Cuba Seminar

March 7 to 20, 2016

“I can truly say I have been to Cuba. Thanks to Stanford—I feel I know the country, its history, geography and above all its people and culture. Perfectly thought through and executed!”

—Geeta Gopalan, Cuba Seminar, 2014
Since Cuba’s doors have opened slightly for Americans, it has become the latest “must visit” country. It is indeed a remarkable destination with friendly people, a fascinating history and a vibrant culture reflected in the food, music and art that make up daily life there. As part of the government arrangement for travel of U.S. citizens to Cuba, Stanford Travel/Study programs to Cuba are under the U.S. Treasury Department’s People to People license that promotes personal interaction between Americans and Cubans. You’ll meet and talk with local people, learning firsthand about their way of life, their challenges and successes, their hopes and dreams, and their desire to learn about us. It’s an extraordinary opportunity to discover a nearby neighbor that now, after half a century, is accessible once again. Join us!
Faculty Leader

HÉCTOR HOYOS is an assistant professor of Latin American literature and culture at Stanford University. He was born in Bogotá, Colombia, where he received undergraduate degrees from the Universidad de los Andes before coming to the U.S. to earn his MA and PhD in romance studies at Cornell University. Professor Hoyos’ research areas include visual culture and critical theory, as well as comparative and philosophical approaches to literature. Professor Hoyos co-chairs MATERIA, an on-campus exchange regarding Latin Americanist and comparative post-anthropocentrisms. His work has appeared in several venues, among them Comparative Literature Studies, Revista de Estudios Hispánicos, Chasqui and Revista Iberoamericana. His book, Beyond Bolaño: The Global Latin American Novel (Columbia University Press, 2015) is the first monographic, theoretical study of Latin American novelistic representations of globalization of its kind.

• Assistant professor, Latin American literature and culture, Stanford University, since 2008
• Chair, Cultural Synchronization and Disjuncture, a multidisciplinary forum for contemporary cultural theory at the crossroads of Latin Americanism and comparatism, 2009–2012
• Faculty in residence, Bing Overseas Studies Program, Stanford Campus, Santiago de Chile, 2011
• Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, 2012–2013
• Research fellow, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Berlin, 2015
• Delegate Assembly Representative, the Division Executive Committee on 20th-century Latin American Literature, Modern Language Association
• BA (magna cum laude), literature, 2001, and BA (cum laude), philosophy, 2002, Universidad de los Andes
• MA, 2006, and PhD, 2008, romance studies, Cornell University

“Professor Hoyos is superb and his enthusiasm is infectious. Hector’s knowledge of the subject is inspiring, approaching the subject from intriguing perspectives.”

—Linda Holmes, Impressions of Argentina, 2013
Itinerary

Please note: This program falls under the general license requirements for educational travel as laid out by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control on January 16, 2015. In addition, this itinerary includes only the tourist sites we will be visiting; guest speakers and special events are also planned but will likely not be confirmed until shortly before we depart for Cuba. Our intent with this program is to give travelers a well-rounded introduction to Cuba, ranging from tourist highlights to interactions with local people.

Monday, March 7
HOME / MIAMI, FLORIDA, U.S.
Arrive in Miami independently and check in to our hotel. Join fellow travelers for an orientation this evening.
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL MIAMI AIRPORT

Tuesday, March 8
MIAMI / HAVANA, CUBA
Transfer to the Miami Airport for our one-hour flight to Havana. Check in to our hotel, ideally located in central Havana. Enjoy a welcome reception and dinner this evening at one of Havana’s best paladares (private restaurants).
HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L,D)

Wednesday, March 9
HAVANA
Embark on a morning walking tour led by a local architect that includes such architectural gems as the Bacardi Building, erected in 1930 and one of Cuba’s most impressive examples of art deco architecture. After lunch enjoy a guided tour of the Museum of Cuban Art with a local art curator. Later, attend an interactive talk on the evolution of Cuban music by a local professor.
HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L,D)

Thursday, March 10
HAVANA
This morning visit the United States Embassy, which was re-established in Havana on July 20, 2015, after being closed for more than 54 years. Visit the historic Hotel Nacional where we stop for lunch. This afternoon, go to Parque Trillo and the home of a priest in the company of a local guide who teaches us about the role of African religion and culture in Cuba. Enjoy dinner at a paladar.
HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L,D)

Friday, March 11
HAVANA
Today attend a private flamenco performance and talk to the group’s director and members afterwards. Next explore Havana’s strong artistic heritage at the tree-lined Plaza de Armas and learn about the Plaza’s colonial and pre-revolutionary architecture with a walk down Calle Obispo to marvel at the 16th-century Castillo de los Capitanes Generales, now the Museo de la Ciudad. With a local artist as our guide, visit the Taller de Grafica Experimental, Havana’s printmaking and lithographic workshop, and meet the artists working there. Our final stop today is Havana’s oldest square, the 16th-century Plaza Vieja.
HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L)

