

Cuba Maymester 2020

SPAN 395

Special Topics in Cultural Studies in Cuba

M-Th 9:30AM-12:20PM

VKC 160

Maymester Course

USC = May 18 – May 28, 2020

Cuba = June 1st – June 14, 2020

Weeks 3 and 4 @ Cuba*

*See **Contact Hours** in syllabus

Instructor: **Ivette Gomez, PhD**

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Office: THH-270

Hours:

Tu, Th: 2-3:30pm

and by appointment



Visualizing Cuba: Arts, Politics and Society in Today's Cuba

Course Description

This course will allow you to get immersed in today's vibrant Cuban culture. The focus of the course will be to examine Cuban contemporary culture through the analysis of visual arts, literature, music and dance, but we will also cover issues related to Cuba's present society and politics, such as the state of racial relations, social programs like Cuba's health care system, and the new state of political and diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States.

You will have the opportunity to go to Cuba for two weeks and visit Havana, the capital, and the provinces of Matanzas and Pinar del Río. You will receive lectures and presentations given by Cuban faculty, local artists, writers, musicians, dancers, journalists, diplomats and, most importantly, you will have the chance to interact with regular Cuban people (including young Cubans). You will visit Cuban institutions like Havana's University, The University of the Arts, National Arts Museums, The Museum of the Revolution, Finca Vigía (Hemingway's house in Cuba) and other historical sites in Havana, Matanzas and Pinar del Río. We will also attend musical and dance presentations. During the first two weeks of the course, which will take place at USC you will focus mostly on readings about Cuban history, the history of Cuba-USA relations and issues related to Cuban arts, society and politics.

The evaluation of the course will be mainly based on a midterm, responses to readings and visual materials, an oral presentation, and a research essay that you will start at USC and complete in Cuba. This research essay will be based on your topic of choice, centered in your interests and/or field of studies, but also needs to be related to one of

the topics covered in the course and observable information in Cuba. Additionally, you need to produce of a travel journal with a minimum of 5 entries that capture your impressions and visions of Cuba. The travel journal will also be graded as part of your final grade in this program.

This course will be conducted in English, but knowledge of Spanish will definitely enhance your experience and appreciation of Cuban culture.

Learning Outcomes

- Engage you in a cross-cultural inquiry where you can learn more about Cuban and American cultures.
- Provide you with interpretative skills necessary to critically analyze art, cultural and social issues.
- Re-examine the stereotype of Cuba as an “enemy country”; consider how art can increase mutual understanding and bridge differences amid great ideological and geopolitical conflict.

Texts (required)

The Cuba Reader. History, Culture, Politics (2019), Ed. Chomsky et all (2nd Edition!)

Havana Nocturne. (2007), T. J. English

Islands in the Stream, Ernest Hemingway – will discuss Part II “Cuba”

Other articles and texts’ selections in PDFs (Blackboard)

Other Texts (optional) – good sources for better understanding of Cuba

The United States and Cuba. From Closest Enemies to Distant Friends (2017) by Francisco López Segrera

Cuba. What Everyone Needs to Know (2016) by Julia Sweig

Films / Documentary we will discuss:

Memories of Underdevelopment (1968) – available in Digitalia Hispanica (streaming services of the USC Libraries)

Scarface (1983), starred by Al Pacino – movie about a Marielito

CubAmerican (2012) – impacts of Cubans in the U.S.

Other suggested documentaries that you need to watch (for context):

The Cuba Libre Story (Netflix), documentary series of 8 episodes

Cuba and the Cameraman (Netflix), documentary

Evaluation

Participation/Attendance/Contribution	10%
Presentation	10%
Responses	10%
Midterm Response	20%
Travel Journal	10%
Research Essay*	40%

*** Final version of Research Essay and Travel Journal will be due in Cuba on Saturday, June 8th. If you are not planning to take your laptop to Cuba, make sure to bring TWO Blue Books to the island to complete these projects.**

Contact Hours – (4 units course, requires 50hrs meetings in 4 weeks)

Wk 1 & Wk2 = 12 hrs/each (24hrs total) -- will meet Mon-Thurs from 9:30am-12:20pm (UPC)

Wk 3 & Wk4 = 20 hrs/each (40hrs total) – will cover presentations and visits in Cuba*

* In the island, you will have presentations and visits Mon-Thur from 9:30-12:30pm and again 3-5pm (5 hrs meetings - 4 days/wk). Friday - Sunday you will have the chance to do some research for your essay and participate in some organized cultural/leisure activities.

Grading System – Letter Grade

PERCENTAGES	LETTER GRADE	PERCENTAGES	LETTER GRADE
93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

Explanation of the Evaluation:

Participation/Attendance/Contribution (PAC) = 10%

Attendance, participation and contribution to class and to the activities we will do in Cuba are mandatory and essential to successfully complete this course. If you miss one day of classes while we are at UPC or you fail to participate in one of the mandatory activities we will do in the island, your grade will suffer significantly in this category (and probably others as well).

