



# Puerto Rican History and Culture Course Overview

September 15, 2021

Board of Education Meeting

Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent

Dr. Fatima Morrell, Associate Superintendent for CLRI



# Welcome

**Mr. Louis Petrucci, President, Board of Education**

**Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent**

**Dr. Fatima Morrell, Associate Superintendent for CLRI**

**Mr. Casimiro D. Rodriguez, Sr., Founder of Hispanic Heritage Council**

**Mrs. Esmeralda Sierra, President of Hispanic Heritage Council**



# Staff Contributors

**Director Dalphne Bell**  
**Dr. Andrés Rafael Arroyo**  
**Deborah Bertlesman**  
**Walter Diaz**  
**Enadrienne Dubose**  
**Bonnie General-Vazquez**  
**Alba Gomez**  
**Wilfredo Garcia**  
**Sonia Gomez**

**Danielle Gray**  
**Genah Lasby**  
**Pietro Mendola**  
**Niya Sosa**  
**Claudine Picado**  
**Richard Pyszczek**  
**Lawrence Ramos**  
**Yajaira Toro**  
**Arayoan Tylec**

## Hispanic Heritage Council



**Casimiro D. Rodriguez, Sr., Founder of Hispanic Heritage Council**

**David Báez, Member**

**Esmeralda Sierra, President of Hispanic Heritage Council**

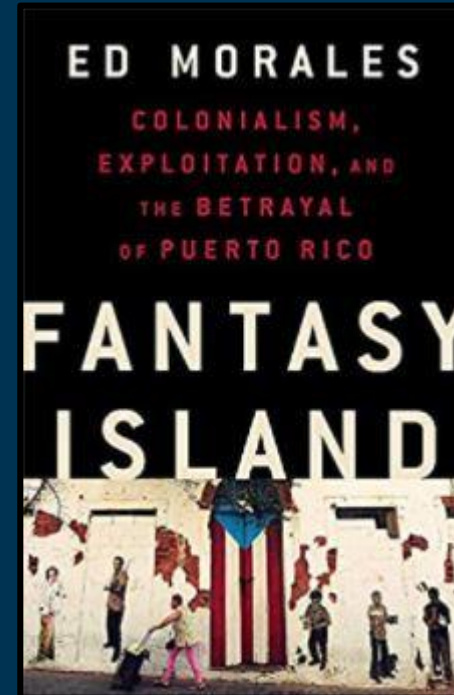
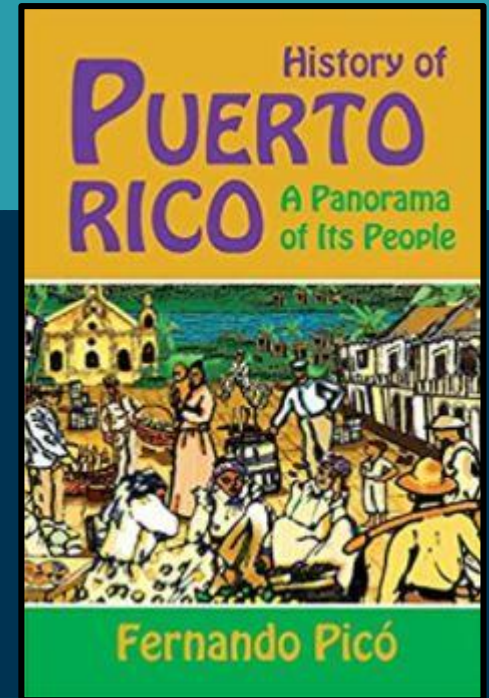
**Evelyn Rosario, Member**

# Purpose

- This course will engage a multifaceted examination of Puerto Rico's history, geography, culture and its peoples' contributions to our society
- Students will engage in lessons focused on:
  - ❖ topography, culture, and historical development of Puerto Rico
  - ❖ Spanish colonization of Puerto Rico, the lives of the Taino people & the enslaved Africans' influence on Puerto Rican identity,
  - ❖ Puerto Rico's influence on American society & economy
  - ❖ Puerto Ricans as American citizens
- To introduce a curriculum for a 1.0 credit bearing, elective course in Puerto Rican History and Culture that will be used towards graduation from High School
- To center joy, and lived experiences while raising an awareness amongst students, staff, and community, of the vast and rich history and culture of the Latinx community, allowing scholars to raise their voices related to issues of equity and social justice

# Resources

- Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College
- Fantasy Island: Colonialism, Exploitation, and the Betrayal of Puerto Rico by Ed Morales
- History of Puerto Rico: Panorama of Its People by Fernando Pico
- Hispanic Heritage History Project: Historia del Proyecto, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
- Library of Congress
- Digital Public Library of America
- Smithsonian National Museum





# Facets of the Curriculum



Geography &  
Topography



Puerto Rico's  
Influence on the  
American Economy



Spanish-American  
War of 1898



Puerto Rican  
Cultural, Identity,  
Influence of  
Enslaved Africans



Puerto Rican and  
Latinx Presence in  
Buffalo

# Course Rollout: 2021 - 2022 School Year

- Two High Schools: Olmsted and Lafayette International High Schools
- Duration: 40 weeks
- 1.0 High School Elective Course Credit
- Approximately 125 lessons
- Aligned to NYS Social Studies and ELA Standards at Grades 11 and 12
- Incorporates literacy, criticality, and Latinx history and culture
- Infuses culturally diverse curriculum
- Raises the voices of all scholars, staff, and community members
- Will also be offered as a bilingual course with curriculum translations
- Extension to World Languages and Native Language Arts Courses

# Curriculum Timeline





# BUFFALO BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Louis Petrucci, *President & Park District Representative*
- Dr. Kathy Evans-Brown, *East District Representative & Vice President of Student Achievement*
- Dr. Ann Rivera, *Member-at-Large & Vice President Executive of Affairs*
- Sharon M. Belton-Cottman, *Ferry District Representative*
- Terrance Heard, *Member-at-Large*
- Hope R. Jay, *North District Representative*
- Jennifer L. Mecozzi, *West District Representative*
- Lawrence Scott, *Member-at-Large*
- Paulette Woods, *Central District Representative*
  
- Kriner Cash, Ed.D., Superintendent
- Fatima Morrell, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent for Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Initiatives



**Thank You**