



THOMPSON RIVERS
UNIVERSITY

***TRU School of Social Work and Human Service
SOCW 330- International Field School
CUBA – February 2008***

Course Description

This course will offer a 10 day international study experience in Cuba – in the capital city of Havana and the rural province of Pinar del Río. Students will learn about the political, economic, cultural and social conditions of Cuba, globalization and the impact of the US blockade on Cuba and Cuban citizens, social welfare policy and practice in a Socialist country, community development and resistance strategies, and about the marginalization and oppression of sub-groups of Cubans, such as sexual and gender minorities. Activities will involve presentations and seminars by educators, practitioners, activists and citizens, as well as visits to a range of community sites and social and health service organizations.

This course also includes mandatory preparatory seminars both before your departure and after your return and a team building weekend prior to departure.

Dates:

The international field school is organized by Leading Edge Seminars and will take place during Reading Break in February 2008. The course includes several seminar sessions in January 2008, the weekend of February 1 -3, 2008, the field studies component in Cuba from approximately February 13-24, 2008, and debriefing seminars in March 2008. (These dates are not firm as they are dependent on flight information which is not yet available.) Students wishing to stay on in Cuba after the official TRU portion of the program is complete may do so. Official TRU responsibility, however, no longer applies after the end of the program. Two return dates will be arranged, one immediately after the end of the program and one approximately 4 days later.

Costs:

Tuition fees for 3 credit course	\$ 400.00	(approximately)
Airline ticket (Kamloops-Toronto-Havana -return)	\$ 1250.00	(approximately)
Medical and cancellation insurance	\$ 100.00	(approx. - if not covered by TRU student policy or private policy)
Leading Edge Seminar fee	\$ 1400.00	(approximately)
Commitment fee/Deposit of \$400 due by September 28, 2007 50% refundable before December 20, 2007		
CUEF funding (see next page)	- \$ 500.00	
Total (approximately)	\$2650.00	

You should plan on an additional \$300.00 for personal expenses and shopping.

Funding:

This program is eligible for student loans. Please contact Student Services for help with the Student Loan process. (NVIT students should be in touch with their student financial officer).

This program is eligible for CUEF (Comprehensive University Education Fund) funding through the Study Abroad office. It will be possible for each TRU student who pays CUEF fees to be eligible for this funding. (approx. \$500.00).

The Bonnie Brooks Memorial Bursary (approx. \$600.00) is also available to one TRU social work student each year for an international study experience.

Students may also wish to engage in collective fundraising. This is up to the students and faculty will not be involved in assisting with the organizing of fund raising activity. Aboriginal students should contact their Band Education Coordinator for funding support as early as possible.

Registration:

You must register for the course – SOCW 330 – as soon as possible for the winter session and pay the corresponding fees.

The Commitment Fee must be paid by September 28, 2007 to ensure a spot in the program. Details on the payment of this fee and any further paperwork required will be forthcoming.

Medical coverage:

All students must have out-of-country health and medical insurance coverage to protect you from significant financial problems should a health or medical emergency arise. Students may purchase their out-of-country medical coverage with the travel agency booking the ticket or through another option. You may wish to discuss this with your family as someone in your family may have medical insurance coverage already for out-of-country travel and may be able to cover you as well. If you have medical coverage through TRU then you are covered for international travel. You will need to obtain proof of this. All students will be required to submit a copy of their out-of-country medical insurance to the Dean before leaving for Cuba.

Should you have a medical emergency while in Cuba, you will need to pay for the costs of medical treatment and then be reimbursed through your insurance coverage. Therefore, you must bring a credit card with you to be able to cover any emergency medical coverage.

Health:

Please ensure you discuss your plans to travel to Cuba with your doctor. You should also consult with your doctor as to any immunizations that your doctor might recommend.

Documentation:

We require that you have a passport. You cannot leave Canada without a valid passport.

If you are not a Canadian citizen, then you will need your passport from your country of origin and your landed immigrant status document.

PLEASE NOTE – Canadian Passports are taking much longer to process than ever before. If you are interested in this Field School Experience, you must apply as soon as possible to ensure the timely processing of your passport.