

Cuba in Transition: Foreign Investment, Global Integration, and Development

**George Mason University Study Abroad
-Summer 2016-**

Professor Jennifer Ashley (Global Affairs), faculty director

Program Locations

Havana, with visits to the surrounding areas.

Credits: 6 credits

Suggested areas for course credit: GLOA 480, ANTH 398, GOVT 398, ECON 492, CONF 385, MSOM 305, NCLC 399, HIST 398, HNRS 240,

Program Description:

This study abroad program will allow students the possibility to explore Cuba in a moment of transition. Cuba's unique political and economic history has long made it the subject of intense intellectual debate. The recent announcement of a "normalization" of relations between the U.S. and Cuba and the subsequent reopening of embassies have Cubans, along with the rest of the world, creating expectations about what changes the future will bring. The program is centered in the city of Havana, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982, and will also include travel to other cultural patrimony sites. Throughout the program, we will think through the heterogeneous ways in which Cubans narrate their own history, challenges, and triumphs, as well as how the foreign gaze has contributed to their reframing. The program will be conducted in English. Knowledge of Spanish is useful, but not required.

The academic program will be made up of two 3-credit courses:

(1) "Emerging Changes In Cuban Economy: Social Impacts And External Reinsertion" ("EC"): In this course, students will be introduced to Cuba's economic situation, beginning with the 1959 Cuban Revolution, and moving through the economic crisis of the 1990s and into the present. Course readings and discussions will pay special attention to the economic reforms that have been put in place in the last few years and the changes anticipated with the normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba. The program will consist of lectures by professors from the Universidad de la Habana, complemented by relevant reading, site visits, and follow-up discussions with the faculty director. The culmination of the course will be a research paper, which will explore in greater depth one of the topics examined during the program.

(2) "Cuba in Context" ("CC"): This experiential course is led by the faculty director and is intended to help students contextualize what they read about contemporary Cuban, and how this relates to what they see on the island. Students will be expected to read material for this course before the semester begins, and will be asked to watch two films. Students will use these readings and additional materials to complement the site visits and follow-up discussions that will occur during the program. One of the key assignments for this class will be daily journal entries, which will integrate course readings, site visits, lectures, and discussions. The culmination of the course will be a presentation that explores in greater depth one of the topics examined during the program.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Pre-Departure Assignment: Students will be required to write a 1-2 paragraph response (including two discussion questions) on each of the pre-departure readings. (Some of these will be marked for the "CC")

and others for “EC”). Students should bring printed copies of these responses with them to Cuba. We will draw on these during our first two course sessions.

Participation: Students will be expected to arrive at all activities (excursions and course lectures and discussions) on time and having completed any assigned reading. They should bring printed copies of the readings with them to Cuba.

***Attendance in all classes, excursions and all program-related activities is mandatory. Students who have accumulated two unexcused absences will be dismissed from the program upon the third absence. Dismissal from the program will result in failure in all classes registered

Daily Trip Journal (CC): Students will write daily journal entries (20 in total). In these entries, they should not only reflect on their observations, but must also engage relevant aspects of our lectures, discussions, and course readings.

Final Presentation (CC): On the last day of the course, students will present on a topic of contemporary Cuban life that they have been exploring throughout the program.

Research Paper Proposal (EC): Students will be required to turn in a 2-page research paper proposal outlining a central research question, which engages one or more of the seminars and includes a list of five potential bibliographic resources.

Final Paper (EC): Students will turn in their final 10-12 page research paper upon their return from Cuba. Papers must be sent by email by Monday, July 11th at 5 p.m. to jashley4@gmu.edu

(1) “Cuba in Context”

Grading Rubric:

Pre-departure Assignment	30%
Daily Trip Journal	30%
Participation in activities and related discussion	20%
Final presentation	20%

(2) “Emerging Changes in the Cuban Economy”

Grading Rubric:

Pre-departure Assignment	20%
Research Paper Proposal	20%
Participation in activities and related discussion	20%
10-12 page research paper	40%

Pre-Departure Reading:

Brenner, Philip, and Marguerite Rose Jiménez, John Kirk, and William LeoGrande, eds. *The Contemporary Cuba Reader: The Revolution under Raul Castro* (2nd edition). (Lanham, MD: Rowanman and Littlefield Publishers, 2014) (Selections)

Frank, Marc. 2013. “Conclusion.” In *Cuban Revelations: Behind the Scenes in Havana*. Pp. 269-295. Gainesville: University of Florida Press.

