HART 3810/LAS 4951/5961 – Exhibiting Contemporary Art, Literature, and Culture in Cuba

Instructors: Professor Vivien Green Fryd, Professor, Department of History of Art and Professor William Luis, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor, Director of Latino and Latina Studies

Location: Matanzas, Cuba

Dates: May 6–May 31, 2019

This course intersects with the 13th Havana Biennial in Matanzas, Cuba for which Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Cornelius Vanderbilt Endowed Chair Professor of Fine Arts, is the Artistic Director. The 13th Havana Biennial, established in 1984, focuses on artists from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East to underscore the international aspect of contemporary art. The April 12-May 19, 2019 Biennial will be held in Havana, as has been the tradition, but it will also be held in expositions outside that city for the first time. We will study the selection of about thirty international artists that Campos-Pons has selected to be shown in her hometown of Matanzas (also including American artists), as well as those who will exhibit in other cities. At the same time, we will study the history, religion, literature, and culture of Cuba, keeping in mind the traditions of art presses in Cuba which will result in the Symposium of Alternative Presses, which will be concurrent with the biennial. We will focus on writers of the Cuban Revolution who write mainly prose and poetry and consider some of the Afro-Cuban religious manifestations typical of Cuban culture. We will travel to the different venues to see the spaces and artist projects and meet with artists, writers, religious practitioners, and other cultural promoters.

FEES: Cost is approx. $7,700.00