Join us for a two week travel course to explore the novelty of Cuba, the country very few U.S. citizens have an opportunity to see firsthand! During the trip we will learn about the Cuban revolution, how the U.S. blockade effects everyday life for the Cuban people, and some of the amazing feats that Cuba has accomplished in the institutions of education and healthcare despite the blockade. We will also explore the tourism boom in Cuba as it is now a growing industry on the island, the role of African religions in Cuba and its connection to art and dance, and society. Students will have the opportunity to take overnight excursion trips to the resort of Varadero to witness the impact of tourism directly and to the area of Matanzas to soak in the local culture.

The two weeks will provide students with a balance between lectures from Professor Gardner, Cuban experts, and exploration of Havana and the surrounding areas on excursions. During the tour of Old Havana you will see various forms of architecture. You will also have the opportunity to appreciate the historians attempt to restore some of the buildings. Interaction with the Cuban people will make noticeable their resilience and outlook on life, despite the hardships they face. Politics are involved in most aspects of the Cuban daily life, but their “go with the flow” attitude is surprisingly upbeat.

Kasey Gardner – Professor of Communication
Professor Kasey Gardner teaches Communication at Los Medanos College and directs the nationally ranked LMC Debate Team. With research interests in political economy, behavioral economics, and intercultural communication, Kasey is devastating at pub trivia. When out of the classroom or out of the country, Kasey is an avid snowboarder, political junkie, sports fan, and jazz consumer. Kasey earned an M.A. in Political Rhetoric from the University of the Pacific in 2009 and is on track for an MBA in Global Business from Saint Mary’s College of California in 2015.

Tentative Schedule:

Day 1. Arrival in Havana, transfer to hotel. Rest, orientation and arrival/welcome dinner.
Day 2. Morning lecture on Cuba’s history and culture. We will then go on a walking tour of Old Havana. We will visit the four main squares of Havana: the Plaza de Armas, the Parque Central, the Plaza de San Francisco and Plaza Vieja and many sites along the way. This will give us a good overview of what Old Havana has to offer. After lunch we will visit what is known as New Havana, which consists of the neighborhood of Vedado and the Revolution Square. Dinner is on your own.
Day 3. Morning lecture on the changing Cuban economy. A discussion on new categories allowed to do business by the government. We will visit small businesses. Dinner is on your own. The evening will be free for individual research.
Day 4. We will visit Las Terrazas, formerly a coffee plantation and currently a combination of a biological preserve and touristic center. The unique community outside of Havana is based on environmental conservation and sustainable development.
Day 5. Morning lecture on the educational system of Cuba. Visit to a local school. In the evening we will spend some time walking along the Malecon to get a feel what daily life is like for Cubans. Dinner will be on your own.
Day 6. Morning lecture on Ernest Hemingway. We will visit hotel Ambos Mundos where Hemingway did much of his early writing as well as the finca viga which was his privately held farm from where he did a lot of his later writing. Visit to neighborhood garden and agromercado. Lunch will be included. Dinner will be on your own.
Day 7. Lecture on Santaria and the effect of African religions in Cuba. Lunch. After lunch we will visit Regla (Afro Cuban religion.) Dinner will be on your own.
Day 8. In the morning we will stop in Matanzas on the way to see some cultural highlights of Matanzas, also known as the Athens of Cuba. We will push on from there to Varadero.
Day 10. Return to Havana. We will visit a Cuban cigar factory to understand production. We will also visit Hemingway’s Port. Lunch is included. Dinner is on your own.
Day 11. Lecture on Cuban art. Visit to the Instituto Superior de Artes (ISA) This is a free public school for visual and performing arts. Lunch. Dinner on your own.
Day 12. Lecture on changes in the Cuban Reinvestment Act. Visit to international business area in Miramar. Self directed travel and field study.
Day 14. Check out. Transfer to airport.

Our program will provide historical insight and commentary on contemporary Cuba. We will also be accompanied by a well trained English speaking guide, and traveling in an air conditioned bus. This is a moderately strenuous trip with fairly warm, humid weather. As legal travel to Cuba is restricted for American citizens, there are a limited number of opportunities for travel. We recommend that you send your deposit as soon as possible to guarantee your space. A non-refundable deposit of $500.00 is due no later than April 13, 2015 and the final payment by May 13, 2015.

