

# NEW YORK UNIVERSITY M.S. IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## 2009 SPRING BREAK GLOBAL FIELD INTENSIVE

### Cuba in the World: An Intercambio

**Preprogram Dates:** Friday Evenings: January 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6

**Field Intensive Program Dates:** Friday, March 13\* – Sunday, March 22, 2009

(\*Please note that a roundtrip flight from JFK to Havana may require a departure to Cuba on Thursday, March 12)

**Registration:** THE REGISTRATION FOR THIS CLASS IS CONTROLLED. To reserve your place, please fill out the program confirmation registration form. *Registration forms and a \$300 deposit must be sent to MyKellann via e-mail and/or snail mail by 5pm on Tuesday, January 15th. Students will be notified of their enrollment status by Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> (please see information below regarding cancellation penalty).* Priority will be given to those graduating during the Spring, Summer, or Fall 2009 semesters. Documents necessary for obtaining travel authorization must be filled out by each program participant by January 23, 2009.

**Documents:** A valid Passport and visa are required for entry. Visas are arranged through our partner institution in Cuba.

**Degree Requirement:** This course fulfills *International Relations* and *Private Sector: International Business, Economics and Development* Concentration requirements. It may also be used to fulfill 3 Elective credits.

### Program Description

In 1959, an insurgency led by Fidel Castro overwhelmed the US-backed regime of Fulgencio Batista and the world has never been the same. Since then, Cuba has undergone a socialist transformation of its polity and economy; changed the course of the Cold War; galvanized both the socialist left and the counter-revolutionary right in Latin America and beyond; continually defied its superpower neighbor; and survived the “retirement” of its iconic leader. In this course, we study the Cuban Revolution's historical antecedents, its politics and economics, and its impact on Cubans' daily lives. In doing so, we seek to move past comfortable, politically motivated judgments to carefully consider Cuba's unique path.

This course takes us from New York to Havana and back again. We begin in the classroom. Over the first eight weeks of this semester, we will discuss primary and secondary documents that explore Cuba's history, political economy, and society. We begin by considering the colonial origins of Cuba's *first* revolution and the neocolonial period that inspired Castro's socialist revolution. We then turn to Cuba's present, debating its political system, economic successes and failures, and its international relations. We then consider three social implications of the Cuban Revolution - health and education, gender roles, and culture. We also use this time to explore Cuban culture as experienced in New York and in recorded media. We then travel to Havana to observe Cuban life first-hand. In conjunction with our partners at the Ludwig Foundation, we will explore Cuban society, politics, and culture. Far more than a mere “spring break” trip, we will use our time in Cuba to translate our academic discussion into an in-depth field study of the Cuban Revolution at 50 years. Upon our return to New York, we will discuss our impressions of the trip and discuss Cuba's future.

### Faculty Escort

**Thomas Flores, Ph.D. – Clinical Assistant Professor**

Dr. Thomas Flores' research interests lie primarily in comparative and international political economy, with an emphasis on the politics of economic development. In particular, his research focuses on the political foundations of economic growth and inequality, security challenges in developing countries, the politics of international aid and international financial institutions, statistical methods, and the politics of Latin America. In this vein, his research agenda consists of a project on the politics of protecting private property rights and a co-authored book on economic recovery from violent civil conflicts (with Professor Irfan Nooruddin of The Ohio State University). Thomas teaches courses on international political economy and the political economy of development.

Before joining the faculty of the Center for Global Affairs, Thomas worked as an analyst for First Manhattan Consulting Group. He has received a United States Department of State Fulbright Scholarship for study in Colombia, a Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellowship, and two teaching prizes from the University of Michigan. Thomas has co-authored (with Irfan Nooruddin) an article on World Bank lending to post-conflict countries in *The Review of International Organizations* (forthcoming). He holds a B.A. *magna cum laude* in Government from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Michigan.

## Course Requirements

- Participate in six pre-departure classes and two wrap up sessions following the on-site Cuba program.
- Short paper (5-7 pages) recording personal reaction to something said or heard while on the trip. Due the week after the trip ends.
- Long paper (10-15 pages) on a public policy issue of interest in Cuba (e.g., Cuba-US relations, education, health, etc.). Due Mid-April.