Henken, Ted 2008. A. *Cuba: A Global Studies Handbook*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC CLIO. (Selections)

Essays on the Implications of Normalization: <http://www.american.edu/clals/implications-of-normalization-with-ssrc.cfm>

Part I: Introduction		
	Saturday, 7 May	Pre-departure session (CC)
1	Fri., 3 June	<p>Plan to arrive in Miami by 2:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> “The Normalization Process”: Discussion of Pre-departure readings (CC) <u>Reading:</u> *Essays on the Implication of Normalization *Dominguez, Jorge. “Dialogues within and between Cuba and its Diaspora,” in <i>The Contemporary Cuba Reader: The Revolution under Raul Castro</i> (2nd edition). (Lanham, MD: Rowanman and Littlefield Publishers, 2014), 299-307.</p>
2	Sat., 4 June	<p>Departure from Miami Airport</p> <p>Group arrives to Havana. Welcome at the International Airport “José Martí” by Havanatur Staff</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Discussion of pre-departure readings (CC)</p>
3	Sun. 5 Jun	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Havana City Tour (CC)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> *Coyula, Mario. 2011. “The Bitter Trinquennium and the Dystopian City.” In <i>Havana Beyond the Ruins: Cultural Mappings after 1989</i>. Anke Birkenmeir and Esther Whitfeld, eds. Pp. 31-52. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Group discussion of readings and lecture (CC)</p>
4	Mon. 6 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Seminar: “Introduction to Cuba since 1990” (CC)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> *Jatar-Hausmann, Ana Julia. “The early 90s: A Very Special Period.” In <i>The Cuban Way: Capitalism, Communism and Confrontation</i> *Weinreb, Amelia. “Words and Means: The Special Period Lexicon.” In <i>Cuba in the Shadow of Change</i>.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Group discussion of readings (CC)</p>
5	Tues. 7 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Seminar:</p>

		<p>“Race and Class in Cuba since 1990” (CC)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>*De la Fuente, Alejandro. 2001. “Recreating racism: Race and discrimination in Cuba’s Special Period.” <i>Socialism and Democracy</i> 15(1): 65-91.</p> <p>*Zurbano, Roberto. 2013. “For Blacks in Cuba, The Revolution Hasn’t Begun.” <i>New York Times</i>. March 23.</p> <p>*Fernandes, Sujatha. 2003. “Fear of a Black Nation: Local Rappers, Transnational Crossings, and State Power.” <i>Anthropological Quarterly</i> 76(4): 575-608.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u></p> <p>Visit to the Museo de la Revolución (CC)</p>
6	Wed. 8 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u></p> <p>Seminar: “Gender and Sexuality in Cuba”</p> <p>*Kirk, Emily. “The Changing Dynamics of Sexuality: CENESEX and the Revolution,” in <i>The Contemporary Cuba Reader: The Revolution under Raul Castro</i> (2nd edition). (Lanham, MD: Rowanman and Littlefield Publishers, 2014), 433-440.</p> <p>*Paz, Senel. 1996[1990]. “The Wolf, the Forest and the New Man.” Thomas Christensen, trans. In <i>Conjunctions</i> 27: 62-87.</p> <p>*Pardo Lazo, Orlando Luis. 2014. “The Man, the Wolf, and the New Woods.” Hillary Gulley, trans. In <i>Cuba in Splinters: Eleven Stories from the New Cuba</i>. New York: O/R Books.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u></p> <p>Visit to the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (CC)</p>
7	Thurs. 9 June	<p>Excursion to Santa Clara, Trinidad, and Cienfuegos (CC)</p> <p><u>Reading: TBD</u></p>
8	Fri. 10 June	
9	Sat. 11 June	
10	Sun. 12 June	
11	Mon. 13 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u></p> <p>Seminar: “The economic dynamic and transformation process in Cuba”</p> <p>Lecturer: Dr. Antonio F. Romero, professor at the Center for International Economy Research (CIEI). (Venue: CIEI Meeting Room) (EC)</p> <p><u>Reading:</u></p> <p>*Becherer, Richard and Marilyn Helms. 2010. “Is Cuba’s Emerging Entrepreneurial Economy at the Crossroads?”</p> <p>*Gabriele, Alberto. 2011. Cuba: From State Socialism to a New Form of Market Socialism? <i>Comparative Economic Studies</i>: 53: 647–35.</p> <p>*Pujol, Joaquin. 2012. “Where is Cuba Going? Economic Policies that have been Adapted and Results thus Far.” <i>Cuba in Transition</i> 22: 1-15.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u></p> <p>Visit to a service cooperative in Havana. (EC)</p>

