**Cultural Geography & Performance in**

**Contemporary Cuba**

**Geography 495: Special Topics in Geography**

**Dance 495: Special Topics in Dance**

**Program Description**

In this two-week course in Cuba we’ll focus on the modern geographical, political-economic, and cultural context of this island (mostly) shut off from the United States for the last 60 years, focusing especially on how this broader context is embodied in the local cultural forms of music and dance. Oftentimes we have the tendency to separate the sphere of culture (dance, music, art, literature, etc.) from its geographical and political-economic context. But this is a false separation. Indeed, what we commonly call “culture” is utterly shaped by this broader geographical and political-economic context. In Cuba this can be seen through the development of Afro-Cuban culture, religion, and music during the colonial period, and the later development of Afro-Cuban jazz and other secularized Afro-Cuban folkloric musical and dance forms.

During our two weeks in Cuba we’ll be primarily based in the 500-year-old neighborhood of Old Havana, an UNESCO World Heritage Site. From there we’ll experience Cuba and make at least one multi-day excursion to places relevant to our research and pedagogical objectives. In general we’ll maintain a fairly constant daily routine centered on a 2.5-hour morning classroom session and a 4-hour afternoon field session:

7:30 – 9:00 am Breakfast

9:30 am – 12:00 pm Morning classroom session (2.5 hours)

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 – 5:00 pm Afternoon field session (4 hours)

6:00 – 8:00 pm Dinner

8:00 – 11:00 pm Occasional evening sessions

The morning session will consist of a mix of the following:

* Classes led by project directors
* Guest lectures by local Cuban scholars, educators, and artists
* Class Discussions on relevant topics

The relatively longer afternoon session will be dedicated to field excursions, including:

* A wide variety of hands-on cultural classes taught by Cuban professionals, including music, dance, and culinary classes
* City and neighborhood tours
* Museum visits
* Hikes and eco-tours (especially in Viñales, Varadero, and Trinidad)
* Visits to cultural and historically relevant sites

**Program Dates**

June 13 – 29, 2015

**Cost – Program Fee and what will be included in the fee.  Estimated costs for what is not** **included in the Program Fee.  We will add the cost of tuition once we have it calculated for the summer 2015.**

Program Fee: approximately $3,500

Included:

* International airfare and visa
* All in-country transportation
* All official excursions, outings, and field trips
* Housing
* Breakfast every morning
* 7 group dinners

Not included:

* Lunch
* Dinner (other than the 7 group dinners included and listed above)
* Baggage charges
* Phone/internet charges
* Exit tax at Airport ($30 USD)

**Primary Contact**

John Finn: john.finn@cnu.edu

**Program Flyer**

Coming soon…

**Sample Itinerary (if available)**

Coming soon…

**Photos for the program (if available)**

Coming soon…