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Syllabus

Sustainable Development in Latin America: Poverty, Inequality, and Growth in Cuba Summer 2015

Where: CUBA!

When: May 17th - June 4th, 2015

Where & When: UNM/ASU– Five meetings spread out across March and April; Cuba– May 17th – June 4th.

6 total possible credit hrs:

Soc 379: Topics in Latin American Development

Soc 479: Seminar in Latin American Culture

Possible Cross-list with:

Political Science, Business, History, etc.

*Sponsored by the office of the Associate Provost for International Initiatives, the Latin American and Iberian Institute, the Department of Economics at the University of New Mexico, and the Department of Sociology at Adams State University.

What: This program explores the economic and social development of Cuba, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Cuba is a country blessed with majestic landscapes, beautiful beaches, quaint colonial cities, and an abundance of natural resources. Yet, throughout its history, the country has suffered severe underdevelopment.

This course takes a hands-on approach to understand failed development and economic growth, poverty, and the deep social inequalities that affect our world and most importantly, on solutions to these social problems. We will travel deep into the Cuban countryside, visit housing projects in squatters' communities (i.e., slums), meet with finance organizations, talk with workers at rural medical outposts and hospitals, and visit education facilities. We will talk to, and get lectures from community organizers, Cuban scholars, and local aid agencies.

There are special scholarships available for funding, and standard scholarships qualify for tuition. Knowledge of Spanish is *not* required. Volunteering opportunities will also be available for ambitious students.

Course Requirements:

Prior to the trip, we will have several class meetings where we will go over assigned readings, lay the foundations for the course, and get organized for the trip.

While in Cuba, we will meet daily in the mornings for field trips, guest lectures, visits, etc. In the evenings we will meet in our classroom, where we will look deeper into the theories of Economic and Social Development, as they relate to what we observed that day.

You will be required to keep a daily journal, where you will record events, your observations and thoughts. At the end of the trip, based on your journal, you will write a reflection paper expanding on what you learned, your experiences, feelings, and thoughts. That paper is due two weeks after we return from our trip.

If you are taking 6 credit hrs, or if you are a grad student, you will also be required to choose a specific topic of interest, and develop that into a well researched paper, that gathers your thoughts, data, and relevant literature. Examples of such topics may be "Child Labor in Cuba", "Cuba's Coffee Industry", etc. This paper is due four weeks after we return from our trip. Both papers should be 12-20 pages, Times New Roman 12pt, 1.5 line spacing, 1 inch margins.

Textbooks:

- *Learning Through Serving*, Christine M. Cress, et al. Stylus, 2013.
- *The Development Economics Reader*, edited by G. Secondi, Routledge, 2008.
- *The Puzzle of Latin American Economic Development*, P. Franko, Rowman & Littlefield, third ed., 2007.

Costs:

- **Scholarships.** *Need-based scholarships may cover the entire costs of the trip.* The Financial Aid office will increase your estimated need for the spring semester, to cover help you cover airfare and fees for this class. If you talk to Financial Aid early (ASAP), they may also be able to help you qualify for other grants/scholarships. Applicants should schedule a meeting with Philip Schroeder (pschroeder@adams.edu), the director of Financial Aid.
- **Tuition,** 3 or 6 credit hrs. Regular scholarships apply. If you have a tuition scholarship, it will pay your tuition in full (up to 20 credit hrs).
- **Airfare.** Per the U.S. government's agreement with the Cuban government, we must purchase airfare as a group. We will all fly out of Tampa, Florida en route to Cuba. Students may arrange for domestic airfare to Tampa as they best see fit.

- **Course Fees:** \$2,600. This will cover the entire costs for the 2 1/2 weeks in Cuba, including homestays, all meals, hotels, airplanes, buses and boats within Cuba, short field trips, and guest speaker's honoraria. (If you plan to buy keepsakes and/or eat out occasionally, you will want to bring extra cash. In past years students have spent, on average, \$150-\$200 of their own money during the trip.)

Organization:

We will have 5 meetings before the trip. (Time and place announced above.) Meetings will include mandatory orientation, lectures, and discussion of organizational matters. You need a **valid passport through January 2015**. If you don't have one, you need to apply for one immediately. (This can be done at the local Post Office.) You will fill out forms, show proof of insurance, or purchase extremely cheap travel insurance for the trip. You will sign waiver forms that say that, while we expect nothing to happen (Cuba is one of the safest country in Latin America, with the friendliest people!) you understand that travelling may be risky. You will be warned not to do stupid things (like getting too drunk and missing the train the next day), etc.