

Study Abroad 2019 Maymester
SPC 320C *Cuba in Question*
(Cross-listed in LAS/AADS/CL/HIS) Prof.
Jossianna Arroyo-Martínez University of
Texas at Austin
Host Institution: Casa de las Américas
Havana, Cuba, June 1-28th, 2019

Description:

The *Cuba in Question* 2019 Maymester Study Abroad Program is organized to give UT students a unique insight into a neighboring yet inaccessible country often misunderstood because of a history fraught with political antagonism. Through onsite learning under the instruction of three rotating faculty with hands-on knowledge and years of research, travel, and contacts in the country, students will be able to develop a unique understanding of Cuba's peoples, cultures, ethnicities, and social and historical processes far beyond the common media stereotypes. They will have a chance to interact with Cubans in the island, see for themselves the results and current conditions of the 1959 Revolution, and make up their mind responsibly about issues regarding visual, material, and expressive cultures in the island; curatorial debates about legacy and conservation in the arts; foreign affairs in Cold War and neoliberal geopolitics; race relations and human rights; and post-Soviet socialism and national sovereignty through an up-close engagement with local artists, writers, academics, curators, media specialists, and other social actors as well as historical sites, archival and museum resources, and urban and natural landscapes.

This program is open to UT students who are curious about Cuba and wish to experience the country first hand. It should be of interest to students majoring in Latin American Studies, African and Afro-American studies, International Studies, Comparative Literature, History, Sociology, Anthropology, and Spanish, among other fields. There will be a careful screening process to make sure students accepted have the best aptitudes and skills for this type of experience abroad. Working knowledge of Spanish is preferred as well as interest in comparative Caribbean literary, cultural, and visual studies and in Cuba's role in the history of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the Afro-Caribbean diaspora, and race relations in the New World.

Maymester Topic for 2019: Cuba 2.0: Literature, Culture and Performance in Global Times

Course Materials:

Selections from these works will be studied or consulted during the trip or before, during the

Spring 2019 one credit (15 hours) preparation seminar.

Works of scholarship and reference

1. Julia Cooke, *The Other Side of Paradise: Life in the New Cuba*
2. Richard Gott, *Cuba: A New History*
3. *A Contemporary Cuba Reader*. Edited by Philip Brenner et al.
4. *Afro-Cuban Voice: On Race and Identity in Contemporary Cuba*. Edited by Pedro Pérez Sarduy and Jean Stubbs
5. Rachel Weiss, *To and From Utopia in the New Cuban Art*
6. Michael Chanan, *Cuban Cinema*
7. Yoani Sánchez, *Havana Real*

Other works of reference:

1. *Gale Cuba Encyclopedia*. Editors, Alan West-Durán, Victor Fowler-Calzada, Marel García Pérez, Louis A. Pérez Jr., César A. Salgado, María de los Angeles Torres (online)
2. Louis Pérez, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution* (Fifth Edition)
3. Ann Marie Stock, *On Location in Cuba: Street Filmmaking During Times of Transition*

Films

1. *Memories of Underdevelopment* (1968); *Strawberry and Chocolate* (1993) (Tomás Gutiérrez Alea)
2. *De cierta manera* (1974); *Iré a Santiago* (1964) (Sara Gómez)
3. *Now!* (1965), *LBJ* (1968), and other documentaries (Santiago Alvarez)
4. *Suite Havana* (Fernando Pérez, 2003)
5. *City in Red* (Rebeca Chávez, 2009)
6. *One Night* (Lucy Mology, 2010)
7. *Juan of the Dead* (Alejandro Brugués, 2011)

Requirements in Cuba (with Writing Flag):

Four -weekly essays on a Cuban monument, art piece, film, or text: 60% Each essay should focus on a different medium: a painting or art installation; a film scene or script; a photograph or photo essay; a public monument; or a short story or chapter in a novel. **You can also offer to complete your own photo essay, film or work about Cuba, but it should be accompanied of the writing/blog exercise.**

Class attendance, Oral Presentations, Discussion: 40%

Each student should briefly present, analyze, and lead discussion at least once about an item in the class: a Cuban art piece, film, performance, a public monument. Assignments will be distributed early in the course. **This oral presentation will be completed in Austin.**

Each day will be divided into morning and afternoon activities.

1. **Classroom meetings, lectures, and discussion of readings and writing assignments will take place in the morning 10:00-11:45 at Casa de las Américas.**
2. **Tours and site visits will take place in the afternoon @2:00-4:00 or @3:00-5:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.** In Havana *students will be encouraged to find their own means of transportation to reach the afternoon meeting place for the site tour.* Please bring extra cash for transportation, water and extra lunch activities not covered in the program. Bus group transport arrangement will be required only for travel outside of Havana.

Schedule: Arrival in Havana from Miami, June 1st, 2019

First Week:

June 3

10-12 Welcome at Casa de las Américas. Tour with Layda Ferrando
12-2 Lunch in houses
2-4 Walking tour of El Vedado neighborhood guided by Jossianna Arroyo and TA.
7pm-Dinner at houses

June 4

9:00-11:30- Havana from XVI to XIX Century. Tour. Prof. Gerardo Hernández (Casa de las Américas).
12-Lunch in houses
2-4: Afternoon talk about Afro-Cubans in the Independence Movement, the Republic, the War of 1912, and after. Invited speaker: Prof. Roberto Zurbano.

June 5: Havana in the XIX century-1898.

