

The African Experience in Cuba - hosted by Africana Studies Program (non-credit bearing) CLOSED

May 15-21, 2017

Open to CAS Undergraduate and Graduate Students

For Information Contact: Dr. Natanya Duncan



The island of Cuba is in the midst of what may become the most radical political and social changes of the past one hundred years. It has a dramatic history filled with prominent world events and provocative political leaders. The profound changes on the island have met with varied responses. For the United States, the changes warranted the lifting of economic and travel embargoes. With the lift, opportunities for hands on experiences and one on one exchanges with the formerly isolated island presented itself for people of all walks of life.

Cuba's changes also present the opportunity to bring together long standing social justice activists and young people both on and off the island. Integral to these changes are conversations about race, gender and citizenship which have shaped the island's identity since it was first colonized by Spain and briefly occupied by the British in 1762. As this changes are rapidly taking place, Africana Studies seeks to expand its "Sites of Memory" Program to include the island of Cuba as it encapsulates the conversations about nation building, imperial legacies and the effects of socialism.

Toward that end, in accordance with Lehigh's Global Initiative, Africana Studies with its host The Center for Martin Luther King in Havana, Cuba will explore "The African Legacy in Cuba" on May 15-21, 2017.

The trip will aim to have students think objectively and critically about the history and political climate of Cuba; immerse in Cuba's urban agriculture movement by visiting the largest organic farm in Havana; have Lehigh students engage with graduate students and professors at the University of Havana to discuss the current evolution of US/Cuba relations; Tour the Havana Historical Centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and enjoy a guided tour of the Museum of the Revolution, as well as the Museum de Regalia and the Museum of African Heritage. Students will also participate in an open air gallery devoted to Cuban Art.