

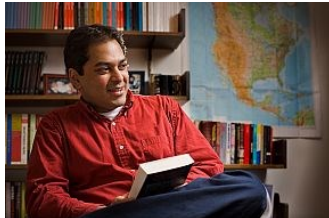
Why Study in Cuba?

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.

Tentative Dates

January 6-30, 2014

*Jan 6-10 are
on-campus



Fees \$4995-\$5385

Enrollment

Minimum: 10 students

Maximum: 15 students

Deadlines

Applications available on StudioAbroad:
<https://gustavus.studioabroad.com/>

Applications available: April 1, 2013

Early applications due: April 15, 2013

Last day to apply: July 31, 2013



Instructor : Sujay Rao

Sujay has been teaching courses on Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, US-Latin American relations, Mexican-American history, and the Spanish conquest of the Americas at Gustavus since joining the faculty in 2003. His own research focuses on issues of democracy and political participation in Argentina after the independence movements of the 1810s. His work on Argentine history has been supported by fellowships and grants from several programs including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Fulbright program, and the US Department of Education's Foreign Language Area Studies program. He is currently working on a book manuscript, tentatively entitled *A Republic of Equals*, for the Diálogos series, published by University of New Mexico Press. Sujay previously traveled to Cuba in the summer of 2004 and makes frequent trips to Argentina.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON STUDIOABROAD:

<https://gustavus.studioabroad.com/>

Course Instructor:

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**JANUARY INTERIM 2014:
NDL 170 CUBA**

**RELIGION, CULTURES &
IDENTITY IN CUBA**



**CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL AND
CULTURAL EDUCATION**

About the Course

We will travel to Cuba, where we will study the diversity of Cuba's religious cultures. These include the African-based Yoruba religion (*santería*), Catholicism, and several branches of evangelical Protestantism, as well as Judaism and a small but growing Islamic presence. This class will mainly be focused on the interaction between *santería* and Christian religious practices. Through readings, church visits, discussions, invited speakers, concerts, dance performances, and lectures we will examine the history of Cuban religions and religious identities, look at how religion is practiced in 2012, and study how contemporary religious sects work to serve their communities.



Requirements

Students will complete daily readings and submit a reflective journal about the readings, lectures, and performances. There will be multiple quizzes, a final exam, and a final 5-page research paper, due upon return to Gustavus.

Language

There is no Spanish language requirement. All course materials and classes will be taught in English, or bilingually (in Spanish with an interpreter.) Throughout our trip, English-speaking guides and interpreters will be on hand.

Course Assistant

Jeffrey Rathlef will be serving as course assistant. Director for Community-Based Service and Learning at Gustavus, Jeffrey taught Latin American Studies courses at Ohio State while completing his M.A. in Cultural Education and conducted research on transformative learning in Havana. Jeffrey comes 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.



Travel Sites

In Cuba, we will be based mainly in Havana, a city founded by the Spanish in the 16th 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 priests and practitioners of *santería*, visit religious centers and speak to religious leaders. We will also travel throughout Cuba, visiting the Catholic shrine of La Virgen de la Caridad in Santiago de Cuba, as well as staying at an evangelical retreat center in the countryside near Viñales, the limestone hills that are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.