



Travel Study: Crossing Cultures.

ICS 304
Ambrose University



COURSE DESCRIPTION: ICS 304: CROSSING CULTURES is a travel study course to provide experiential learning about the development of other cultures (2-14 May, 2016). Students will be equipped to observe and analyze the various spheres of culture that influence our perception. Preparatory reading and post-travel written assignments are required. Travel locations will depend on the expertise of international workers. The goal of the 2016 course is to identify bridges of understanding and opportunity as Cuba begins to open its doors to the world.

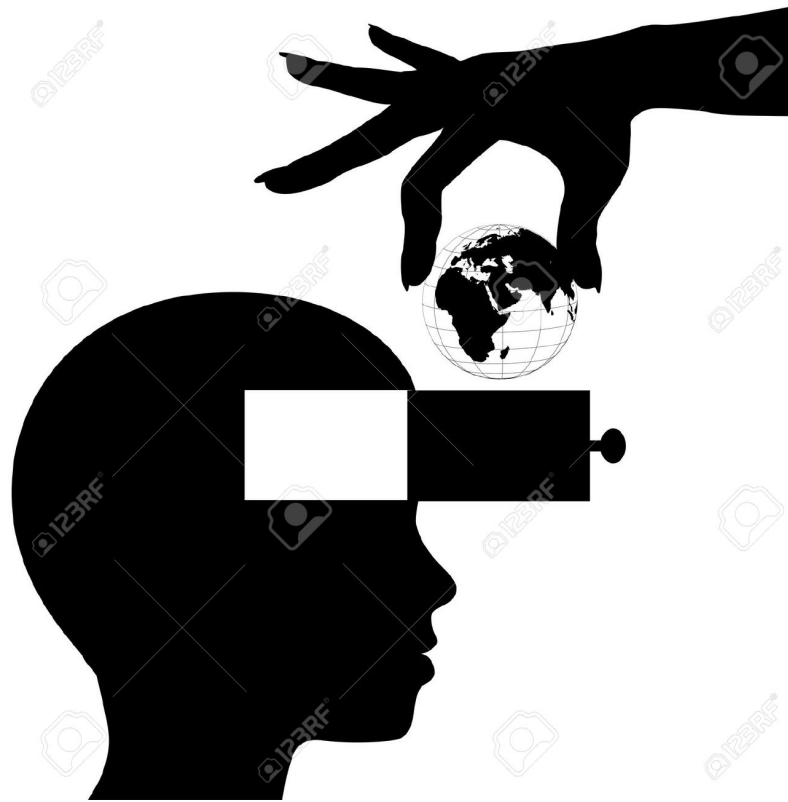
What the Student Should Learn:

1. To identify significant events in Cuba's history that have shaped the thinking and world view of its people.
2. To understand how Cuba's political system and environment have shaped interaction in the family, workplace and community.
3. To explain the complexities of transitioning Cuba to a new open economy with open borders.
4. To explore the education innovations of how Cuba became the only nation of the developing world to achieve 100% literacy.

Students must register and make a deposit of \$700 for this travel course by 16 December 2015.



5. To discover how Christianity and faith have played a key role in socialist Cuba's journey to change.



PREPARATORY READING:

Required Reading

THE ART OF CROSSING CULTURES, CRAIG STORTI (Nicolas Brealey Publishing, 2007, 196 PAGES). Whether in business, education, or diplomacy, anyone can be blindsided by a lack of international experience. In this expanded edition, *The Art of Crossing Cultures* shows what it takes to encounter a new culture head-on and succeed. Through the writings of the world's greatest thinkers, Craig Storti paints a portrait of the challenges and triumphs of adjusting to another culture.

CUBA:WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW, SECOND EDITION. JULIA E SWEIG (Oxford University Press, 2009, 326 pages). The new edition covers the key events of the last few years: Raul Castro's assumption of power from his brother Fidel, economic and political reforms since Raul came to power, and the changes in US-Cuba relations following the election of Barack Obama. Expansive in coverage and authoritative in scope, the book looks back over Cuba's history since the Spanish American War before shifting to recent times. Informative, pithy, and lucidly written, it is the best compact reference on Cuba's internal politics, its often fraught relationship with the United States, and its shifting

relationship with the global community.

CUBA'S GREAT AWAKENING: CHURCHPLANTING MOVEMENT IN CUBA, DR. KURT URBANEK (Church Starting Network, 2012, 216 pages). For years we've heard rumors of movements to Christ from inside Cuba. Now, for the first time, Kurt Urbanek has drawn back the curtain and shown us, in remarkable detail, just what God has been doing. Cuba's Great Awakening: Church Planting Movement in Cuba masterfully documents the astounding moving of God during a crucial period in Cuba's history. This inspiring movement has seen hundreds of thousands come to faith in Jesus Christ and thousands of new church starts.

Recommended Reading:

FIDEL CASTRO: MY LIFE A SPOKEN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, IGNACIO RAMONET (Scribner, 2009, 723 pages).

In February, 2002, Ramonet, the editor of French monthly *Le Monde Diplomatique*, began a two-year conversation with the controversial Cuban head of state, a collaboration that resulted in this Q&A-style, Castro-approved look into the revolutionary leader's life, from boyhood through his half-century in power. Ramonet proves a worthy interviewer, well prepared to tackle the famed Communist revolutionary's legacy - the bombastic leader's views on political figures and world events are genuinely thoughtful, and at times fascinating. High points include accounts of his relationship with Khrushchev during the Cuban missile crisis, backed up by excerpts from letters they exchanged.