All the readings we will discuss in class at UPC and in Cuba should be done BEFORE we meet. You should come to class ready and familiar with the readings and visual materials we will cover.

In Cuba, we will visit various places. These visits, indicated in the syllabus/program, are mandatory. Expect to always have a discussion after the visit. Always be ready when the bus stops to pick you up at your residence (in Cuba) and arrive on time for the departure times we will provide you during the program. Most visits will be guided, so take the opportunity to ask questions (these questions will also count as part of your PAC grade).

Presentation (10 %) Every student will have to present a brief summary of one preassigned reading. The student will offer a brief oral presentation (no need for

Powerpoint) that highlights 3 important aspects of the reading, points to the perception of the “other”/Cuban culture from the U.S point of view and that offers one question to generate debate. The day of your presentation, you need to turn-in a written summary of these aspects and point (1 ½ page, max 2 pages, typed, double spaced).

Responses (to readings, visual materials and places in Cuba) = 10%

You will turn in in class (they day they are due, otherwise you will miss points) hard copies typed or hand-written responses or reflections (1 ½-2 pages each) of readings or visual materials that will be assigned as HW. You will be asked to address specific topics in these responses. **OJO: Si estás tomando la clase para obtener créditos en español, necesitas escribir estas “RESPUESTAS” en este idioma.**

Midterm Response= 20%

During the second week of classes at UPC you will have will be giving two topics/questions to pick ONE and develop it a long response form = 3 1/2 -4pages, double spaced. This will be considered your Midterm Response **OJO: Si estás tomando la clase para obtener créditos en español, necesitas escribir la respuesta del “Midterm” o Examen de Medio Curso en este idioma.**

Research Essay (10-12 pages – not including bibliography) = 40 %

A proposal of your final/research essay needs to be ready to turn in at the beginning of the second weeks of classes at UPC. This proposal needs to have a a title, a clear thesis, stated at the beginning of the argument, so it is clear to your reader – by the title and the thesis -- the topic that you are interested to explore, it should also be written in argumentative way (no bullet points, please!) about a topic/issue that you can argued in the first half of your essay and that you can observe and write about this experiential learning in the second half of your essay. The topic should also be focused in Cuba -- a comparative analysis with the same problem from the U.S. perspective is possible, BUT the argumentation needs to prove that you understand the problem from a Cuban perspective, especially considering that you need to leave room in your essay to describe your experience in the island about this topic/issue. The proposal needs to be 3-4 pages and should include a clear thesis, 3-4 arguments to develop, what you expect to observe in Cuba about this topic/problem and a preliminary bibliography that has already been checked and is related to the topic you are researching. The proposal is worth 30 out of the 100 points of your final/research essay. You need to complete this essay in Cuba. The final version of the essay will be turn in **Saturday, June 9th**. It will be graded over 70 points. In this research essay, you need to demonstrate understanding of the topic and a high standard of analytical thinking and scholarly rigor.

OJO: Si estás tomando la clase para obtener créditos en español, necesitas escribir el Ensayo Final (y la propuesta de ensayo final) en este idioma.

Travel Journal (blog-type) = 10% You will have to produce a 5 pages / 5 entries travel journal (it can be blog-type) with summaries of your what you consider were high-lights of the trip.

Estimated Cost of Course/Program in Cuba

- Spring 2019 tuition (4 units)
- Airfare - \$400 - \$500
- Cash to take to Cuba = \$600 - \$700 (credit cards not accepted in the island)
- Lodging and meals = \$1,380*

* Includes 13 nights of accommodation in Cuban host family homes (Havana and Matanzas/ one night at a hotel in Varadero), daily breakfast, most meals (18), local transportation to excursions, admission to sites of interest, coordination and full-time professional bilingual guide.

We will travel to Cuba using the services of the licensed agency **Cuba Educational Travel**. For more information go to <http://www.cubaeducationaltravel.com>

Note on Academic Integrity: Any instances of plagiarism will be subject to the disciplinary process outlined by USC's *Student Judicial and Community Standards*. Plagiarism is not restricted to copying word by word the writings and thoughts of others. It also includes citing improperly, as well as paraphrasing ideas taken from any other source other than your own thoughts without recognizing the author of those ideas. Students should be familiar with the process outlined by USC's Student Judicial Standards, which can be access in the link below:

http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/pages/students/academic_integrity.html

Students should also consult the *Trojan Integrity: A Guide to Avoid Plagiarism*, which can be accessed in the following website:

[http://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/903/docs/Trojan_Integrity/Guide_to_Avoiding_Pl
agiarism.pdf](http://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/903/docs/Trojan_Integrity/Guide_to_Avoiding_Plagiarism.pdf)

Note on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Services and Programs, to obtain a letter of verification for approved accommodations. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in 3601 Watt Way, GFS 120 and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776. Their website is:

<http://dsp.usc.edu/contact/>

Health and Safety Information to Keep in Mind when Traveling to Cuba

Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California urges students and parents to stay informed of conditions that may affect the health and safety of USC students abroad. Traveling and living in a foreign country always present an element of risk. In a study abroad program as in other settings, students' own decisions and behaviors can have a major impact on their own health and safety. There are many resources available to help students and parents better understand risks associated with traveling and living in foreign countries as well as precautions that can be taken. To aid students and parents in their consideration of potential health and safety risks, we have put together some information and provided links to readily accessible web sites that address issues of health and safety while abroad:

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/health-and-safety/>.