We will be traveling on a general license with Los Medanos College. Legally you must register and pay school tuition to the college to be considered a legal participant of this program. GEF does not have the authority to enroll students at Los Medanos College. The college requires that all participants register and pay with the college for the program all fees associated with college credits only.

Program Includes:
- All bus transfers in Cuba
- Hotel accommodations in Cuba
- All lunches
- All breakfasts
- Museum entrance fees
- Visa for travel to Cuba
- A bilingual guide
- Medical insurance in Cuba
- Air between Miami and Havana
- Welcome and Departure dinners

Not included: Los Medanos credit fees.

TOTAL COST OF PROGRAM: $3,350.00
Deposit Deadline: April 13, 2015
Final Payment: May 13, 2015
CONTACT FOR CUBA: Paul Bardwil 916-225-8207 or Email: pbardwil@aol.com
EDUCATION CONTACT: Kasey Gardner 925-473-7833 or Email: kgardner@losmedanos.edu
This Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions under which GEF, 8428 Denison Ct, Sacramento, CA 95826 agrees to provide scheduled air, motor coach and other components of the tour.

RESPONSIBILITY: Neither GEF, nor IT'S employees, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "GEF") owns or operates any aeroplane or entity which does not provide services for your trip including, for example, accommodations, air, land, rail or other transportation, food service, local guides, etc. As a result, GEF will not be responsible for personal injury or property damage caused by the suppliers of these services, and if these services and components are prevented, restricted or interfered with by reason of events or causes beyond GEF control, including, without limitation, acts of civil or military authorities, by reason of statute, rule, or local law, action of federal, state or local government or agency, acts of public enemy, acts of terrorism, criminal activity, war, riot, embargoes, civil commotion, insurrection, strike or labor unrest, acts of God, attacks by animals, severe weather and climatic conditions, storm, flood, fire, earthquake, power or communication line failure, mechanical breakdown, loss or damage to equipment or property, sickness, food poisoning, unsafe sanitary conditions, quarantine, accident or illness, acts or omissions of carriers including but not limited to breach of contract, failure to comply with any laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (P.L. 101-336), delay or overbooking, acts or omissions of other providers such as hotels, local ground handlers, entertainers or sightseeing services or restaurants including but not limited to breach of contract, failure to comply with any laws such as the ADA, cancellation, delay or overbooking, or travel participant negligence. GEF cannot assume and is not to be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages (direct, indirect, consequential or incidental), costs, or expenses including, without limitation, injury, accident or death, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, lost or delayed baggage, loss of deposits or fares, loss of seat reservations, loss of funds, loss of travel documents, loss of travel and other uninsured or uninsured losses or expenses, whether physical or mental, arising out of or in connection therewith. Participant assumes complete and full responsibility for, and hereby releases GEF from, any duty of checking and verifying any all and safety and security conditions of the destination during the length of the proposed travel. GEF does not report, recommends, or guarantee the safety of the Destination Transportation (www.dot.gov), the Federal Aviation Administration (www.faa.gov) and the Transportation Security Administration (www.tsa.gov) for current news and releases regarding public travel.

GEF reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in its judgment, conditions warrant, or if it deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the trip. GEF reserves the right to cancel any itinerary for any reason, regardless of whether or not you are required to withdraw from the trip, if, at any time, such action is determined to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the trip group or of the individual participant. Under such circumstances, no refunds will be issued. Baggage and personal effects are solely the responsibility of the owner.

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS: A non-refundable deposit (as noted on reverse) per passenger and a completed and signed Registration Form are required to solidify your reservation. GEF reserves the right to charge all new bookings to the credit card or bank account on file. In the event of non-payment, GEF reserves the right to require any participant to withdraw from the trip if, at any time, such action is determined to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the trip group or of the individual participant. Under such circumstances, no refunds will be issued. Baggage and personal effects are solely the responsibility of the owner.

