



Instituto Universitario  
de Investigación en  
Estudios Norteamericanos  
"Benjamin Franklin"

# Luis Muñoz Marín y el establecimiento del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico en 1952

## SPRING 2022

<b>PROFESSOR</b>	Dr. Carmen Neysa Rodríguez
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<b>TIME</b>	
<b>CLASSROOM</b>	

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study and analysis of the life, personality, and lifetime work of Luis Muñoz Marín as the creator of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in 1952. Focus will be on the political, social, and cultural processes of Puerto Rico throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The teaching approach is student-centered and competency-based. This allows communication with students on what is taught, how it will be done, what should be learned, what activities are completed, what resources are used and how to evaluate learning. The course will aim to develop the following competences:

<b>Competence 1.</b>	Develop critical, creative and analytical thinking. (PCUPR RAI #3 RAP #2)
<b>Competence 2.</b>	Demonstrate communication skills in English and Spanish. (PCUPR RAI #5 RAP #3)
<b>Competence 3.</b>	Enhance multicultural sensibility towards a global community. (PCUPR RAI #9 RAP #4)
<b>Competence 4.</b>	Identify appealing research and technology of information sources and techniques, which will promote personal and professional growth. (PCUPR RAI #9 RAP #5)
<b>Competence 5.</b>	Apply knowledge and acquired skills to generate further knowledge, which will stimulate initiatives, proposals and actions for social change. (PCUPR RAI #9 RAP #4)

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- Acknowledge the hopes and frustrations of the Puerto Rican people under the civil government established under the 1900 Foraker Act.
  - Study the causes of the US invasion to Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War in 1898 and the subsequent establishment of military rule on the island.
- Become aware of the circumstances by which US citizenship was granted to Puerto Ricans under the 1917 Jones Act.
  - Examine the Puerto Rican people's reaction towards acculturation during the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Assess the political environment in which Luis Muñoz Marín developed his ideological thought.
  - Identify the various political ideologies which developed in Puerto Rico after 1900.
- Recognize Luis Muñoz Marín's influence in the development of Puerto Rican politics amid his predicament of independence vs. social justice.
  - Analyze the impact of the Depression and the New Deal in Puerto Rico during the 1930s.
- Analyze how Muñoz Marín's socialist background became embedded in the ideology of the Popular Democratic Party, established by him in 1938, and how it transcended into laws and programs established by the Puerto Rican Legislature during the 1940s as means to solve to the island's economic problems.
  - Categorize the scope the Popular Democratic Party in Puerto Rican politics 1938-1964.
- Examine the United States policies towards Puerto Rico which precipitated the establishment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in 1952.
  - Identify the ideological and political origins of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

## **METHODOLOGY**

At the beginning of each week, the professor will lecture to introduce a topic of study. This topic will be discussed by professor and students throughout the week. Specific readings will be assigned to students, including printed and digital material on primary and secondary sources. Each student must prepare a summary and present a version of his/her own interpretation of a specific aspect of the assigned readings orally in class. Group presentations may be required. Short essays will be assigned. The practice of critical, creative and analytical thinking will always be encouraged.

## **PREPARATION**

Students need to attend each class prepared, in order to participate in group discussions. They must prepare by complying with the assigned readings, summarizing the topics in question and asserting their own interpretations. Students should acquire knowledge, not just for the sake of gathering facts, but in order to understand that each culture evolves with change, due to internal or external factors.

## EVALUATION

**Participation (Group discussions).** Students must be active participants. They must become aware that by studying history in depth, this will bring different perspectives on the nature and realities of their own cultures. It is ideology the main factor which influence all of societies. Therefore, the course must attain the desired outcome of developing critical, creative and analytical thinking in each of its students. Class participation in group discussions on assigned topics is essential.  
(25 points each week)

### Activities and field trips

As established by IF-UAH (25 points each)

### Exams

2 written exams (100 points each)

### Tasks or any other assignments

2 short written essays (50 points each)

### Oral presentations

1 oral presentation by each student per week (25 points each)

**The evaluation of this course is as follows:**

<b>PARTICIPATION (GROUP DISCUSSIONS)</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>EXAMS</b>	<b>20 %</b>
<b>ORAL PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>20 %</b>
<b>SHORT ESSAYS</b>	<b>20 %</b>

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Students are not permitted to miss any class during the CTSS Program without proper justification (i.e. emergencies, health problems, in this case students must show a medical note). The following types of excuses are not justified: family visits, illnesses without a medical note, personal trips, etc. Each unjustified absence will result in a grade deduction of 10 points in the final grade of the class (example: from A to B). Students will not be allowed, in the classroom or fieldtrips, to arrive 10 minutes late or more. If a student has continual delays, he/she will be penalized with an absence and the instructor may not allow them into class or the visit. Attending class and fieldtrips does not grant a grade towards the participation grade of the class. Active participation during these activities is required.

DAYS	CLASS SCHEDULE	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1 <sup>a</sup>		
2	<b>Historical background</b> Borikén island, 1200aC - 1508 A Spanish colony, 1508-1897 Autonomy, 1897-1989	TBD
2	United States military invasion, 1898 Foraker Act, 1900 Jones Act, 1917	TBD
Week 2 <sup>a</sup>		
2	<b>Puerto Rican political ideologies in early 20th century</b> Socialism/ Santiago Iglesias Nationalism/ Pedro Albizu Campos Annexionism/ José Celso Barbosa Independence/ José de Diego Liberalism/ Antonio R. Barceló Autonomy/ José Tous Soto	TBD
2	<b>Luis Muñoz Marín and the establishment of the Popular Democratic Party, 1938</b> Political education: <i>El Catecismo del pueblo</i> and <i>El Batey</i> Winning the 1940 general election Legislative control: President of the Senate, 1941-1948 Rexford G. Tugwell administration, 1941-1946 Piñero-Tydings Bill, 1945 Elective Governor Bill, 1947 Gag Law, 1948 Law 600, 1950	TBD
Week 3 <sup>a</sup>		
1	<b>The 1950 Nationalist Insurrection</b>	TBD
2	<b>The Constitutional Assembly, 1951-1952</b> The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, 1952 Ratification of the Constitution by the people of Puerto Rico, 1952 Law 447: Ratification of the Constitution by the US Congress and the President, 1952	TBD
Week 4 <sup>a</sup>		
1	<b>The Establishment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, 1952</b> Proclamation of the Constitution by Governor Muñoz Marín, July 25, 1952 The Commonwealth inauguration Critics to the Constitution Amendments and ratification Puerto Rico-Federal Relations Act Decolonization of Puerto Rico by the United Nations, 1953	TBD

**NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. The final syllabus will be given to students on the first day of class.**

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## WEB PAGES

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