

## Why Study in Cuba?

The Caribbean island of Cuba is a place of great natural beauty, exquisite colonial architecture, and warm, friendly people. Politically, it is one of the most intriguing places in the world. Cuba has been under communist rule since the Revolution of 1959. Since then, the United States government has prohibited most travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba. Students in the course will have an opportunity that few U.S. citizens have had. Culturally, Cuba is equally compelling, with Spanish and African roots later influenced by Chinese, Soviet, and North American cultures. Cuban musical styles--like rumba and Cuban salsa--are world-renowned.

### About the Instructors

Beatriz Torres is an Associate Professor in Communication Studies and LALACS (Latin American, Latina/o and Caribbean Studies) here at Gustavus. She has worked in the field of communication for the past 27 years and has 15 years of teaching experience including teaching abroad at the National University of Cordoba in Argentina.



Jeffrey Rathlef is the Director for Community-Based Service and Learning at Gustavus. While completing his M.A. in Cultural Education and conducting research on transformative learning in Havana, Jeffery also taught Latin American Studies courses at Ohio State. Jeffrey came to Gustavus after an extensive tenure at World Learning's School for International Training's Study Abroad division where he directed and managed a overseas study abroad programs throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, including one in Cuba.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### Accessing Studio Abroad

To access the Studio Abroad site, go to <http://gustavus.studioabroad.com/>. This will take you to the Gustavus home page of the Studio Abroad site.

### What is on Studio Abroad?

You can view the January Interim 2016 courses by clicking "Programs" on the top navigation bar. (these will be available in February 2015) If you want to see a list of only the January Interim courses, select "January Interim" from the drop-down menu labeled "Term." If you want to search for a specific program, enter the title beneath the "Program Name" from the drop-down menu.

**Priority applications will be available and open on Studio Abroad beginning April 1, 2015 to April 15, 2015.** You may apply for Gustavus programs until **July 31, 2015.**

### How to apply in April 2015?

First, locate your program. Once you find it, click the "Apply Now" button and follow the instructions on the subsequent screens. Once you get to your application "home page" you will then need to read, submit, and return a variety of other pieces, all of which will be laid out on your home page. Some of these items will be submitted electronically, some still need to be submitted via paper directly to the CICE (i.e. receipt for fees). Read all of the information and instructions carefully

For Gustavus programs, this will be the only application you need to complete. If you are applying to a program through Hamline, UMAIE, or HECUA, this is only the application for Gustavus approval and does not constitute approval or acceptance into the specific study abroad program. You will receive instructions and a link to apply to your specific study abroad program/program provider on the Studio Abroad system once CICE has given you the approval to apply.



**JANUARY INTERIM 2014:  
NDL 170 CUBA**

**RELIGION, CULTURE &  
IDENTITY IN CUBA**



**CENTER FOR  
INTERNATIONAL AND  
CULTURAL EDUCATION**



"North Americans don't understand...that our country is not just Cuba; our country is also humanity." ~Fidel Castro

## About the Course

Students will travel to Cuba, where we will explore the diversity of Cuba's religious practices including the African-based Yoruba religions of Santería and Palo Monte, Catholicism, Judaism, and several branches of evangelical Protestantism. We will focus on questions of religious and cultural identities and how they are constructed and manifested into community, social, and political action. Through readings, church visits, discussions, invited guest speakers, and community engagement activities we will examine the history of Cuban religions, religious identities, how religion is practiced in 2016, and how some contemporary religious sects work through popular education methodologies to serve, strengthen, and build their communities. Students will complete assigned readings, attend lectures, conduct reflective journaling on an on-going basis, submit reflective essays, and facilitate and participate in scheduled group discussions.

**THERE IS NO SPANISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**



## Course Information

**Instructors:** Jeffrey Rathlef and Beatriz Torres

**Enrollment:** 10-20

**Cost:** TBD, estimates by late March 2015

**Tentative Dates:**

### Deadlines

Applications available: April 1, 2015

Early applications due: April 15, 2015

Last day to apply: July 31, 2015



## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

### Course Instructors:

#### Beatriz Torres

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## Travel Sites

In Cuba, we will be based mainly in Havana, a city founded by the Spanish in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Based in the working class neighborhood of Marianao, we will have classes at the Centro Martin Luther King, Jr., an ecumenical organization attached to the Ebenezer Baptist Church. While in Havana we will speak with community leaders and visit cultural sites. Students will have the opportunity to utilize popular education methodology in order to engage in various religious communities both within and around Havana.

**Off limits to US travelers for years, Cuba is now becoming accessible through new educational programs licensed by the US State Department.**