PRICES: The price of this travel package is set forth in this invoice based on rates in effect at the time of booking, and also reflects a discount for payment by cash, check or money order. Airfares and rates are subject to change. Price increases could include fuel & baggage surcharges, tax increases, not meeting minimum signature requirements, change of date of trip, and other unforeseeable fees. We will notify you in writing if these fees change or of prices increase.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND: If you cancel your reservation, your right to refund is limited, as set forth below. All cancellations and requests for refunds, if applicable, must be submitted in writing and mailed or faxed to GEF office. NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED FROM VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS. Cancellations occurring after deposit but before 60 days prior to departure will result in loss of the non-refundable deposit, optional insurance costs if purchased, and any additional airline, hotel, minimum activity or motor coach fees (if any). Cancellations received on or between 60-30 days prior to departure and are assessed 50% of trip cost plus optional insurance costs if purchased. Cancellations received within 30 days of departure will receive no refund. The actual fee depends on the date cancellation is received by GEF. Once cancelled, there will be a $30 reinstatement fee, plus any additional airline/hotel fees, and only on a space available basis. Upon cancellation of the transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not cancelled prior to the final cancellation date, GEF will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that you are not charged any additional fees. Baggage: Please consult your airline 24 hours before flight as baggage fees and costs charge rapidly. GEF is not responsible for damage to baggage. Carriers are not liable for damage to soft baggage. If participant’s luggage weighs more than 50 pounds or more than one piece of luggage participant is responsible for additional costs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE: The terms and conditions set forth herein are governed by, and are to be construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of California. Any action at law or in equity, including an action for declaratory relief, is brought to enforce or interpret any term or condition or to enforce any right and/or legal remedy, such action must be brought in a State or Federal court in the State of California with a venue in El Dorado County.

PERSONAL EXPENSES: Tour Price includes only those services specifically stated in the tour package. Items such as passport, luggage, clothing, in-vacation transportation and accommodations, transportation or travel services, all sums paid to GEF for services not received by you will be promptly refunded by GEF to you within 14 days after the cancellation, unless you otherwise advise GEF in writing, after cancellation. The rights and remedies made available under this contract are in addition to any other rights or remedies available under applicable law. However, we offer refunds under this contract with the express understanding that receipt of that refund by a passenger waives any additional remedies.

TRAVELER AGREEMENT: By joining this tour, I/we agree to:GEF as a travel planner and/or travel operator, in its sole discretion, to make changes and or price increases of the tour/flight without requiring any notification. Any change in the tour/flight itineraries, including but not limited to (nightly accommodations, meals, transportation, sightseeing, entertainment, and similar matters do not constitute reasonable accommodations, and the disabled participant must provide and be accompanied by an attendant for such personal care matters. All costs in connection with an attendant will be the responsibility of the disabled participant. Participant must notify GEF of any special needs prior to final payment date. If the participant has a medical condition that causes reasonable doubt that the participant can complete the tour or flight safely, that information must be disclosed to GEF prior to the final payment date. A medical certificate (a written statement from the participant’s physician stating that the participant is capable of completing the tour/flight safely without requiring extra medical assistance during the tour/flight) may be requested. If a medical certificate is not provided, the participant may be prohibited from participating in the trip.

SHARING OF INFORMATION: Because our travel services are offered in conjunction with the services of other companies such as airlines, homestays and other tour services, GEF may share your personal information with those companies. We may share the following information: name, address, phone, birth date, gender, school you attend or teach at, disability status, and specific travel plans. GEF may use this information to contact you with travel updates and tour/flight updates and to notify you of any changes to the itinerary. GEF will provide staff with images you’ve submitted and photos, videos and digital images for its marketing materials. GEF appreciates your participation in our photos, videos, and evaluations, and GEF reserves the right to use these to advertise tours and participants do not expect any compensation.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT: The terms of this agreement shall serve as a complete release and express assumption of risk for the undersigned trip participant. You and I/we have read and fully understand the provisions and legal consequences of this voluntary release/assumption of risk, and I/we hereby agree to all of its conditions.

DEPOSIT DEADLINES: The non-refundable deposit of $500.00 is due on April 13, 2015 and the final payment is due on May 13, 2015. Please send both to: GEF 8428 Denison Court, Sacramento, CA 95826.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS TOUR PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT.