



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS COURSE FACT SHEET

MSSP/SWRK 797: Whose Colony? Politics, Identity and Social Policy in Revolutionary Cuba (1959-2017)

SPRING 2018 DATES
Course Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Havana, Cuba: May 17 – May 31, 2018• Pre-departure meetings: TBA
APPLICATION
Application Deadline November 20th, 2017 at 5 PM
Application Process Students must complete the online application in order to be considered for the course. If warranted, interviews may be conducted by SP2 staff. The online application can be accessed through the Global Opportunities webpage.
Notification and Registration Students will be notified of their acceptance into the course by November 29. Registration and payment of the first \$1,000 fee is required by December 8.
COURSE SIZE
The course enrollment size will be 10-15 students.
COURSE DESCRIPTION
Cuba represents one of the world's long-standing institutionalized revolutions whose narrative and policies have changed from a strong nationalism yearning for Independence, to an alignment with communism's ideology and <i>modus operandi</i> , to a nostalgic, post-Soviet Union "socialism" ruled by a binary, state-controlled capitalism. In addition to the myriad of social and political changes affecting the island, the transition of leadership from Fidel Castro to his brother, Raúl, and the death of the former in 2016, has put into question the theoretical pillars of the Revolution, thus undermining its initial legitimacy. This course is designed to provide students with the critical and analytical tools to dissect Cuban revolutionary politics, policies, and identity mutations within the island's historical trajectory. We will begin by critically reviewing key points of diplomatic and historical relationships between the U.S. and Cuba, followed by an analysis of the notion of Independence – upon which Castro relied to gather massive support – in the context of the 60's debates on decolonization and underdevelopment. In addition, we will delve into the theoretical foundations of the Revolution focusing, among other texts, on the literature by Cuba's "founding father" José Martí, who deeply influenced the Spanish-American

war (1898)'s outcomes as well as Fidel Castro's vision for Cuba. Throughout the course, students will also have the opportunity to critically read and discuss main Cuban social policies such as its famous Literacy Campaign, and other Education, Housing, Cultural, Health, and Immigration policies, as well as the island's complex relationship with technological development and communications. Finally, we will study identity and race dynamics, which are inextricably embedded in Cuba's political landscape.

This course will begin with six introductory sessions at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by six class meetings during a two-week stay in Havana, Cuba. Once in the island, students will visit key historical and cultural sites such as El Museo de la Revolución (The Museum of the Revolution), El Museo de la Alfabetización (The Literacy Museum), and La Escuela de Artes Plásticas (National Art School). Parallel to these endeavors, students will also engage in conversations with distinguished Cuban scholars and cultural critics. Lastly, students are required to develop a research project on a particular Cuban social policy and produce a final paper or writing/multimedia project.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students are expected to work on their final papers/projects during the pre-departure sessions at Penn, as well as in Cuba. While in Havana, students will meet scholars and social policy experts, visit main cultural sites and participate in different activities from Monday to Friday. They will also participate in six class sessions. Students will be able to use evenings and weekends to do fieldwork or research.

PREREQUISITES

Eligibility

- This course is open to all Penn graduate students, with preference given to SP2 students.
- Fluency in Spanish is recommended but not required.

In order to participate in this course, students will need:

- A valid passport
- Previous travel experience recommended but not necessary

HOUSING AND MEALS

Housing

Housing will be arranged by Cuba Educational Travel. Students will stay at "casas particulares" (private homes), double occupancy.

Meals

Breakfast and lunch from Monday to Friday, as well as other meals, is provided by Cuba Educational Travel. Students should plan to pay for some meals on their own.

PROGRAM DESIGNATIONS

MSSP Program

This course is pre-approved as an elective in the MSSP program.

MSW Program

This course is pre-approved as an MSW general elective.

Global Human Rights Certificate

This course is not pre-approved to fulfill requirements for the Global Human Rights certificate.

COSTS AND FEES

Tuition and Fees

- Students are charged regular SP2 course tuition for this class.

Students also pay a Course fee of \$2,570.00 to Cuba Educational Travel, which includes:

- 14-night accommodation in Cuba
- Daily breakfast and lunch M-F, other meals (as specified on the itinerary)
- Full time, professional, bilingual guide for activities
- Local ground transportation for listed activities
- Compliance with U.S. Treasure Department regulations
- Speaker fees
- Cuban visa
- Admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary
- Flights (estimated \$370, final price is subject to change based on time of booking)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial Aid

This course is part of the **Spring 2018** schedule and will be billed accordingly. SP2 scholarship awards are applied to fall and spring semester bills, so students who are taking this course as part of their degree requirements and wish to have a portion of their award applied to the summer must notify the financial aid office by email at finaid@sp2.upenn.edu.

SP2 Student International Travel Fund

SP2 students may be eligible to receive an award from the SP2 Student International Travel Fund to offset a portion of the cost of airfare/program fee if they have financial need. Students apply for a travel award when they apply for the course, and they will be notified of their travel award amount before they need to commit to the class. Students who receive this award will have it distributed as financial aid and it is posted to the student's financial aid account in the term in which the course is offered.

QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions about the course

Contact Dr. Azahara Palomeque, at azaharap@upenn.edu

Contact Dr. Ezekiel Dixon-Román, at ezekiield@sp2.upenn.edu

Questions about the online application, course registration, and travel awards

Contact Emily McCully, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, at emccully@upenn.edu

Questions about financial aid

Contact the SP2 Office of Financial Aid at finaid@sp2.upenn.edu