12	Tues. 14 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Seminar: “The current Cuban foreign trade: Obstacles and perspectives”. Lecturer: Mcs. Rosibel Hidalgo. Professor at the Center for International Economy Research - CIEI. (Venue: CIEI Meeting Room) (EC)</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> *Willmore, Larry. Export Processing Zones in Cuba. in Ritter, ed. The Cuban Economy. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004. *Henken, Ted and Archibald Ritter. 2014. “The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of the Paladar, 1993-2014.” In <i>Entrepreneurial Cuba: The Changing Policy Landscape</i>. Pp. 245-296. Boulder, CO: Lynn Reinner Publishers.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Visit and lunch at a “<i>Martini Restaurant</i>”: a conversation with the paladar’ owner. (Venue: Paladar “Martini Restaurant”, 19 and 36 Ave., Playa). (EC)</p>
13	Wed. 15 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Seminar: “External Finance in Cuba: external debt and the access to multilateral resources”. Lecturer: Dra. Mercedes García, Professor at the Center for International Economy Research - CIEI. (Venue: CIEI Meeting Room) (EC)</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Meeting with officials from the Cuban National Economist Association’ Consulting Firm (CANEC). (Venue: CANEC’ Headquarters) (EC)</p>
14	Thurs. 16 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Seminar: “Foreign Direct Investments in Cuba: current trends and perspectives”. Lecturer: Dra. Carola Salas Couce, Professor at the Center for International Economy Research - CIEI. (Venue: CIEI Meeting Room) (EC)</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> *Omar Everlenny Pérez , Cuba: an Overview of Foreign Direct Investment. *Perez-Lopez, Jorge. Foreign Investment in Cuba. in Ritter, ed. The Cuban Economy. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004. *Feinberg, Richard. “The New Cuban Economy: What Roles for Foreign Investment?,”in <i>The Contemporary Cuba Reader: The Revolution under Raul Castro</i> (2nd edition). (Lanham, MD: Rowanman and Littlefield Publishers, 2014), 159-172.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Meeting in the Cuban Chamber of Commerce. (Venue: Cuban Chamber of Commerce’ Headquarters) (EC)</p>
13	Fri. 17 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Seminar: The experience with the non-state properties in Cuba. Dr. Omar Everlenin. Professor of the Center for Cuban Economy Studies. (EC)</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> Peters, Philips. “Cuba’s Entrepreneurs: Foundations of a New Private Sector,”</p>

		<p>in <i>The Contemporary Cuba Reader: The Revolution under Raul Castro</i> (2nd edition). (Lanham, MD: Rowanman and Littlefield Publishers, 2014), 145-152.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Meeting with a group of students from University of Havana. (Venue: CIEI Meeting Room) (CC)</p>
14	Sat. 18 June	<p><u>Morning and afternoon sessions:</u> Visit to Varadero Beach, accompanied by Drs. Juan Triana and Jorge Mario Sánchez for the seminar: “The Cuban tourism industry and its economic relevance”. (EC)</p> <p>Readings: *Babb, Florence. 2011. “Che, Chevys, and Hemingway’s Daquiris: Cuban Tourism in a Time of Globalization.” <i>Journal of Latin American Research</i> 30(1): 50-63. *Henry Louis Taylor Jr. and Linda McGlynn, 2009. “International tourism in Cuba: Can capitalism be used to save socialism?”</p>
15	Sun. 19 June	Visit to the “Plaza de la Revolución” and “José Martí Memoria.” (CC)
16	Mon. 20 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Seminar: “Changes in Cuban families and society as part of the economic model transformation”. Lecturer: Dra. Patricia Arés, professor at the Psychology School, University of Havana. (Venue: CIEI Meeting Room). (EC)</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> *Dominguez, Maria Isabel. “Cuban Youth: From the ‘Special Period’ to the ‘Updating’ of the Economic and Social Model,” in <i>The Contemporary Cuba Reader: The Revolution under Raul Castro</i> (2nd edition). (Lanham, MD: Rowanman and Littlefield Publishers, 2014), 381-388.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Visit to the Hermanos Saíz Association. (CC)</p>
17	Tues. 21 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Seminar: “Cuba – USA relations: current status and perspectives”. Lecturer: Dr. Jorge Mario Sánchez, professor at CIEI. (Venue: CIEI Meeting Room) (EC)</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> TBD *Brenner, Philip and Soraya M. Castro Mariño. “Untying the Knot: The Possibility of a Respectful Dialogue between Cuba and the United States,” in <i>The Contemporary Cuba Reader: The Revolution under Raul Castro</i> (2nd edition). (Lanham, MD: Rowanman and Littlefield Publishers, 2014), 277-291.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Visit to the Center for the Study of Cuban Youth. (CC)</p>

18	Wed. 22 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Seminar: “The Cuban’ external relations: the role of China, Russia and European Union”. Lecturer: Dr. Santiago Rodríguez, professor at Center for International Policy Research - Centro de Investigaciones de Política Internacional (CIPRI). (Venue: CIEI Meeting Room) (EC)</p> <p><i>Reading:</i> * Mervyn J. Bain, Russia and Cuba: “doomed” comrades?</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Meeting and debate with specialist on current Cuban policy on sexual diversity (CENESEX) (CC)</p>
19	Thurs. 23 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Seminar: “The Cuban’ economic relations with Latin American and Caribbean nations”. Lecturer: Dr. Marlen Sánchez Gutiérrez, professor at CIEI. (Venue: CIEI Meeting Room) (EC)</p> <p><i>Reading:</i> *Catá Backer and Molina, Cuba and the Construction of Alternative Global Trade Systems: ALBA and Free Trade in the Americas.</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Meeting with a group of students from the Higher Institute for International Relations (Instituto Superior de Relaciones Internacionales - ISRI). (Venue: ISRI Meeting Room) (CC)</p>
20	Fri. 24 June	<p><u>Morning session:</u> Final Presentations (CC)</p> <p><u>Afternoon session:</u> Visit to the community integral transformation project, People’s Council “Príncipe”, Centro Habana. (CC)</p> <p><u>Evening:</u> Farewell meeting at CIEI. Professors, students and directives from University of Havana will join the party.</p>
21	Sat. 25 June	Departure to Miami