Study Abroad 2015 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, May 28-June 25th, 2015  

Description:

The Cuba in Question 2015-17 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 2015: 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 2015 one credit (15 hours) preparation seminar.

Works of scholarship and reference
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. Perez Jr., César A. Salgado, María de los Angeles Torres (online)
2. Louis Perez, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution* (Fifth Edition)
3. Ann Marie Stock, *On Location in Cuba: Street Filmmaking During Times of Transition*

Films
2. *De cierta manera* (1974); *Iré a Santiago* (1964) (Sara Gómez)
3. *Now!* (1965), *LB7* (1968), and other documentaries (Santiago Alvarez)
5. *City in Red* (Rebeca Chávez, 2009)

Requirements in Cuba (with Writing Flag):

Four weekly review 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

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.

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. Bus group transport arrangement will be required only for travel outside of Havana.

Schedule: Arrival in Havana from Miami, Saturday, May 28

First Week:
*Memorializing Cuban History through Havana’s Architecture and Monuments*

Monday May 30th: Welcome at Casa de las Américas, host institution. *Havana, Gateway of the Spanish Empire in the New World* (1510-1762)
Afternoon guided tour of Old Havana focusing on the early centuries of Spanish rule

Tuesday May 31: *Shaping Republican Havana 1898-1953 and Issues of Race*
Morning talk about Afro-Cubans in the Independence Movement, the Republic, the War of 1912, and after. Invited speaker: Roberto Zurbano.

Wednesday June 1: *Memorializing the Cuban Revolution in Havana, 1953-1989*
Thursday, June 2: Afternoon guided tour to the Granma Monument, the Museum of the Cuban Revolution, and the Plaza de la Revolución.

Friday, June 3: Sustaining Havana during the Special Period and After--Debates on Defining and Preserving Urban Legacies. Morning presentation by the Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad.

[Optional Weekend Activity: Excursion to Matanzas]

Second Week:
Memory, Legacy, and Curatorial Issues in Cuban Visual Arts

Monday, June 6: The Avant-Garde and contemporary art in Cuba.

Tuesday, June 7: Photography before and after the Cuban Revolution. Morning presentation. Possible invited speaker: Cuban photography historian Rolando Pujol or Fototeca director or staff member. (Meeting could take place at the Fototeca in Old Havana.)

Wednesday, June 8: Cultivating Avant-Garde Expression and Institutions in the Cuban Revolution. Afternoon Visit to the Instituto Superior de Arte


Friday, June 10: [Optional Weekend Activity: Excursion to Viñales]

Week Three
Film, Media, Performance, Afro-Cuban Cultures

Monday, June 13: Cuban Literature and/in the Movies in the Revolution. Afternoon conversation about literary adaptations in Cuban cinema and theater with UNEAC writers and film critics. Possible speaker: Norge Espinosa

Tuesday, June 14: Wi-Fi and Bloggers in Contemporary Cuba

Wednesday, June 15: Afrocuban Religions: Visit to Guanabacoa

Thursday, June 16: Urban landscapes and ecologies

Friday, June 17: Visit to Alamar,

[Open Weekend]

Monday, June 20: Morning Panel Discussion on the Role of Cultural Agency, Initiative, and Exchange in U.S.-Cuban Relations (guest speakers to be determined)

Farewell to Havana and Casa, Monday night: Poetry reading at Torre de las Letras hosted by Reina María Rodríguez or attendance to performance of El siervo encantado theater troupe
Tuesday June 21: **Departure to Camagüey, late afternoon and overnight stay in Camagüey**

Wednesday June 22: **Full day in Camagüey** (activities to be announced)

Thursday June 23: **Noon arrival in Santiago. Santiago in the Colonial Era and after the Haitian Revolution**
*Afternoon guided tours at the Casa de Velázquez, Catedral, Casa Maceo, Cementerio Santa Ifigenia*

Friday June 24: **Memorializing the Moncada Attack and Castro’s Revolution in Oriente**
*Daylong guided tours of Moncada Barracks, Parque Abel Santamaría, Museo del Clandestinaje*

Saturday June 25: **Santiago as Center of Afro-Cuban Cultural Agency, Memory, and Performance**
*Morning and early Afternoon Visits at Casa del Caribe and other Afro-Diasporic Cultural Institutions*

**June 26 or Sunday June 27th:** **Return to Miami from Santiago**