COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will focus on the intersections of race, class, gender and sexual beliefs and practices in the processes of colonialism in Puerto Rico. We will examine how colonialism used constructions of sexuality to create political, cultural and social dynamics that have pervaded the lives of the colonized, and influenced the sensitivities, beliefs and perspectives of Western cultures and practices in general. These goals will be accomplished through a close reading of three of Puerto Rico’s best known literary works that reflect those political, cultural and social changes that the island has undergone since it was ceded to the United States as a direct result of the Spanish-American War (1898). In this course special emphasis will be placed on the change of national sovereignty at the end of the Spanish-American War of 1898, its current political status and the military conflict over the island of Vieques (which the United States abandoned on May 1st 2003).