

Winter Term 2020
Stony Brook University
Department of Sustainability Studies
SoMAS
EHM 316: Course Cuba and Sustainability
Course Instructor: David Taylor

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

For a number of reasons, Cuba represents a wonderful case study for the value of using the natural history, arts, media and cultural traditions as a means of encouraging citizens to adopt environmentally sustainable practices. Since the 1990s, Cuba has been in the unique situation of being forced to address sustainable agricultural and environmental practices. Given the pressure to increase tourism to keep money flowing into Cuba, the need to reform industrial farming practices, and the need to address failing infrastructure after the end of Soviet assistance (called the Special Period), Cuba has made a number of dramatic decisions to move toward sustainability. As governments around the world have found, laws and incentives may do a lot to encourage changes in daily choices toward sustainability, long-term change must use existing arts to make sustainability a part of culture. Working with the La Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez, as well as Artes Escenicas Cubanas (Performing Arts organization) and UNEAC Cuban writers about the environment, the class will explore the complexities of sustainability with an emphasis on the role of humanities in a global context with hands-on experience.

Daily Journals: Writing in the journals will be directed prompts and responses to the lectures and presentations from Cuban scholars and artists. The prompts will encourage students to draw from the class readings, reflections on the discussions, and then to add to these their reflections on their experience of Cuba with an emphasis on questions of sustainability. The instructor expects these journals to be substantive resources (approximately 7-8,000 words).

Quizzes: Quizzes will ensure students have completed the readings prior to the assigned day and listened adequately to the lectures and discussions from Cuban scholars and artists.

Analytic Paper: Since the first two weeks of the semester will be spent in Cuba, this paper will be due as part of the finals for Winter Term. During the last week of the trip, students will have individual consultations with the instructor to develop a paper topic from their readings, notes, and experiences during the trip. Additional research and writing will take place upon return to the US; students will then complete and submit their papers at the term's end. The paper will require substantive research and cultural awareness. The paper must be 2500-3000 words and include 10-15 secondary sources. It should be MLA format, 12 point font, double space, and 1" margins.

Grade Distribution:

Journals: 30%

Quizzes: 10%

Analytic Paper: 50%

GRADING:

Grading Scale:

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

Readings List:

Cepero, Eudel Eduardo. “Environmental Concerns for a Cuba Transition.” *Cuba Transition Project*. Miami: Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, 2004. 37 pp.

Clouse, Carey. *Farming Cuba: Urban Agriculture from the Ground Up*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2014.

Díaz-Briquets, Sergio, and Jorge Pérez-López. *Conquering Nature: The Environmental Legacy of Socialism in Cuba*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000.

Monzote, Reinaldo Funes. *From Rainforest to Cane Field in Cuba: An Environmental History since 1492*.

Perez, Louis. *On Becoming Cuban: Identity, Nationality, and Culture* (H. Eugene and Lillian Youngs Lehman Series). Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2008.

Rosset, Peter and Benjamin Medea, eds. *The Greening of the Revolution: Cuba's Experiment with Organic Agriculture*. North Melbourne: Ocean Press, 1995.

Silva Lee, Alfonso. *Natural Cuba/Cuba Natural*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2008.

Stricker, Pamela. *Toward a Culture of Nature: Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development in Cuba*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2007.

Taylor, David, Slovic, Scott, and Fernandez, Armando, eds. *Island in the Stream: Ecocritical and Literary Responses to Cuban Environmental Culture*. Lexington Press, 2019.

Schedule:

Schedule for Cuba Study Abroad Class January 2020

Wednesday, January 8

- Travel: JFK to Havana
- Bus to housing in Havana
- Evening Discussion: Getting around Havana

Thursday, January 9 FANJ with Roberto Perez

9:30 am -- noon: -Institutional presentation and guided tour to FANJ

- Lunch
- 1:30 pm-3 pm: Cuban Environment and challenges both by Roberto Perez
- Visit to monte barreto park (possible)

Friday, Jan. 10

- 10.00 am – noon:
- - History and evolution of Cuban agriculture, a historical perspective. By Roberto perez
- Lunch
- 1:30-4 pm: Havanatur choices for tour of Havana

Saturday, Jan. 11

- Travel to Parque Nacional Cienaga de Zapata with geographer/guide Reynaldo
- Check in at casas en Playa Larga
- **Jimenez Foundation guide's decision** about activities:
 - Significance of the Ciénaga in the Island's Ecology

Sunday, Jan. 12 with reynaldo

- Travel within Parque Cienaga de Zapata
- **Activities Decided by Foundation**

Monday, Jan. 13

- Return to Havana
- 2 pm – 5 pm Artes Escenicas: Meeting with Karina Pino Gallardo and a theatre group (**David will arrange this event**)

Tuesday, Jan. 14

- 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Lectures on: **Activities Decided by Foundation**
- Cuban Population and the challenge of sustainability by Roberto Perez.
- *Cuban Hydrology and Use of Hydrology Resources* by Yociel Marrero
- lunch
- 1:30 pm-5 pm Havanatur choices

Wednesday, Jan. 15 with FANJ guide Roberto perez

- Visit to urban agricultural places (organoponicos alamar and urban farm) in Havana del Este
- Lunch in Cojimar??

- Continuation of the visit to traditional farm in Berroa

Thursday, Jan. 16

- Morning possible meeting with FANJ and SBU faculty about future collaboration and possible signing of MOU,
- lunch
- 2-5 pm: Possible meeting with Norberto Codina and Armando Fernandez at UNEAC

Friday, Jan. 17

- Travel to the West (Occidente) **with FANJ representative Roberto perez**
- Visit to Finca Martha of fernando funes monzote
- Lunch (in finca Martha or las terrazas)
- Visit to Las Terrazas bioreserve
- Continue trip to Pinar del rio city and checking in hotel Vueltabajo

Saturday, Jan. 18 with **Roberto perez**

- Visit to Viñales to discuss about eco- tourism
- Lunch in Vinhales
- Visit to the school of speleology and the town of moncada.
- Visit to town of Puerto Esperanza.
- Return to Havana and our casas

Sunday, Jan. 19

- Visit to Rio Alemendares watershed **with FANJ representative Yociel Marrero** (he was in the trip to NYC)

Monday, Jan. 20

- Possible conference organized with Armando

Tuesday, Jan. 21

- Possible Conference organized with Armando

Wednesday, Jan. 22

- Return trip to JFK Airport