Cuba: Spring Break 2018
Comparative Education & Culture

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

Travel dates: March 16, 2018 – March 25, 2018

Please read: This document is intended to provide an overview of this course for spring 2018. 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 (early applications will be accepted, BUT will not be reviewed until all applications are received on December 1st).

2. Please send Cindy Cario (cindy.cario@okstate.edu) an email with
   - a) your completed application AND
   - 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, December 1st (5:00pm CDT).

3. Interviews will be held the week of Dec. 4-8, 2017. Notifications will be emailed by Friday, December 8 (5:00 pm CDT). Deposits will be charged Friday, December 15th.

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(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Info meeting</td>
<td>Nov. 13 @ 7:30 pm CDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application (w/ essay) due by email</td>
<td>Friday, December 1 by 5:00 pm CDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notifications emailed</td>
<td>Friday, December 8 by 5:00 pm CDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit charged</td>
<td>Friday, December 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa requests completed</td>
<td>Friday, December 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st mandatory pre-departure meeting</td>
<td>Mid February</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd mandatory pre-departure meeting</td>
<td>Late February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory post-travel meeting</td>
<td>Saturday, March 31</td>
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</tbody>
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**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/

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

- Matthew 25:40 Wes & Lou Watkins Service Scholarship
  http://citd.okstate.edu/ieo.aspx?page=1182

- Gerry Auel First Passport Grant (for first-time passport applicants)
  https://abroadprograms.okstate.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ViewProgram&ProgramID=10453

- College of Education’s list of 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/
- Go Fund Me 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 Tuesday, January 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/](https://abroadprograms.okstate.edu/)

- CDC website  

- US Department of State  
  [https://www.state.gov/](https://www.state.gov/)
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
- Visit the CDC website (Considering any optional immunizations? Need any booster shots?)
- Schedule to meet with your physician
- 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