Health Insurance

All USC students are required to have sufficient health and accident insurance protection during their study abroad program. All students on international special sessions will have USC coverage

while abroad. Students who have waived out of USC-provided insurance for the spring semester will be enrolled in the USC additional ACE insurance for \$92/month. There is no deductible on this plan. However, the USC insurance policies work on a reimbursement system, which means you will generally be expected to pay for your medical care and prescriptions out of pocket and then file a claim for reimbursement. When you submit a claim, you need to attach all of your receipts for payment. If your receipts are not in US dollars, you must also submit exchange rate information. If you do not have enough money to pay for service out of pocket, you can call International SOS to request guarantee of payment to the health service provider. Both types of USC health insurance include International SOS coverage. International SOS is a company that is on call to provide worldwide assistance 24 hours a day. International SOS coverage includes referrals to physicians, dentists, psychologists, clinics, and hospitals; medical evacuation; repatriation; and a range of other services. Students receive an International SOS card prior to studying overseas. Some important health-related websites: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/Health_Center/ms.travel.clinic.shtml
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

Pre-Program

IMPORTANT: Before the first day of classes, it will be ideal if you have watched the following visual materials (mostly available in Youtube and Nextflix), and have already read at least the selected chapters in the book *Havana Nocturne* (the chapter in Hemingway's novel *Islands in the Stream*, Part II, *Cuba* can wait to while we are in the island, prior to visiting *Finca Vigía*, Hemingway's house outside Havana).

DOCUMENTARIES, VIDEOS, FILMS:

- 1) Doc. series ***The Cuba Libre Story*** (2015) -- available in Netflix – 8 episodes!
- 2) Doc: ***Cuban and The Cameraman*** (2017) – available in Netflix
- 3) Video: ***Obama Speech in Havana*** (March 22, 2016), YouTube, link here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tc_INz5nPQU
- 4) Doc: *The Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro* (doc in Youtube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0952Hj4fWw&t=54s>

READINGS:

- ***Havana Nocturne*** (*Intro, Chap 2- The Mob's Playground; Chap 6- The Ghost of José Martí; Chap 7 – The Gambler's Paradise; Chap 10- Carnival of Flesh; Chapter 14- "Get the money" AND "Epilogue"*).
- ***Islands in the Streams, Part II "Cuba"*** by Ernest Hemingway can wait until we are in the island.

PROGRAM'S SCHEDULE



WEEK 1 (@ USC)

Monday, May 18:

Intro to Course

A. A Historical Speech: Obama in Havana

Reading or visual material for Group Discussion

- Discussion of speech of President Obama in historic visit to Cuba, March 22, 2016:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tc_INz5nPQU

B. Origins of a Complex Relation

Reading for Group Discussion:

- "José Martí's 'Our America'", *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 122-127

Reference readings (to help you understand the context of this part)

- "The Struggle for Independence", *The Cuba Reader*, p. 113
- "Neocolonialism", *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 143-145

Students presentations of the following readings/visual materials:

- "The Explosion of the Maine", *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 130-134
Presentation #1: _____
- "The Platt Amendment", *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 147-149
Presentation #2: _____
- "U.S. Cartoonists Portray Cuba", *The Cuba Reader* pp. 135-138
Presentation #3: _____

C. HW for next class:

(readings to be completed BEFORE following class/visual material watched):

- WATCH: "Lucy Takes a Cruise to Havana" (Youtube)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9hKGr_dwOQ

- READ: see readings assigned for following day. Give priority to complete reading of *Havana Nocturne* (Intro, Chap 2- The Mob's Playground; Chap 6- The Ghost of José Martí; Chap 7 – The Gambler's Paradise; Chap 10- Carnival of Flesh)
- WRITE: ***RESPONSE #1** – you have a choice! You can write 1 ½-2 pages double spaced about your impressions of Lucy and Ricky's episode or Havana Nocturne.

