Cuba: winter 2017
Comparative Education and Culture

Course names

SCFD 4913, International Issues and the Role of the School (carries “I” credit)
SCFD 6023, Comparative Education

Course dates: November 18, 2017 – January 13, 2018

Travel dates: December 15, 2017 – December 23, 2017

Please read: This document is intended to provide an overview of this course for winter 2017. This information is not set in stone. All costs are estimates and dates are subject to change; information will be confirmed closer to the trip.

Please direct any academic enquiries to Dr. Blum, whose contact info is listed below.

Instructor

Denni Blum, Ph.D.
Email: d.blum@okstate.edu
Phone: 405.744.9192
Office: 206 Willard Hall

Application process

1. Complete your application form with essay (this application will be sent out the early part of August, BUT will not be reviewed until all applications are received on September 8).

2. Please send Cindy Cario (cindy.cario@okstate.edu) an email with
   o a) your completed application AND
   o b) your name and CWID stating that you give the College of Education permission to charge you a non-refundable $500 “deposit” if selected. Your email and application are due by Friday, September 8 (5:00pm CDT).

3. Notifications will be emailed by Wednesday, September 13 (5:00 pm CDT). Deposits will be charged Friday, September 15.

4. Complete visa requests by dates listed below.
5. Begin online application on OSU’s study abroad platform. Cindy will be sending the program’s link so that you can begin uploading your documents (e.g., copy of your passport page, emergency contacts). It is also on this platform that you will complete your mandatory health and safety training, and sign up for mandatory OSU international insurance.

**Important Dates**

**Dates are subject to change and will be confirmed once the fall semester begins.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Info meeting</td>
<td>Monday, August 28 @ 6:00 pm CDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Room 333, Willard Hall, Stillwater campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Room MCB 2227, Tulsa campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application (w/ essay) due by email</td>
<td>Friday, September 8 by 5:00 pm CDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notifications emailed</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 13 by 5:00 pm CDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit charged</td>
<td>Friday, September 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flights purchased by</td>
<td>Friday, September 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa requests completed</td>
<td>Monday, October 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st mandatory pre-departure meeting</td>
<td>Saturday, November 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd mandatory pre-departure meeting</td>
<td>Saturday, December 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory post-travel meeting</td>
<td>Saturday, January 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Costs and fees- estimates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intl flights (round trip: Florida-Havana, Cuba)</td>
<td>$ 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma (or other state)- Florida (RT airfare)*</td>
<td>$ 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition (3 credits)</td>
<td>$ 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions &amp; Program Fees (including academic visa)</td>
<td>$ 783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSU insurance</td>
<td>$ 37 ($3/day + $10 health &amp; safety)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>$180 (~$20/ day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc (souvenirs, spending money)</td>
<td>$ 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This cost will vary depending on your departure city, layovers, and airline. Students will be responsible for purchasing their own roundtrip international flight. All students must be on the same flight traveling from Fort Lauderdale to Havana.*
Note: The above numbers are intended to be estimates. You will receive more detailed costs closer to the trip, but you are strongly encouraged to begin working on your personal budget. A budget planning worksheet is attached.

Financial aid & Scholarships

Because each student’s final situation is different, please check with the Financial Aid office as to if and how this course would affect your aid. [https://financialaid.okstate.edu/](https://financialaid.okstate.edu/)

OSU Scholarships include (https://abroad.okstate.edu/outgoing/funding/osu)

- **Provost Scholarship**

- **Gerry Auel First Passport Grant** (for first-time passport applicants)

- **College of Education’s list of scholarships**
  [https://education.okstate.edu/is/scholarships](https://education.okstate.edu/is/scholarships)

Other suggestions: In lieu of gifts (e.g., birthday, graduation), some students have asked family and friends to contribute to the cost of their trip. Others have looked to crowdfunding or some form of community or personal fundraising to help with their trip costs.

- **Fund My Travel** [https://www.fundmytravel.com/](https://www.fundmytravel.com/)
- **Go Fund Me** [https://www.gofundme.com/](https://www.gofundme.com/)

Visas

- **Cuban academic visa**

  **Important notice about visas**: You must have a valid passport to apply for a visa. If you have the incorrect visa you may be refused entry. Visa requests must be completed at least **3 months** prior to travel. Therefore, it is crucial that your passport is in your hands by Monday, October 2.

  **Cost**: included in the program costs
Itinerary

Please see attached. The itinerary is subject to change and will be finalized closer to the trip dates.

Lodging will be homestays with local Cuban families. They are experienced hosting non-Spanish speaking visitors. Knowledge of the Spanish language is **not** required.

General reminders

- Please check your OSU email *regularly* for notifications, documents, and reminders. This will be our main mode of communication when the fall semester begins.
- It is recommended to visit with your physician to ensure you are in good health prior to any international travel. If you take any prescription medication or have any ongoing treatment, please discuss this with your physician. Dr. Blum and Cindy Cario are also available to discuss any concerns you may have.
- If at any point you do not wish to continue receiving emails and reminders about this trip, please email Cindy (cindy.cario@okstate.edu) asking to be removed.

*If you have questions, concerns, or are unsure about something, ask—please don’t assume! We welcome and encourage your questions.*

Important websites

- OSU Study Abroad Webpage
  https://abroadprograms.okstate.edu/

- CDC website

- US Department of State
  https://www.state.gov/

- Facebook group (a specific Facebook group will be created for enrolled students to share questions, comments, and info)
Next steps for interested students

- Apply for a passport if you do not currently have one or renew your passport if it’s about to expire (see attached forms included in this email)
- Start researching flights
- Create your budget
- Meet with your physician, letting him/her know you will be traveling internationally
- Visit the CDC website on travel to Cuba
- Begin researching Cuba (e.g., history, food, geography, current events, language)
- Identify scholarships, set up a Fund-My-Travel page

Thank you for your interest!

Best,

Cindy Cario
International Studies & Outreach Coordinator
College of Education, Health and Aviation
325 C Willard Hall
cindy.cario@okstate.edu