Saturday, March 12
HAVANA / BAY OF PIGS / CIENFUEGOS / TRINIDAD
Depart this morning for Cienfuegos by way of the infamous Bay of Pigs where we visit the Playa Giron Museum with its displays of artifacts from the failed U.S.-based invasion of Cuba. Our special guest today in Cienfuegos is a local architect and conservationist who joins us on a walk through the neoclassical town’s main square, Paseo del Prado, and a visit to the Terry Thomas Theater. This afternoon, we continue to Trinidad.
HOTEL ANCON or similar (B,L,D)
Sunday, March 13

TRINIDAD
Today we explore the Valley of the Sugar Mills, the most important sugar-producing region during colonial times and now a UNESCO Cultural Heritage site. Also tour several museums and the studio of local artist Yami Martinez. Dinner this evening is at a nearby paladar. HOTEL ANCON or similar (B,L,D)

Monday, March 14

TRINIDAD / CIENFUEGOS / SANTIAGO DE CUBA
This morning fly from Cienfuegos to Santiago de Cuba. Our tour today takes us from the Avenida de los Libertadores to Revolution Square and on to San Juan Hill, site of the final battle of the Spanish-American War, a battle made famous by Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders. Later, visit the Taller Cultural Luis Guías Oduardo, a center for artists and writers. Dinner tonight includes a private performance by an African-Cuban-Caribbean dance company. HOTEL MELIA SANTIAGO (B,L,D)

Tuesday, March 15

SANTIAGO DE CUBA
Our day begins with a visit to the city’s historic center, where local experts teach us about the preservation and conservation of the city’s patrimony. After lunch at El Morro Restaurant, visit the 17th-century El Morro Fortress, which has served both as a fortress and a prison. Dine this evening at a paladar. HOTEL MELIA SANTIAGO (B,L,D)

Wednesday, March 16

SANTIAGO DE CUBA / BARACOA
Travel by motorcoach (approximately five hours) to the town of Baracoa at the northeastern end of the island of Cuba. Visit the Finca Duaba, where we learn from local farmers about the production of cocoa and get to sample Cuban hot chocolate. This evening, after dinner at a local paladar, we may have the opportunity to enjoy a music-and-dance performance by a local troupe. HOTEL PORTO SANTO (B,L,D)

Thursday, March 17

BARACOA
This morning attend a performance of dances typical of the region around Baracoa. In the afternoon, meet the young performers at Proyecto Alabey, then visit a children’s community center to attend a choir performance, view the children’s artwork and converse with the young artists. HOTEL PORTO SANTO (B,L,D)

Friday, March 18

BARACOA / HAVANA
Transfer to the airport for our morning flight to Havana. Upon arrival, drive to the home of artist Jose Fuster for lunch in the fishing town of Jaimanitas. Fuster has decorated more than 80 of the town’s houses with colorful ornate murals and domes, transforming Jaimanitas into a vast work of public art. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L)

Saturday, March 19

HAVANA
Today begins with a lecture from a local economist followed by a short drive to visit Hemingway’s former home, La Finca Vigia. Stop for lunch at an organic farm followed by a visit to an equine therapy facility. This evening enjoy a farewell reception and dinner at La Guarida, a paladar and the setting for the film, Strawberry and Chocolate. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L,D)

Sunday, March 20

HAVANA / MIAMI, FLORIDA , U.S.
Enjoy a leisurely morning at the hotel followed by our transfer to the airport for our afternoon charter flight back to the U.S. (B)
What to Expect

The “People to People” license stipulates that visitors to Cuba must engage in a full-time schedule of educational exchange activities resulting in meaningful interaction between the visitors and individuals in Cuba. Therefore participation in all the scheduled activities is required per the terms of license.

In the last few years, Cuba has undergone many changes and general conditions have improved. There are better amenities for tourists, such as more taxicabs and restaurants. However, we ask that you keep in mind that traveling to Cuba is still an adventure. Because of Cuba’s inconsistent infrastructure, we consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Cuba’s tourism industry is still developing, and patience with local service standards is required. Drive times range from one to five hours, including rest stops. Daily activities involve one to three miles of walking on city streets, which can be uneven or cobbled, and climbing stairs without handrails. We expect that participants will be a self-selecting group whose interest in the places we visit far outweighs the need for creature comforts. In many ways, the challenges of this program are part of the learning experience. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Information

Dates
March 7 to 20, 2016 (14 days)

Size
This program can accommodate 30 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

Cost*
$10,195 per person, double occupancy
$11,195 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

Included
- 13 nights of best-available hotel accommodations
- 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 10 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities
- All tours as described in the itinerary
- Cuban visa fees and departure taxes
- Round-trip flights between Miami and Havana; internal flights within Cuba
- Group transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days in Havana
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program
Not Included
- U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements
U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare between San Francisco and Miami is approximately $600 as of July 2015 and is subject to change without notice.

Terms and Conditions

Deposit and Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?cuba2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations and Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be provided to U.S. residents with their welcome materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within a specified window 14 to 21 days of the date listed on the welcome letter, depending on your destination and state of residence.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the member’s price. Families and trip companions may travel on one membership. Call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership for more information or to purchase a membership.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can
assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in July 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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Contact Information

Visit us online to reserve space:
http://alumni.stanford.edu/trip#cuba2016

Questions? Call us at (650) 725-1093 or email us at travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

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Stanford Travel/Study is a program of the Stanford Alumni Association