Tuesday, May 19:

Cuba's Allure and The American Gaze

A. Discussion of episode where Lucy meets Ricky

Group discussion of cultural stereotypes of Cubans and Americans represented in the comedy episode:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9hKGr_dwOQ

B. Mobsters' Paradise

Group discussion of *Havana Nocturne* (general impressions)

Students presentations of the following chapters:

- Chap 2- The Mob's Playground
Presentation #4: _____
- Chap 6- The Ghost of José Martí
Presentation #5: _____
- Chap 7 – The Gambler's Paradise
Presentation #6: _____
- Chap 10 – Carnival of Flesh
Presentation #7: _____

- **Turn in! – RESPONSE #1** – 1 ½-2 pages double spaced about either *Lucy and Ricky* OR *Havana Nocturne*

C. HW for next class:

(readings to be completed BEFORE following class/visual material watched):

- WATCH: The Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro (doc in Youtube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0952Hj4fWw&t=54s>
- READ: see readings assigned for following day.
- WRITE: ***RESPONSE #2** – you have a choice! Write 1 ½-2 pages double spaced either about your impressions of Obama speech in Havana or your opinions about Fidel Castro (taken from readings and documentaries that you watched).

Wednesday, May 20

The Cuban Revolution and Its Institutionalization

- **Turn in! – RESPONSE #2 – 1 ½-2 pages double spaced about Obama OR Castro.**

A. Brief discussion of these two readings, poem and documentary about the Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro (Youtube)

- “The Cuban Story in the New York Times”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 326-332
- “Building a New Society”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 333-335
- “And Then Fidel Arrived” (song/poem by Carlos Puebla), TCR337-339

B. Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution

Readings for class discussion:

- “History Will Absolve Me” by Fidel Castro, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 306-314
- “Castro Announces the Revolution”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 341-343

Students presentations of the following readings

- “How the Poor Got More”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 344-353
Presentation #8: _____
- “The Agrarian Revolution”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 378-385
Presentation #9: _____
- “The Literacy Campaign”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 389-394
Presentation #10: _____

C. HW for next class:

(readings to be completed BEFORE following class/visual materials watched):

- **WATCH:** *Cuban film: Memories of Underdevelopment (1968)*
Film available through the USC Library Streaming Media services, at Digitalia Hispanica (Spanish Films with English Subtitles). See this link:
<http://libguides.usc.edu/c.php?g=495053&p=3651561>

Click in “Digitalia” Film Library supplies (in red); then you need to enter your USC Student ID and Password

AND

(for a better idea of exactly what happened during the Cuban Missile Crisis):
History Channel episode about the Cuban Missile Crisis (declassified)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJbBQi02Rrs&t=2177s>

READ: Readings for following class

- **WRITE:** ***RESPONSE #3 – 1 ½-2 pages double spaced about your impressions of the film *Memories***

Thursday, May 21

On the Brink of Catastrophe

A. Discussion of film *Memories of Underdevelopment* (1968), directed by Tomás Gutiérrez Alea

Group discussion of impressions of the film

- **Turn in! – RESPONSE #3** – 1 ½-2 pages double spaced about *Memories*

B. The Cuban Missile Crisis (from various perspectives)

Group discussion of the History Channel documentary and general impressions on the readings

Students presentations of the following readings:

- “Operation Mongoose”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 540-543
Presentation #11: _____
- “Offensive Missiles on That Imprisoned Island”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp 544-546
Presentation #12: _____
- “Inconsolable Memories: A Cuban View of the Missile Crisis”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 547-551
Presentation #13: _____

C. HW for next class: (next week we will talk about the Revolution’s Disenfranchised)
(readings to be completed BEFORE following class/visual materials watched):

- WATCH: Documentary Improper Conduct / Conducta Impropia (Youtube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oATGXqa69TA>
- WATCH: Episode 2 of “Black in Latin America” (Cuba, The Next Revolution) by Henry Louis Gates, Jr (Youtube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ygms7GCXIKY&t=6s>
WATCH: Mini-documenary about race in Cuba: *Afro-Cuba Libre* (in Youtube)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_OzklSsyDo
- READ: Readings for following class
- WRITE: ***RESPONSE #4** - you have a choice! Write 1 ½-2 pages double spaced either about your impressions of Improper Conduct or documentaries about race in Cuba (you can comment both of them or pick one!)
- WRITE: ****ESSAY PROPOSAL** – you need to turn a very good outline of the ideas you will write about on your research essay, to turn in on Monday, May 20

WEEK 2 (@USC):

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day = NO CLASS!

Tuesday, May 26

The Revolution's Disenfranchised

A. Discussion of documentaries about treatment of homosexuals and blacks in post-revolutionary Cuba.

Group discussion about impressions on the documentaries watched over the weekend.

- **TURN IN ESSAY PROPOSAL!**
- **Turn in! – RESPONSE #4 – 1 ½-2 pages double spaced about Improper Conduct OR documentaries about race in Cuba.**

B. Students presentations

Students Presentations of the following readings:

- “Homosexuality, Creativity, Dissidence”, by Reinaldo Arenas
The Cuba Reader, pp. 406-411
Presentation #14: _____
- “Silence on Black Cuba”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 419-423
Presentation #15: _____
- “Post-modern Marron in the Ultimate *Palenque*”, interview with Assata Shakur, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 427-432
Presentation #16: _____

C. HW for next class:

(readings to be completed BEFORE following class/visual materials watched):

- WATCH: Film *CubAmerican* online via Kanopy. Need to log into MyUSC
<https://www.kanopy.com/product/cubamerican>
- WATCH: Film *Scarface* (1983), starring Al Pacino (the story of a Marielito)
- READ: Readings for following class
- WRITE: ***RESPONSE #5** - you have a choice! Write 1 ½-2 pages double spaced either about your impressions of CubAmerican or Scarface

Wednesday, May 27

The Cuban-American Experience

A. Discussion of film *Scarface* and documentary *CubAmerican*

Group discussion

- **Turn in! – RESPONSE #5 – 1 ½-2 pages double spaced about Scarface OR CubAmerican**

B. Students Presentations:

- “From Welcomed Exiles to Illegal Immigrants”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 561-565
Presentation #17: _____
- “City on the Edge”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 581-587
Presentation #18: _____
- Short-story: “We Came All the Way from Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 569-580
Presentation #19 and #20 (by two students) _____ &
_____.

C. HW for next class:

(readings to be completed BEFORE following class/visual materials watched):

- WATCH: doc. “*Patria o Muerte (Cuba)/ Fatherland or Death*” (2016) on Youtube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPOUdbBUNpM>
- READ: Readings for following class
- WRITE: ***RESPONSE #6** - Write 1 ½-2 pages double spaced about your impressions of doc. *Fatherland or Death*.

Thursday, May 28

The Special Period – that doesn’t end!

A. Discussion of doc. *Fatherland or Death*

Group discussion

- **Turn in! – RESPONSE #6 – 1 ½-2 pages double spaced about *Fatherland or Death*.**

B. Students Presentations

Readings for group discussion:

- “The Special Period and the Future of the Revolution”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 595-597
- “From Communist Solidarity to Communist Solitary”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 607-622
-

Student Presentations:

- “Cuban Medical Diplomacy”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 590-594
Presentation #21: _____
- “Colonizing the Cuban Body”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp.628-634
Presentation (Make Up): _____

C. HW for next class:

- WATCH: Doc. “Cuba and the Cameraman” (2017)

- WORK ON MIDTERM – you will have to turn it the summary in next class!
(Thursday, May 23)
- **NEXT CLASS: FROM 10:30am-11:30am** we will meet at Doheny Library, 2nd Floor, Special Collections.

Friday, May 29

Cuba Now

- **Group discussion about documentary**
Cuba and the Cameraman

At 10:30 - we will go to Doheny Library, 2nd Floor, Special Collections.

(from 10:30-11:30)- from there, at 11:40 we need to be at the debate classroom (right beside Prof. Oliveira's class).

A. Midterm Debate

- **Debate between two groups**
- The 1959 Revolution was positive for Cuba
- The 1959 Revolution was negative for Cuba

B. Some conclusive comments/observations

- **Turn in – MIDTERM debate summary (2 pages!)**

PREPARE FOR CUBA TRIP!!!



** MAKE SURE YOU TAKE THE READINGS MENTIONED IN THE PROGRAM TO CUBA!!
 *** This program in Cuba is subject to change. Any change will be announced as we go.

Week 3 (@ HAV) In CUBA / HAVANA***

Monday

Arrival to Havana/ Welcome Reception

June 1

Evening

Arrival in Havana (via Copa Airline) / CET's bus pick up at airport
 Transfer to houses

4:30 pm

Check-in at casas particulares

8:00 pm

Welcome dinner at Paladar Atelier
 Calle 5ta, No. 511 altos, entre Paseo y 2, Vedado

(D) = Welcome dinner covered by the program

READ** (for following day excursion to Old Havana)

"Paris of the Antilles", chapter in book *The History of Havana* by Dick Cluster and Rafael Hernández (available in PDF in Blackboard)

Tuesday

Walking the Old City and Visit to the Museum of the Revolution

June 2

9:30 am

Walking tour of the Old City (Old Havana / La Habana Vieja). We will wander through *the Plazas de Armas*, a scenic tree-lined plaza, formerly the colonial center of influence in Cuba. It is surrounded by many of the most historic structures in Havana, as well as important monuments. You will also see the *Plaza de San Francisco*, a cobbled plaza surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century, dominated by the baroque Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco, dating from 1719. We will visit the Plaza Vieja, surrounded by sumptuous houses of the Havana aristocracy from the 18th and 19th centuries. Lastly, we will visit the *Plaza de la Catedral*, where Havana's cathedral is located: La Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Habana (whole name of Cuba's capital)

***have questions ready for guide and/or instructor according to your reading of "Paris of the Antilles".**

- 11:45 am Visit to the Museum of the Revolution which holds hundreds of artifacts from pre- and post-revolutionary times and highlights the tense relationship between the U.S. and Cuba.
- 12:30 pm **Lunch at La Makina Gastro Bar**, located near the Museum of the Revolution and the Museum of Fine Arts in the heart of Old Havana, it is known for the exquisite cuisine dishes and a charming ambiance. Peña Pobre 114 entre Misiones y Habana, Habana Vieja.
- Afternoon Explore on your own and take part in academic activities, such as speaking with Cuban people about daily life, economics, bilateral relations with the U.S., culture and other themes.