CUBAN REVELATIONS: BEHIND THE SCENES IN HAVANA, MARC FRANK (University Press of Florida, 2013, 344 pages). In *Cuban Revelations*, Marc Frank offers a first-hand account of daily life in Cuba at the turn of the twenty-first century, the start of a new and dramatic epoch for islanders and the Cuban diaspora. Frank analyzes why Cuba has entered an extraordinary, irreversible period of change and considers what the island's future holds. The enormous social engineering project taking place today under Raul's leadership is fraught with many dangers, and *Cuban Revelations* follows the new leader's efforts to overcome bureaucratic resistance and the fears of a populace that stand in his way. He shares his honest and unbiased observations on extraordinary positive developments in social matters, like healthcare and education, as well as on the inefficiencies in the Cuban economy.

HAVANA REAL: ONE WOMAN FIGHTS TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT CUBA TODAY, YOANI SANCHEZ (Melville House, 2010, 256 pages). YOANI SÁNCHEZ, a University of Havana graduate in philology, emigrated to Switzerland in 2002. Two years later, she decided to return to Cuba but promised herself she would live there as a free person and started her blog, *Generation Y*, upon her return. In 2008, *Time* magazine named her one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World"; it named *Generation Y* one of the "Best Blogs of 2009." Spain honored her with its highest award for digital journalism, the Ortega y Gasset Prize. In 2011, Michelle Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton honored her with the International Women of Culture Award. She lives with her husband, independent journalist Reinaldo Escobar, and their son in a high-rise apartment in Havana overlooking Revolution Square.

WINGS OF THE MORNING, LORENZO ORESTES (VHPS, 1993, 346 pages). This is a gripping, impassioned tale of love and courage written by a man who risked his life and that of his family to save them all from the whims and vagaries of a failing revolution and dictatorship. On December 19, 1992, late in the afternoon, Lorenzo took off from the airstrip at Marathon Key, Florida, flew 95 miles south to the coast of Cuba in an aging twin-engine Cessna, and landed on a coastal highway where his wife and two children were anxiously waiting to be whisked away from a land of deprivation and oppression to a better world and a new life. The book is more than an intriguing story of heroism and defection. Lorenzo describes in detail his 15-year career in the Cuban Air Force, his training in the Soviet Union, his service in support of the Communist cause in such far-away places as Angola, and the final treachery that turned him against the Castro revolution. Highly recommended for popular reading collections.

THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE. JULIA COOKE (Seal Press, 2014, 250 pages). Change looms in Havana, Cuba's capital, a city electric with uncertainty yet cloaked in cliché, 90 miles from U.S. shores and off-limits to most Americans. Journalist Julia Cooke, who lived there at intervals over a period of five years, discovered a dynamic scene: baby-faced anarchists with Mohawks gelled with laundry soap, whiskey-drinking children of the elite, Santería trainees, pregnant prostitutes, university graduates planning to leave for the first country that will give them a visa.

Required Reading, Reflection, and Real Life Dialogue



Reading and Synthesis: From *The Art of Crossing Cultures* develop and describe three interactive group activities or games that help participants be aware of the issues and cultural perspectives that create distance and how to overcome them (20 %)



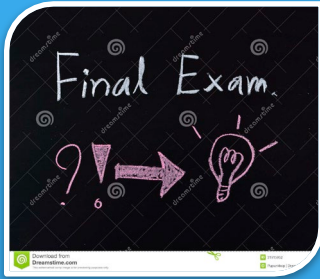
Read *Cuba's Great Awakening* and write a 4 to 6 page paper identifying and describing the initiatives and principles of faith and church growth in Cuba that could encourage the church here in Canada (15 %)



After reading *Cuba: What Everyone Needs To Know* in groups of two people, develop 60 minute tours in which you will be the guides in Havana explaining the background and implications of the following: Imperialism - Spanish and American (pre-revolution); Fidel's revolution and the Soviet Union; Surviving the collapse of the Soviet Union - The Special Period; Challenges and change with the "new" economy under Raul's leadership. 10 pages double spaced per person (20p/group). Tours will be assigned (30 %).



Journal of cultural interchange: Participants will be expected to journal 2 to 3 pages on each of the following: 1. Dialogue with your "cuban family" where you will be staying on how the political system and environment has shaped the family, workplace and community; 2. Interview with an educational pioneer on Cuba's innovative program of education and literacy; 3. Survey entrepreneurs in Havana and faculty at a business and leadership school to understand the complexities of doing business in what has been a very conservative communist economy(15 %); and 4. Meet with church leaders to understand how faith has played a key role in the change that is taking place in Cuba (25%).



Exam: Your participation in your cultural experience of buying fruit and vegetables in the local marketplace, preparing and serving Cuban food, hanging with Cubans over a Cuban cafecito (coffee) and participating in Cuban worship with its Cuban rhythm and dance. (10 %).

Note: All reading assignments are due by first day of the travel course except for journal of cultural exchange and final exam.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. All work is to be typed in good manuscript form. You are welcome to use the Social Science method if you choose.
2. Every student is expected to submit their work as follow:
 - a. Electronic posting in Moodle;
 - b. Hard copy in class on the due date;
 - c. All assignments must be submitted in order to complete the course.
3. For each 24 hour period late, there will be a drop of a letter grade.
4. The use of ideas and information without giving credit (plagiarism) or the presentation of someone else's work (cheating) will receive an immediate fail for the course!!

ICS 304

Ambrose University
Calgary

Blake and Kathy Penson (bkpenon@ambrose.edu)