year symbolic for the United States, Spain, Cuba and Puerto Rico. For the United States it marks the birth of the country as a superpower, while for Spain it signaled the lost of its remaining empire (losing Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to the U.S.). For Cuba, it is a continuation in their struggle for independence, first from Spain and then from the United States. Finally, for Puerto Rico, the oldest colony in the world, 1898 would symbolize its passing from a Spanish colony to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico – a U.S. territory.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the various perspectives and the significance of 1898 for the United States, Spain, Cuba and Puerto Rico
- Understand the impact which the U.S. has had on history's and historians' representations of class, gender, race and the "other" in relation to 1898 and the Spanish American War/Cuban War of Independence
- Comprehend how cultural differences are refigured in the texts and documents that described various perspectives on 1898
- Understand the outcome of the end of the Spanish American War/Cuban War of Independence and its influences on the continued development of Cuba, Puerto Rico and U.S. Foreign Policy developed during that time and still in existence today
- Refine critical and analytical writing and reading skills through the analysis of ideas, metaphors, and constructions formulated from the texts

**REQUIRED TEXTS (other readings are available on PLATO)**

Pérez, Louis A. *The War of 1898: The United States & Cuba in History & Historiography*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Picó, Fernando. *Puerto Rico 1898: The War after the War*. Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2004.