Rest of the evening is free (you can opt to stay in Havana Vieja and explore more the old city, talk to Cuban people, visit art galleries, etc.). Make sure to be at your casa early enough for dinner!)

7:00 pm Group dinner at **Casa Lily** – Calle 21 no. 554 entre C y D

(B, L, D) = breakfast, lunch and dinner covered by the program.

READ** (for following-day visit to Callejón de Hamel)

“A Conversation on Santería and Palo Monte”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 498-504 (available in PDF in Blackboard).

Wednesday **Encounter with Cuban and Afro-Cuban Art (Callejón de Hamel)**

June 3

- 9:30 am Presentation by Collin Laverty. Laverty is the President of *Cuba Educational Travel (CET)*, the agency that helps us prepare our program in Cuba. He will talk about the importance of academic and educational travel to Cuba and will also share his experiences of doing business in Cuba.
- 11:00 am Visit to the Museum of Cuban Art. We will be accompanied by art historian Nelson Herrera, who will provide an overview of Cuban art and artists over the last 4 centuries.
- 1:00 pm Lunch at Doña Eutimia Paldar. Callejón del Chorro #60-C. Plaza de la Catedral.
- 2:30 pm Visit to some of best art galleries of Old Havana, including the Wilfredo Lam Art Center, Fototeca de Cuba and Factoría Habana.

4:00 pm Visit Callejón de Hamel – AfroCuban Art.

***have questions ready for guide and/or instructor according to your reading of “Conversation on *Santería* and *Palo Monte*”.**

6:00 pm Group meeting at AltaMira lobby room.
to discuss reading “Conversation on Santería and Palo Monte” and reflect on the experiences of the last two days.

Evening free – dinner on your own!

(B, L)

READ** (for following-day presentation of “La Reina y la Real”)
“Hip Hop Pushes the Limit” by Analisse Wunderlich (available in PDF in Blackboard)

Thursday **Discussion about health care in Cuba**
June 4

10:00am Tour of Hotel Nacional.

10:30 am Discussion with Dr. Marcelino Feal, Professor of General Surgery
The University Hospital Calixto García. Dr. Feal will provide an
Overview of the Cuban health care system, followed by a
discussion @ Hotel Nacional. Conference room “Sala Santi
Spiritus”

12:00 pm Lunch at Hotel Nacional

Free time

5:30 Private performance by La Reina y La Real (Luyanó)

7:30 pm Dinner at Bone’ma. Calle 21 entre L y M

Night-time suggestion: Hang out with the young and hip at **Bar EFE**, a bohemian place
That matches the world of music with visual arts. Type of music: DJ, pop, Cuban music
Calle 23 #605 e/ E & F, Vedado

(B, L, D)

READ** (for following day discussion with Raúl Rodríguez, Director of Center of Studies
of the United States at the University of Havana)
The United States and Cuba. Chap1 “Historical Roots of the Cuban-US Conflict”
(available in PDF in Blackboard)

READ** (for following day visit to Finca Vigía)
Part II, Cuba of Hemingway's novel *Islands in the Stream*

Friday
June 5

Cuba-USA Relations Talk and Hemingway Tour

- 9:30 am Discussion with Raúl Rodríguez, director of Center for the Studies of the United States at the University of Havana. Prof. Rodríguez will talk about the historical and present state of bilateral relations between US and Cuba (from a Cuban point of view!) At Altamira Building (lobby room). Altamira building is located right across Hotel Nacional. Calle O e/ 19 & 21
- 11:30 am Visit to the picturesque fishing village of Cojimar. Hemingway loved this little town and he kept his boat, Pilar, in the harbor of Cojimar. He also used the village setting for his story *The Old Man and the Sea*, which won him the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1953) and the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.
- 12:00 pm Lunch at Café Ajiaco, a nice paladar in Cojimar.
- 2:00 pm Visit to Finca Vigía, Hemingway's home in Cuba. Still houses his expansive collection of books. It was here where he wrote two of his most celebrated novels: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*.
- 4:00 pm Quick visit to Bar El Floridita Obispo Street
- 5:30pm Group meeting at Bar Cabana (Habana Vieja) to **discuss Part II of Hemingway's novel** and reflect on the experiences of the last two days.

Rest of the evening is free – dinner on your own
(B, L)

Saturday
June 6

Visit to Matanzas and Varadero

- 8:30 am Depart for Matanzas, referred as "the Athens of Cuba". Between 1817 and 1827, after the introduction of large sugar mills, the region flourished and attracted a large number of artists, writers, musicians, and intellectuals.

10:30 am Walking tour of the historic center of Matanzas and visit to art gallery.

12:00 pm Boxed lunch in the bus and depart for Varadero beach

Spend afternoon in Varadero. Enjoy a boxed lunch on the beach.

