



Bodies, Borders and Culture-Crossings:

Transnational Activism in/from Miami, Florida

Fall 2019

Faculty Led Study Away Semester

Faculty Directors

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Course Description

Borders are violently contested in America today as elsewhere. Lines are drawn to split up cultures and communities across the Americas. Building walls literally and politically, power and force are used against immigrants, queer, women, poor, and racial others. From the United States to Central and South America, anti-poor, anti-immigrant, anti-queer, and anti-black violence have escalated. Why and how do nations restrict physical and geographical boundaries, punish corporeal bodies, and attack cultures through the politics of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, language, class, nationalism, nativism, and regionalism? From Miami, Florida, this new semester study away program will experiment with '**Humanities and Social Sciences in Action**'.

Why Miami? People know Miami for its beaches and art deco. This southern coastal city is, however, rich and dynamic in cultural hybridity, street and public arts, queer performances, youth activism, and young democratic politics. Beyond its liveliness of the Caribbean and Latin American cultures, Miami is an ***innovative urban laboratory*** for studying global, local, cross-cultural, racial, gender, queer, and immigrant activism. From Miami, the program will examine the dialectical process of cultural marginalization and integration whereby diverse communities of color simultaneously challenge, influence and change one another. Hegemonic power relations are reinforced and altered through everyday social activism. From this urban laboratory, we will examine the 'intercultural' dynamics and contradictions of cultures and subcultures (migrant, queer, refugee, immigrant, black, Latino, Asian, Caribbean, youth, women, and the poor) where bodies, borders and identities are being contested.



Program Highlights

- * Experience the edgy arts movements from the world renowned [Art/ Basel](http://www.artbasel.com) (the premier modern and contemporary art exhibit of cutting-edge and emerging artists) in Miami to **Urban Graffiti Art of Wynwood** (<http://www.thewynwoodwalls.com/walls>) to **The Miami Design District** (<https://www.miamidesigndistrict.net/about/>).
- * Live in the Historic Art Deco District of South Beach, Miami.
- * Dialogue with painters, sculptors, filmmakers, photographers, installation artists, street performers, musicians, writers, scholars, neighborhood organizers, and activists.
- * Teach and mentor children and teens.
- * Hold workshops on social and cultural issues for the public.
- * Design a semester-long unique internship project with public, city, non-profit, community, and entrepreneurial organizations.
- * See America anew from the vantage point of the vibrant, culturally diverse, tropical Atlantic city of Miami (<https://www.historymiami.org/>).

Program Information

- **COURSES: Earn 4 Wheaton credits!**
 - Queer Politics and Hispanisms (HISP 325/WGS 326, Part of 3 courses Connection: 2058 *Latino Culture*, 2303 *Modern Latin America*, and 2306 *Sexuality*)
 - Immigration (SOC 270)
 - Interculturality (New Course INT 398)
 - Internship (Practicum 398)
- **STUDY+INTERNSHIP+ACTIVISM:** Create and design a **special internship experience** combined with study and activism. Through seminar-format class sessions and field-based practicum projects, students will learn first-hand about cultural hybridity in an ethnically and racially diverse city where art and politics intertwine in global and distinctive ways. Through internships, students will discover and experience the role that music, literature, dance, art, poetry, activism, and design can play in ethnic, queer and migration politics about borders, justice and identities. **With guidance, students will explore and design their own projects within** a diversity of fields—from the arts to public policy to community development to national engagements.
- **POSSIBLE INTERNSHIP SITES:** Teach for America; Engage Miami; Miami Dolphins, Catalyst Miami; Democratic Party; Florida Immigrant Coalition; CLEO Institute on climate change; SAVE, a LGBT organization; Nyah Project on leadership; The Venture Café Miami; The Young Arts Foundation; PS305 marginalized families combatting injustice; The New Tropic, a digital-millennial newspaper; plus more.



- **SEMINARS + PUBLIC SERVICE:** To embed the liberal arts education with public service and social action and to experience Miami on foot on daily basis, the classes will be held at the [Miami Beach Regional Public Library](#). We will hold Wheaton seminars at the library, but, as part of our program, students will have the opportunity to design and lead workshops for library patrons, including children, teens, elders, immigrants, etc. Students will interact with community groups and experience the library as an educational platform of undeniable social impact. These engagements will enable students to help foster interactions of social significance that enhance the lives of citizens.
- **CITY WALK+BIKING+PUBLIC BUS:** We will walk or bike to classes, activities, internship sites, and our lodging. Miami Beach is a pedestrian, walkable, biking city that is a pleasure to navigate, with the Atlantic Ocean and palm trees lining the coast. The Miami Beach's **FREE** trolley provides a reliable transportation alternative complementing the existing transit network. Students can also use the [Citi Bike program](#) that for getting around the city with a nominal cost.
 - Proximity to Downtown Miami and city center: Miami Dade Transit operates a public bus from Miami Beach to Downtown Miami every 30 minutes. The busfare is \$3 and the journey takes 24 minutes.
- **LODGING:** Students will reside in double occupancy rooms at [Princess Ann Hotel](#) in Miami Beach (South Beach), steps from Ocean Drive and Collins Avenue, which are lined with cafes, restaurants, shops, boutiques, etc. This hotel is 0.1 mi (0.1 km) from Art Deco Historic District and 0.1 mi (0.1 km) from 8th Street Designer District.

Application Information

- Apply online at globaled.wheatoncollege.edu (**Go to Study Abroad link**).
- Complete applications must be submitted by the application deadline in order to be considered.
- Applications may be reviewed and students accepted on a rolling basis.
- Accepted students will be expected to confirm participation within two weeks of notification of acceptance.
- **Application deadline: March 1, 2019**

Semester Costs

- Continue to pay Wheaton comprehensive fees (tuition, room, board) for this semester in Miami.

 **All your federal & Wheaton aid travels with you!**