This seminar will expand the traditional understanding of modern architecture and urbanism in Cuba to include the full kaleidoscope of historical, political, and cultural effects before and after the 1959 Revolution. Using the North-South relationship as the basic matrix, individual sessions will explore the spatial dimensions of a wide range of issues ranging from revolution, utopia, cold war, prefabrication, tropical modernism, ruins, preservation, disease, sexuality, violence, resistance, etc. Through a series of case studies – sites, buildings, urban projects – the class will explore how Cuba acted as a laboratory of modern architecture under the influence of multiple norths (the United States before the revolution and the Soviet Union afterwards) and multiple souths (with the rich legacy of experiments in Latin America). The immediate pre and post-revolutionary years are the core of this research class and particular emphasis will be paid to the relationship between the built environment and literature.
Requirements:
Students will be required to complete the readings, participate actively in the discussions, give a seminar presentation and write a research paper.

SEMINAR 1. Background – 1950s Havana

- Novel: Guillermo Cabrera Infante, *Three Trapped Tigers*
- Film: Michail Katatazov, *I am Cuba*
- History: Aviva Chomsky, *A History of the Cuban Revolution*

**Analyze the following projects:**
- Max Borges, Cabaret Tropicana

**Additional bibliography**

SEMINAR 2. Tourism


**Analyze the following projects:**
- Hotel Habana Libre (former Habana Hilton)

SEMINAR 3. The Art Schools
- Film: *Unfinished Spaces: Cuba’s Architecture of Revolution*

**Analyze the following projects:**
- Ricardo Porro, Vittorio Garatti, Roberto Gottardi, Instituto Superior de Arte

**Additional Bibliography:**
- *L’Architecture d’aujourd’hui* 350 (Cuba Issue), January-February 2004
- “Havana Backs Modernity”, by Eduardo Luis Rodríguez
- “Havana 1900-1950, Half a Century of Modernization”, by Juan Luis Morales Menocal
- “The Ups and Downs of La Rampa, Between Nostalgia and Regeneration”, by Isabel Rigol y Angela Rojas
- “Cuba! Cuba!” by Ricardo Porro.
- “Emilio del Junco” by Ricardo Porro.

**SEMINAR 4. Richard Neutra in Cuba**

- “Tres obras de Richard Neutra/Three projects of Richard Neutra,” *Arquitectura Cuba # 140*, March 1945
- “The Museum and the War” and excerpt from pp. 200ff discussing Neutra’s presence in Cuba in 1944.

**Additional Bibliography:**

Analyze the following projects:
  - Richard Neutra, Schultess House

SEMINAR 5. Dirty Urbanism
Fiction: Pedro Juan Gutiérrez, Dirty Havana Trilogy

Analyze the following space:
  - A block of Centro Habana

Additional Bibliography

SEMINAR 6. Cold War Concrete: The Soviet KPD System in Cuba
-Adrian Forty, Concrete and Culture: A Material History, 2012.

SEMINAR 7. Prostitution
-Jean-Paul Sartre, Hurricane over sugar, 1961.

Analyze the following project:
  - The Malecón, Havana’s ocean drive.

Additional Bibliography:

** SPRING BREAK: FIELD RESEARCH IN HAVANA (1 WEEK) ***
SEMINAR 8. Bureaucracy
- Film: Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, Death of a Bureaucrat (1964)

Analyze the following:
  o The Museum of the Revolution, Havana

Additional bibliography:
—Ludwig von Mises, Bureaucracy, Liberty fund, 2007

SEMINAR 9. RUINS
- Antonio José Ponte, “An Art of Making Ruins” (BB)

Analyze the following projects:
  o A ruined building in Havana

Additional bibliography:

SEMINAR 10. Eating and Drinking
- Ted Henken, “Vale Todo: In Cuba’s Paladares,” Havana Beyond the Ruins

Analyze the following project:
  o A Paladar, restaurant, or bar in Havana

Additional bibliography:

SEMINAR 11. Music & Space
- Nora Gámez Torres, Hearing the Change: Reggaeton and Emerging Values in Contemporary Cuba

Analyze the following project:
  o Protest Acoustic Shell facing the American Embassy, Havana

Additional bibliography:

SEMINAR 12. Surveillance
Film: Return to Ithaca, dir. Laurent Cantet, 2014.

Analyze the following project:
- Protest Acoustic Shell facing the American Embassy, Havana

Additional bibliography:

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

CUBA
- Tejeira-Davis, Eduardo. Roots of modern Latin American architecture: the Hispano-Caribbean region from the late 19th century to the recent past.

LATIN AMERICA
- Bergdoll, Barry, Latin America in Construction, MoMA, 2015.
- Waisman, Marina and Naselli, César. 10 Arquitectos latinoamericanos. Consejería de Obras Públicas y Transportes, Dirección General de Arquitectura y Vivienda, 1989. [or Sevilla: Junta de Andalucía, 1989].