

# Summer Study Abroad in Cuba

Rutgers-Newark in Cuba: Cuba in Translation



## About the Trip

- 4-6 credits
- Trip includes visits to museums, historic sites, visits to Santiago, Matanzas, Baracoa
- "Spanish for Graduate Research"; optional independent study or advisement by Cuban faculty for students with language proficiency; and a graduate seminar taught in English by Rutgers Faculty Member Dr. Laura Lomas.
- Meet with Cuban experts, activists and specialists (with translation provided where necessary).
- Lectures and tours by representatives of Cuban organizations and institutions including Casa del Caribe, Universidad de Oriente, Casa de las Américas, Union of Writers and Artists (UNEAC), Instituto de Literatura y Lingüística, Center for Martí Studies, hip hop activists, anti-racist activists, and artists



## Information

- Dates: July 3, 2016- August 3, 2016
- Application Deadline: February 15, 2016.
- Price: TBD; Limited financial aid & one Antonio Maceo Scholarship for a Latin@ student with demonstrated financial need available.
- Contact: [llomas@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:llomas@andromeda.rutgers.edu) for application details



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: 3 credit Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar and 3 credit language instruction or independent research (for those with high proficiency in Spanish).

Program preapproved for Master's and Advanced Undergraduates (by permission of Director) in English, American Studies, Spanish, History, Political Science, Global Affairs, African-American Studies. Credits are available in these departments and others, pending confirmation of your advisor

As Cuban society post-December 17, 2014, transforms in the wake of reestablished U.S.-Cuban relations, Rutgers Newark graduate and advanced undergraduates are invited to participate in a month-long interdisciplinary study-abroad program in Cuba. This four-to-six-credit program will study U.S.-Cuban cultural and political interactions from the 19th century to the present, with special attention to the current revision of U.S.-Cuban relations taking place in 2015. Through a graduate seminar (conducted in English), students will consider: How have the U.S. and Cuba--and in particular cultural and social movements that have straddled the two countries--interacted across a divide marked by asymmetrical power relations and radically divergent politics?

Through two weekly seminar meetings and site visits and guest lectures, students will conduct original research and prepare in consultation with the instructor a final essay of 15-20 pages or an optional final project in the form of an audio, photographic or audiovisual documentary, blog, or website. Students will become familiar with Cuban history and politics through readings and analysis of representative literary, cultural and political artifacts that reveal the longstanding interactions and mistranslations between U.S. and Cuban governments, but also the solidarity and influence across a U.S.-Cuban border through social and cultural movements and migratory flows. In addition to weekly readings and discussion, the seminar will introduce students to Cuban history, politics, literature and art through site visits, meetings with academic experts, political leaders, and activists; and through visits to museums, neighborhoods, and historic sites. Our seminar will be broken into units focused on key instance of contact between the U.S. and Cuba, with a special focus on writings of the African diaspora on the island and in the U.S.

Post-1959 Cuban culture has long acted as a privileged conduit for articulating critical and revolutionary perspectives from the margins of the "official" political structures. Thus, by attending plays, watching Cuban cinema, learning Afro-Cuban dance forms, visiting historic sites, participating in artistic workshops, encountering Afro-Cuban religiosities, interacting with Cubans through guided academic research, and attending a major Caribbean festival in Santiago de Cuba, and visiting Matanzas and Regla, students will have a unique opportunity to assess and critically reflect on the current political transformation in Cuba and the United States. As students consider this unfolding rapprochement between the US and Cuba, we will also develop a practice of critical reflection on our own act of encountering Cuba in translation and during this phase of negotiation and reconciliation. An optional additional three credits will be available for Independent Study or work with a Cuban faculty member (for an additional fee).