

**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
HISTORY 200: Fall 2009**

**“Africa in Cuba, Cuba in Africa”:
From the Slave Trade to the Cuban Internationalist Missions in
Africa – Congo, Angola, Mozambique, etc.**



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This course examines the relationship between Cuba and Africa from the period of the slave trade to late 1990s. The course is divided into three sections. Section one deals with Cuba and Africa during the period of the slave trade. It focuses on the forced migration of Africans to Cuba, the contribution of the enslaved to the growth and development of Cuba and the impact of the African presence on the island. The next section will deal with the Cuban revolution and the contribution of Cuba's Black population to the revolution. It will analyze the impact of the revolution on race relations in Cuba.

In the final section, we shall emphasize Cuba's Africa policy from the Cuban revolution to the independence of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Principé. This section is designed to answer certain fundamental questions: Why did a small country like Cuba play such a preponderant role in Africa during the decolonization period, a time of heightened antagonism due to the Cold War between the superpowers? What exactly did Cuban soldiers do in the Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde? Was Cuba a proxy for the Soviet Union or was Fidel Castro pursuing a Cuban agenda? What was the thinking behind Castro's African policy? Finally, Cuba trained African youth as doctors, engineers and technicians on the Isle of Youth. The Cuban-trained African professionals returned to their respective countries in Africa to help rebuild their countries. Their stories have not yet been told and it is our intention to discuss some of their personal stories.