6:00 pm Return to Havana, so you can enjoy the night-life in the city

9:00 pm Group dinner at Casa Lily

(B, L, D)

Night-time free: suggestions will be given on the way to Havana

Sunday
June 7

Day Free
For Independent Study

- **Work on Response # 7.** Impressions of Havana: conditions and daily life of the city.
- Work on completing your Essay

Lunch and dinner on your own!

(B)

READ** (regardless if you go or not to the “Night-time suggestion below)
“Afrocubanismo and Son”, *The Cuba Reader*, pp. 192-200 (available in PDF in Blackboard)

READ** (for following-day encounter with Cuban entrepreneurs)
“Open for Business: Building the New Cuban Economy” (available in PDF in Blackboard)

Night-time suggestion: Head out for live music at El Sauce, an open-air club in Miramar neighborhood. Enjoy a performance by renowned artist Frank Delgado, a leader in the *nueva trova* movement. (from 5pm – 11pm – not included)

Monday
June 8

Encounter with Cuban entrepreneurs

Morning free -- explore on your own

1:00 pm Lunch with entrepreneurs Yamina Vicente and Liber Puente at *La Catedral Restaurant*. (Calle 8 entre Calzada y 5ta, Vedado).
Discussion about private business in Cuba.

- 3:00 pm Visit to *Donde Dorian*, Havana's most famous barber. We will have the opportunity to talk to him about intersections of social media, cultural trends and his work as a barber. You will have the opportunity to get haircuts (only! / for hair styles, you will need a future appointment!)
- 4:30 pm Visit *Barrio Habana* a nonprofit organization that leads community sports-arts programs in Old Havana for children, at-risk youth and elderly people.
- 7:00 pm Dinner at Casa Lily
(B, L, D) Night-time free, BUT prepare for trip to Viñales, Pinar del Río following day!

Tuesday
June 9

The Cuban countryside: visit to Viñales, Pinar del Río

- 9 am Depart for Viñales. Considered one of the most beautiful places in Cuba, the Viñales Valley National Monument holds stunning landscapes.
- 10am Spend morning volunteering at Tungasuk Farm, 15 miles to the west of Havana in Artemisa. Work side by side with local workers, tasks may include harvest, weeding and/or pruning, among others. Enjoy a "farm to table" meal at the farm.
- 1pm Continue to Viñales
- 3pm Check-in in casas particulares in Viñales
- 4:30 pm Orientation meeting with local coordinator about Viñales, the casas particulares, local paladares and other interesting topics.
- 5 pm Tour of Viñales

Evening free – dinner on your own.

(B, L)

Suggested reading (after meeting):

"A World Destroyed", *The Cuba Reader* pp. 20-25 (available in PDF in Blackboard)
Night-time free -- **Work on Response #8** (Impression on Viñales) and Final Essay!

Wednesday

At Viñales

June 10

9:30 am Visit La Cueva del Indio and enjoy a boat ride through inner river.

10:30 am Guided stroll through the valley. The Viñales Valley is a National Monument and an UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is encircled by mountains and its landscape is interspersed with spectacular dome-shaped limestone outcrops (mogotes). Traditional techniques are still in use for agricultural production, particularly tobacco, which makes Viñales famous for being the premier tobacco growing area in the world.

Visit to a world-renowned tobacco farm for an explanation of this important cultural and economic crop.

12:30 pm Lunch at private farm of Concha and Paco Hernandez Family. The descendants of Concha and Paco have farmed the same plot of land for many generations and their land is involved in the production of multitude of fruits, vegetables, grain and tobacco. Members of the family will give us a tour of this beautiful 40-acre farm before bringing us back to the farmhouse.

Afternoon Explore on your own and take part in activities to support the locals.

Evening free -- Ask your guide for dinner suggestions.

(B, L)

Night-time free: work on your Final Essay and Journal!

Thursday

Return to Havana / Visit to Fusterlandia

June 11

9:30 am Check-out casas

10am Stop at Mural de la Prehistoria

12:30 pm Lunch at El Aljibe, a government-run restaurant famous for its black beans, baked chicken and large family style portions.

2 pm Visit to the home and studio of plastic artist Fuster, who has converted his neighborhood into an art project featuring murals, plastic art and other designs.

4:30 pm Check-in at casas in Havana (same ones!)

7:00 pm Group dinner at Casa Lily

Wait for night-time suggestions on what to do this Thursday night

(B, L, D)

Friday
June 12

Playas del Este

10 am Head to Playas del Este (eastern beaches), where habaneros escape the city heat. Lunch included at Mi Casita de Coral

*Take advantage of this visit to the beach to complete your Essay and Travel Journal. You need to turn both in on Saturday.

Evening free – dinner on your own

(B, L)

Saturday
June 13

Farewell to Cuba

11 am Visit the arts and crafts market in Old Havana.

12:30 pm Lunch at Centro Asturiano. Italian restaurant Xana.