## About the “MSGA Global Field Intensive” Study Abroad Approach

### MSGA Global Field Intensive: Project Based Study Abroad Initiative

The Global Field Intensive model has been designed for students to maximize their in-country academic experience by engaging in comprehensive pre-departure research and project planning. Rather than simply attending a series of lectures and site-visits while abroad, students are asked to become active participants in their field intensive in-country experience. Global Field Intensives incorporate the following elements across all programs: pre-departure class sessions; pre-departure project planning with professor; onsite expert lectures; onsite field site visits; onsite individual or group information gathering; onsite MSGA faculty and student debrief sessions; post-trip wrap-up sessions and project presentation opportunities.

### Site

The majority of program lectures will take place at NYU’s partner institution in Havana, The Ludwig Foundation. The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC) is an autonomous, non-governmental and non-profit institution in Cuba created to protect and promote contemporary Cuban artists and culture, develop research works and new technologies applied to the artistic field, and encourage dialog with both Cuban and international cultural communities. LFC acts as a cultural center to encourage the creation of bridges of understanding in Cuba and abroad. LFC has established long-term programs with leading institutions worldwide. Programs include performances, festivals, exhibitions, exchanges, lectures, seminars, academic courses, workshops, conferences, scholarships and grants. The organization was founded in 1995 by Peter and Irene Ludwig, world-known private European collectors and funded yearly by the Peter and Irene Ludwig Foundation located in Aachen, Germany.

Additional site visits and lectures may include but are not limited to:

- Museum of the Revolution
- Tour of old Havana
- Visit to sugar cane plantation
- Side trips to Las Terrazas, Cienfuegos, Trinidad /visit to the Che Guevara museum

### Lodging/Accommodations

Students will stay at the Hotel Habana Riviera located in the Vedado section of Havana. With beautiful views of the city, the Riviera is conveniently located to the Ludwig Foundation. A generous buffet breakfast will be served at the hotel every morning.

### Booking Flights

**IMPORTANT: Information about booking flights will be announced on February 10, 2009. Because of possible changes in travel restrictions to Cuba in the coming year, we may be able to secure direct flights from New York to Havana. This is contingent on actions of the new administration and will not be confirmed until February. Students who register for the Cuba program do so with the understanding that the program fee may change based on partial or full flight cost inclusion. If travel restrictions do not change, students may be required to book their own round-trip travel to and from Miami (and the flight to and from Miami/Havana will be included in the program cost).**

### Additional Registration and Documentation – IMPORTANT!

Students from New York University will be traveling to Cuba under the University’s license. In order to comply with U.S. legal requirements for this study trip to Cuba, students will need to fill out a number of forms provided by our contracted partner. These forms will be provided to all students with clear instructions after registration for the course is confirmed. It is imperative that you get all of the forms to us by the specified deadlines to ensure proper processing for the license and the visas.

**PLEASE READ THE “CUBA TRAVEL ADVICE” DOCUMENT PROVIDED BY MARAZUL CHARTERS. IT HAS EXTENSIVE TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP YOU BETTER PREPARE FOR YOUR TRIP TO CUBA.**

## Cost for the Program

Students will be responsible for covering the cost of the program fee (to be paid separately), 3 credits, and other travel related expenses (including the roundtrip flight from New York to Miami). The program fee will cover the flight to and from Cuba, student lodging, visa requirements, all breakfasts, some lunches, and dinners/special receptions, all meetings/special guest lectures, all in-country travel (including airport transportation), and planned cultural excursions.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** If direct flights to Cuba from NYC are possible, this program fee will increase.

- Projected Program Fee:  
    \$1715.00: Double Room Occupancy  
    or  
    \$1915.00: Single Room Occupancy
- 3 Credits: \$3547 (4 class flat tuition) - \$4489 (per credit tuition) - includes registration and service fees
- Estimated Airfare: \$350 (roundtrip flight from New York to Miami – Miami/Cuba/Miami flight included in program fee)

**TOTAL MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST: \$5612 - \$7129**

## Program Deposit

A Program Deposit of \$300 is necessary in order to be enrolled in this program. This should be sent to the department via snail mail with your registration form (to the address below) as a check payable to New York University. This will be used towards the program fees. You will be required to pay the full program fee after your registration is confirmed. This deposit check is non-refundable after January 20, 2009.

### **Send Deposit Checks and Registration Forms to:**

**NYU SCPS Center for Global Affairs  
Attention: MyKellann Ledden  
15 Barclay Street  
New York, NY 10007**

## Cancellations and Refunds

- Cancellations from January 21 – January 29, 2009: Refund of payment, less \$300 program deposit and tuition penalties.
- Cancellations on and after January 30, 2009: Subject to full forfeiture of the entire program cost as well as tuition penalties.

***Program cancellations must be made in writing. To protect yourself, we recommend that you purchase flight cancellation insurance.***