9:30-11:30 Visit to Casa de José Martí. Prof. Ibrahim Hidalgo, Centro de Estudios Martianos.

12-2:00 Lunch

2:00-4:00 Visit to Juan Mesa's House (Afro-Cuban Religions)

June 6th-The Revolution (1953-1959)

9:30-11:30 Museo de la Revolución, Plaza de la Revolución. Prof. Gerardo Hernández

12:00 Lunch in houses

2:00-4:00 Cuban contemporary music (with Carmen Souto).

7:00 Dinner in houses

June 7th

9:00 am- 12:00 pm- Gira a Alamar (urbanismo, gestión cultural, agricultura urbana) y al Cojimar de Hemingway. Prof. Gerardo Hernández with local participants.

12:30-2pm : Almuerzo por cuenta de los estudiantes, Reservación en Las Terrazas de Cojimar

Tarde Libre

7:00PM Dinner (at houses)

[Optional Weekend Activity: Excursion to Matanzas]

Excursion opcional a Matanzas: Ediciones Vigía, Plaza, Museo de la Farmacia, Ermita de Monserrate, Valle del Yumurí

Second Week:***Artes Gráficas, Visuales y Performance*****June 10th**

10:00 am- 12:30 pm- Spanish/Creole Colonial Art and the Avant Garde. Visit to Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes. Prof. Adriel Gómez. 12:30-2:00 Lunch 2:30-4:00 Race, resistance and activism in Cuba Tomás Fernández Robaina.

June 11th

10:00 am- 11:30 am- La fotografía en la Cuba revolucionaria - Prof. Nahela Echevarría (Casa de las Américas)

12-2PM: Lunch

2:30-4:00 Actividad opcional (fuera de programa): Gira por el Cementerio Colón con Adriel Gómez. Free time to work in Blog writing or research

June 12th:

10:30-11:30- Contemporary Art, Talk with contemporary artist Rafael Villares

12:00-2:00 Lunch

2:30-4:00 Visit to Rafael Villares's art workshop (Vedado)

June 13th.

9:30-11:00 Visit to ISA (Instituto Superior de Arte) with Prof. Norge Espinosa

12:00-2:00 PM Lunch close to ISA

Free afternoon.

June 14:

9:30-11:30- Contemporary Feminist Afro-Cuban performance-
Susana del Pilar Delahante (Performer Artist)

[Optional excursion to Viñales]

Week Three

Film, Media, Historiography

June 17:

10-12PM Cuban Literature and Film, Rebeca Chávez (Scripwriter) and Senel Paz (Director)

12-2:00- Lunch

2-4 Sexual and trans identities in Cuba and the CENESEX, Dr. Norge Espinosa

June 18:

10:00-12:30 Visit to Escuela Internacional de Cine

12-2: Lunch

Free afternoon

June 19:

10:00 am- 12:30 pm- El director de cine en Cuba. Invitado

Fernando Pérez (director de cine)

12-2pm Lunch

2:30-4:00PM Blogging and Vlogging in Contemporary Cuba

June 20:

10-12:30- Excursión a la Fundación de Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano. Prof.

Gerardo Hernández y Víctor Fowler Calzada

2:30-4:00- Visita al ICAIC (posters, movie theaters)

Free afternoon

June 21:

10:00 am- 12:30 pm- Nuevas tendencias del cine cubano. (New Directors) Prof. Gustavo Arcos

12-2 pm Lunch

2:30-4: 00 pm- Aspectos sobre salud, medicina y la mujer, Dra. Melba Sosa

June 23:

8:00 AM-Breakfast at Homes

9:00-Salida hacia Trinidad (4 hrs)

12:30-1:00 Lunch in Trinidad

3-5:00 pm —Visit to Museo de Arquitectura (Casa de los Sánchez Iznaga). Visit to Museo Lucha contra Bandidos, antigua casa del convento de San Francisco de Asís. Visit to Museo Romántico, con vistas a la plaza principal de Trinidad.

6:00-Dinner on your own. Optional Casa de la Música

June 24

8:00 AM- Breakfast

9:30—Take a train to Valle de los Ingenios from Trinidad to Manaca visit Torre Iznaga (with guide)

Lunch (included)

Free afternoon/ Dinner on your own. Optional Casa de la Trova

June 25th

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 Exit to Camagüey (4 Hrs)

1:00-3:00 Lunch (incluido)

3:00-5:00 Gira por Camagüey (Dr. Ruiz Varela)

June 26th

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 (Departure to Santiago de Cuba) (5 hrs)

Lunch (incluido)

Visit to the Ermita de la Caridad del Cobre

Night: Activity with Fátima Patterson and group Macubá.

June 27th

Mañana: Visita a la Casa Velázquez y Parque Céspedes con Elba Marina Sota Ribas

12-1:30 Lunch (incluido)

2pm Excursión al Morro de Santiago, Museo de la Clandestinidad, Museo 26 de Julio, Museo Abel Santamaría

Optional : Visitas a la Casa del Caribe y Casa de Africa; Visita al Cementerio Santa Ifigenia. (Otras visitas particulares posibles en la zona: Santa Basílica, Casa de Heredia, Museo del Carnaval, Casa de la Trova, Museo Municipal Emilio Barcardí, Museo del Ron)

6:00 Actividad de conclusión: Baile de Tumba Francesa con el Grupo Portador (Familia Figueroa) Cena de despedida/ Farewell Dinner (incluido)

June 28th

Return to Miami from Santiago de Cuba

