This course examines the history of Cuba from pre-Columbian times to the present day. Thematically we will focus on the struggles for sovereignty in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Topics include indigenous-European contact; colonialism, African slavery, and the sugar plantation; the wars for independence from Spain; U.S. interventions; race relations and ethnic minorities; peasant and worker struggles over land and rights; the 1959 revolution and Cuban socialism; exile communities; and the ongoing negotiation of national identity and “revolutionary values.” We will engage with primary and secondary sources, including journal articles, archival documents, memoirs, literature, art, music, and film. Students will complete short reading responses, a midterm examination, and a final project on a topic of their choice.