

LSU/Honors in Cuba

LSU | Roger Hadfield
Ogden Honors College

Spring Break Excursion
April 13-20, 2019

Contemporary Cuban Culture and Society: Arts and Activism in Cuba

HNRS 2020.04 • Spring 2019 • Wednesdays 4:30-6:00 PM

Dr. Eric Mayer-García, English & Women's and Gender Studies

As part of the LSU/Honors in Cuba program, this course will provide students with an introduction to contemporary Cuban culture and society by focusing on the role of the arts in activism. Unprecedented in the Americas, the Cuban Revolution transformed civil society through radical politics and socialism. This course emphasizes how the arts and culture are deeply involved in these social processes. Cultural production was a tool for creating this transformation, as well as a resource for its renegotiation from the grass roots. The study of Cuba's cultural history provides students with concrete and resonant examples of processes of social change that will challenge them to rethink fixed notions of civil society and activism, while they come to appreciate the role of the arts in the continuous renegotiation of social norms and values.

Students learn about Cuba's history and contemporary society through essays, plays, poetry, films, site visits, and an academic exchange with students at the University of Havana. After studying the role of theatre, music, drag, religion, and sports in political history and current activism in Cuba, the class will visit Havana and Pinar del Rio during spring break to gain first hand experiences with the ways activism and civil society depend on and employ the arts and cultural expression. The spring break excursion will provide experiences that deepen students' understanding of the history, literature, and artistic expressions studied in the course.

Notes

- Enrollment in this course requires participation in a spring break excursion to Cuba on **April 13-20, 2019**.
- The program fee for the excursion is **\$2,400**, which covers round-trip airfare from New Orleans or Baton Rouge to Havana; ground transportation throughout Cuba; double occupancy housing; course related excursions and cultural events; some meals; Cuba entrance visa; and health insurance.
- The program fee will be charged to students' fee bill in the spring 2019 semester.
- This course is open to all LSU students, regardless of enrollment in Honors College. If the program fills up, priority will be given to Honors College students, students with at least two semesters of Spanish, and students with prior coursework related to Latin America.

For more information about LSU/Honors in Cuba and HNRS 2020, please contact Dr. Mayer-García at emayer3@lsu.edu.