Afternoon Explore on your own and take part in cultural/academic activities

5pm Meeting at Hotel Nacional Patio to turn in essay, responses and travel journal / Conclusions and Evals Prof. Gomez will give you an internet card for you to complete the Course Learning Outcomes.

6 pm Reception at Altamira Art Loft. A few years ago, Edel Bordón and his family embarked on a journey to establish an art collective in their apartment building. Spearheaded by his wife Yamilé Pardo, the family created the AltaMira art space, which features an exhibition and workspace off the main lobby, collaborations with neighbors who rent rooms, and their penthouse apartment, where they receive guests and artists from all over the world.

8 pm Farewell dinner at Río Mar, located in the luxurious Miramar

neighborhood, this restaurant's terrace overlooks at where the main river in Havana, el rio Almendares flows into the sea.

(B, L, D)

- Final Essay and Journal due (to be turn in as Blue Books or to be airdropped as word docs)

Sunday
June 14

Day of Departure / Return to U.S.

AM

Be ready EARLY to check out of your casas and depart to airport

AM/PM?

Depart Havana

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY!!

Always contact your instructor first! You will be provided a local number for the instructor and/or the guide while we are in Cuba.

You can also call ISOS (you will receive a membership card/covered by insurance).

ISOS Phone Number: (215) 942-8226 (first you need to dial 119 + 1 + US number).

USC Emergencies: (213) 740-4321

Wendy Pendersen (USC Coordinator of Global Programs) = (213) 364-060

About Cuba: What to Expect / What to do

Cuba is a very safe place in many ways and the Cubans are very friendly, but this doesn't mean that you might not be exposed to some form of crime (the most common being the theft of personal belongings, often by pickpockets and/or if you leave your belongings unattended or are scammed when changing currency). Make sure that you take all possible precautions in regard to all these safety issues.

- Make several copies of your passport (of all pages!) and also scan the information of the main pages and send it to your email, so you will have a copy always available. Keep the copies in separate places, and leave a copy with your parents at home. Also, provide to the program director with a copy, since this will facilitate replacement if your passport is lost or stolen.
- Make copies of your Cuban Visa and make sure to keep the original inside your passport at all times, since it will be required that you show it when entering to and departing from the island.
- In Cuba, always drink purified water/bottled water. Cuban people drink from the sink (many boil their water first), but since in the island they use other chemicals to clean the water, it will be safer for you to drink just bottled water.

- Bring sunscreen and probably a hat and shades to protect you from the sun. Keep in mind that May/June are summer months in Cuba and it can get really hot and humid. It might also rain, hence you need to bring an umbrella or raincoat. Also bring mosquito repellent, especially for Viñales.
- Take a small first aid kit and over-the-counter medications for colds, antibiotic ointment, stomach upset/diarrhea, Band-Aids, analgesics, etc.
- Bring toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, face wash, razors, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, perfume, etc.) –since purchasing these items in the island can be expensive (or you may not find what you want).
- If you have a medical condition that requires you to take specific medicines, bring them to Cuba (with your prescription also). Take enough supplies to cover the whole period of the time you are going to be in Cuba. If you need a specific medicine, it probably will not be found in Cuba (at least not the same brand).
- If you are really attached to some kind of food, take it with you to Cuba (maybe protein bars, cereal, chocolate, etc.). Just remember it has to be sealed and nonperishable.

Using cellphones and Wifi in Cuba is not impossible, but it's not cheap. Some American cellphones companies like Verizon and Sprint now offer roaming services for their customers traveling to the island, but the price per minute and megabyte is expensive. It is possible to have access to Wifi, but most of the time you have to buy a card at hotels or ETECA (Cuban Telephone and Communication stands) with a pin to have access to it.

Cuba currently operates two currencies: the convertible peso (CUC –also called “chavitos”), that is pegged to the dollar --and is the currency used by tourists--, and the “peso cubano” (CUP), used mostly by the locals. ***Be sure to change your money into CUC, because “peso cubano” will not give you any buying capacity. Always try to change your money in a CADECA (“CASA DE CAMBIO”), not on the street – where you can be subject to a scam.

Basic Safety Rules

Remember that in the country you are visiting you are a guest, thus always behave with this fact in mind. Be aware that all student conduct policies listed in SCampus apply while you are overseas. This includes the University's policies on alcohol and drug use, as well as sexual misconduct.

<https://policy.usc.edu/student/scampus/>

Recognize that the rules and recommendations given by your overseas program are in existence for good reason, and are often based on real-life experience. Be aware that being “foreign” does not excuse you from knowing and obeying the laws of your host country.

Make sure the director of the program, who is assigned the responsibility for your welfare, always knows where you are and how to contact you in an emergency. Give her your flight itinerary and other schedules if you are traveling to the island by yourself.

If you decide to go out by yourself, always let classmates know and, if possible, also inform your instructor. Try to take group mates as much as possible. Avoid impairing your judgment through excessive consumption of alcohol. Remember that, at all times, you are representing this program, USC and USA!