

# Cuba Mini-Mosaic: January 2016

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Optional Trip to Cuba during January 2016 if enrolled in:  
**SPAN 360 or SPAN 380/LALC 300-01/FLST 310-04 Fall 2015**



Background: The contemporary Cuban moment is one of changing socioeconomic policies, international relations, and expressions of collective identity. This mini-mosaic explores the role of written and audiovisual cultural productions in these changes. We will explore the multiple interactions between the state, individuals, nations, and communities that go into producing and circulating cultural works. We will examine how artists participate in and imagine the continually constructed public sphere.

Sustainability, broadly conceived, will be another important component. We will explore *cultural sustainability* (the ways in which Cubans maintain their dynamic culture even as they adapt to new technologies, economic policies, and transnational politics); and *economic sustainability* (how the state, employers, and workers negotiate economic costs and benefits related to creative productivity and labor).

During our time in La Habana, we will stay at the Martin Luther King Center. We will visit several key locations, such as the International School for Cinema and Television in San Antonio de los Baños; UNEAC (Unión de Escritores y Artistas Cubanos); Centro Cultural Pablo Torriente Bau; and La Universidad de Habana, among other sites. Students will meet first hand with writers, translators, directors, scholars and artists.

Research teams will explore these dynamic interactions, with a focus on literature and audiovisual art. Through interviews, archival research, and collaborative translation projects, we will begin to trace how various cultural projects are imagined, funded, promoted, and remembered; the contexts and conditions of artistic production and reception; the life experiences of writers, directors, and artists; and community building. Debates over social policy, national belonging, and the politics of representation will inform our discussions.

### **Participating Fall 2015 Courses**

(Note: You must be enrolled in one of these two courses to be eligible for the Cuba trip)

#### **SPAN 360**

This course offers an introduction to translation as a professional discipline. For the Fall, 2015 semester emphasis will be on translation (Spanish to English) of literary texts by contemporary Cuban writers. We will study and translate essays, short stories, and poems. Students will learn how translation advances their knowledge of both English and Spanish and how it makes them more perceptive readers as well as more critical observers of the cultural presuppositions that inform all texts. Attention will also be given to some of the major theoretical issues that have vexed translators historically. Prereq: Spanish 305 and one other 300 level course, or permission of the instructor.

#### **SPAN 380/LALC 300-01/FLST 310-04 Cubanía and Cuban Cinema**

This course, taught in Spanish, investigates the role of Cuban cinema in visualizing the nation, Cubanness, and cultural belonging. We will explore how film and documentary media shape national subjectivities in their presentation of history, culture, gender, sexuality, and politics. We will further our inquiry through readings, both in English and Spanish, from books and scholarly articles. Students should expect to invest a significant amount of time on film viewings outside of class, assigned readings, and multiple writing assignments as they sharpen their ability to analyze film content and technique. SPAN 305 prereq.

#### **Tentative Dates for the research trip to Cuba: Jan. 5th-17th**

There will be a program fee. An info session will be held in March 2015 after Spring Break with applications due by April 6th, 2015.

For more information contact one of the faculty, the Community Studies Center (rose@dickinson.edu), or the Office of Global Education and Engagement.