

# ALABAMA IN CUBA: INTERIM 2012

## “Cuban and American Literary Encounters”

(Professors Emily Wittman & Nikhil Bilwakesh)

May 7-25<sup>th</sup> 2012, Cuba Trip: May 17<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

***Students in all undergraduate disciplines are encouraged to apply.***

\* Cost \$3,000: includes UA and Cuban tuition, airfare and travel arrangements, nine nights' accommodation at the Hotel Nacional (including a buffet breakfast), transportation and admission to many cultural sites and events.

In this unique international interim offering, we will explore literary and personal exchanges between the United States and Cuba. The course will consist of an intense preparatory week and a half of coursework on the U of A campus, followed by ten days in Cuba. The fraught history of the United States and Cuba features a long and rich politically refracted literary conversation. In this course, we will research this multifaceted conversation, with particular attention to novels, stories, essays, letters, poems, and films that consider the encounters and expatriate experiences of North Americans in Cuba and Cubans in the United States.

In Cuba, we will stay at the historic Hotel Nacional- an object of study in itself - in central Havana. Our trip will include excursions to the village of Cojimar (site of Hemingway's *Old Man and the Sea*), Hemingway's residences at Ambos Mundos, and Finca Vigía—Hemingway's home of twenty years—and the site of the celebrated Hemingway Museum. We will also visit and examine memorials and monuments in Havana that reflect the long and changing relationship between the United States and Cuba. Guided events will include a visit to the Yoruba Cultural Center and guest lectures from some of the foremost scholars and historians in Cuba. We have also planned several outings to dance and musical events that will expose students to contemporary Cuba's vibrant literary and cultural scenes.

Readings will include numerous works by Ernest Hemingway and Cuba's literary hero, José Martí, as well as works by Nicolás Guillén (as translated by Langston Hughes), Allen Ginsberg, Guillermo Cabrera Infante, Cirilo Villaverde, Reinaldo Arenas, and Cristina García, as well as Cuban and American films, photography, and music.

Requirements include a term paper that will involve independent research in Cuba, a travel journal, and two creative/scholarly assignments: a “Dispatch from Cuba” and a Hemingway pastiche.

The program is open to students from *all disciplines*. Prior knowledge of Spanish is not required. The admission process involves an interview. Interested students should contact Drs. Wittman ([ewittman@ua.edu](mailto:ewittman@ua.edu)) and Bilwakesh ([nbilwakesh@ua.edu](mailto:nbilwakesh@ua.edu)).









