TRAVEL COURSES TO CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA
JUNE 11-28, 2014
Introduction to Caribbean Studies
&
Spanish Languages courses (all levels)

The departments of Latin American Studies and Women’s Studies (LA/W/S) and World Languages and Cultures are offering two 3 credit courses to be offered in Cartagena, Colombia. Students may take one or both courses; they are open to all interested students by application.

Interested? Contact Dr. Sharon Meagher, Chair of the Department of Latin American Studies and Women’s Studies (LA/W/S) and Director of Women’s Studies, LSC 211 C, 941-4075 or Dr. Yamile Silva, Director of Latin American Studies, O’Hara 307, LAWS@scranton.edu
Where is Cartagena, Colombia?

Cartagena is a beautiful historic colonial city located on the Caribbean Sea. It is a safe city that hosts many tourists and students who come to learn about the richness of Spanish Caribbean heritage and culture.
Why Study in Cartagena?

The University of Scranton’s Departments of Latin American Studies and Women’s Studies (LA/W/S) and World Languages and Cultures have partnered with the Technological University de Bolivar in Cartagena. Dr. Yamile Silva, Director of Latin American Studies, and Dr. Sharon Meagher, Chair of LA/W/S conducted a site visit to explore a partnership because of the excellence of their summer programs in Caribbean Studies and their reputation for outstanding Spanish immersion classes.

Although Cartagena is now very safe and the city offers remarkable educational opportunities, few Americans have the chance to study in the capital of the Spanish Caribbean.
Our courses:

Option 1: LAWS 384: Introduction to Caribbean Studies: 3 credits. Taking advantage of both the expertise of faculty at UTB as well as the city’s historic art, architecture, and cultural events, this course will introduce students to the history, culture, and politics of the Caribbean, with a particular focus on the Spanish Caribbean and Cartagena’s leading role in that culture. The class will feature a combination of lecture, class discussion, and fieldtrips in the city of Cartagena. This course will count as an elective in the Latin American Studies major and concentration. The language of instruction is English, but an option is available for students who desire Spanish language credit.

Option 2: Spanish immersion class: 3 credits (all levels available; all students except beginners will take a placement test in advance of the course). UTB offers the highest internationally Cervantes-Institute certified Spanish language immersion courses. Students will be placed in small classes based on their level; the full immersion will be reinforced through local family homestays.

Option 3: Take both classes! This is an incredible bargain—take 6 credits and only pay for 2 credits tuition plus travel costs!
Course Schedule

Course schedule
Feb. 21: application deadline; early applicants encouraged as we will have rolling admissions
Feb. 21: deposit required
March 26th: balance is due for travel costs
Spring 2014: 2 meetings to prepare for the trip
June 1-11: some on-line work to prep for the Caribbean Studies course
June 11-28th: Cartagena

Travel itinerary
June 11, 2014, depart NYC or Philadelphia; arrive in Cartagena; pick-up by host families
June 12, 2014, classes start at UTB
June 28 2014, fly home
Classes will be held at the Technological University of Bolivar (UTB), located in the upscale residential neighborhood of Manga. The building at the right will be our university site. Students will live in the same neighborhood with host families that have been vetted by UTB. UTB is highly experienced at hosting American students; they will provide faculty and staff support in addition to the two University of Scranton faculty members who will accompany students on the trip.
Both courses will utilize the city of Cartagena as a site of experiential learning, with particular focus on the UNESCO heritage site, old city Cartagena, which has been wonderfully restored.
Is Cartagena, Colombia safe? YES! We would not take students if we did not think so. While Colombia struggled with security issues due to drug cartel financed guerrillas during the 1980s and 1990s, there are no dangers for residents or visitors in major urban areas and along the Caribbean coast. In fact, Cartagena never suffered the difficulties of other parts of Colombia. Despite this fact, the Colombian government has invested heavily in insuring the safety of its visitors and promoting tourism, particularly on the Caribbean coast and in the attractive historical city of Cartagena. Streets are clean and well lit in all of the central neighborhoods, and the mood is festive and calm. Police are ubiquitous, friendly, and helpful.

While the U.S. State department continues to issue a state department warning for Colombia because of remote rural activities of small militia groups, Cartagena is exempted from this warning and noted to be safe. The few reports of terrorist activities have not taken place in Cartagena and, realistically, those threats in other Colombian cities number fewer than those in the U.S.. Colombia currently enjoys a safe, stable government and a booming economy; the days of drug cartels are in the past. Dr. Sharon Meagher and Dr. Yamile Silva personally did site visits to insure that the city is safe.

Cartagena is a large city and visitors are expected to exercise the usual precautions necessary in all developed cities around the world. The neighborhood where we will stay is a quiet, upscale residential neighborhood that features yacht clubs, single-family homes, and apartments. Students will be expected to conduct themselves as representatives of the U.S. and the University of Scranton and to follow our directives. Students will be accompanied by two the department chair as well as the director of Latin American Studies and will be further supported by faculty and staff at UTB as well as by their host families.
Frequently Asked Questions II: How much does the course cost?

- **How much will the course(s) cost?** Because the University of Scranton strongly encourages and supports study abroad, we can offer a tuition discount so that the tuition charge for each 3-credit course is only 1 summer credit, i.e., $783. Course credit will be granted directly by the University of Scranton.

- **Travel costs and fees for our host institution:** Spanish language immersion course or Caribbean Studies courses are $2800 each. Both courses $3800. Costs include private room with shared bath in a host family home; breakfast and main meal daily; airport transportation in Colombia; field trips connected to courses; books and supplies; university fees.

- **Other costs:** Students are responsible for the cost of lunches, incidentals, weekend excursion options, and passport application costs (if student does not already have a passport; no visa is required for US citizens to travel to Colombia). Airfare options from JFK Airport (New York) are $750 or from Philadelphia International Airports $950; transportation to and from the airports from the students’ homes is not included. *Students are encouraged to buy their own travel insurance, as travel costs are not refundable.*

- **When is payment due?** A deposit of $850 is due by February 21, 2014; the balance is due March 26th. Checks should be made payable to the University of Scranton and delivered to Dr. Sharon Meagher, LSC 407, Dr. Yamile Silva, O’Hara 307, or Ms. Donna Rupp, LA/W/S Department office, LSC 211C. 1 credit tuition in the amount of $783 will be billed by the University for each 3-credit course students take, to be billed as usual for 2014 summer session 1.
Frequently Asked Questions III: Travel Logistics

• **What are the travel arrangements?** For the convenience of students, we will offer RT flight options from NYC airports (either JFK or LaGuardia) as well as from Philadelphia. A UofS faculty member will accompany each group of students. We will fly into Cartagena International airport, (from NYC) or into Baranquilla (from Philadelphia); host families will pick us up when we arrive in Colombia.

• **What are the living and study arrangements?** The Technological University of Bolivar (UTB) is located in the upscale neighborhood of Manga.

• **What vaccinations are necessary?** There are no required vaccinations or special medications necessary for travel to Cartagena. Some travel medicine sites suggest a yellow fever vaccine for travel to Colombia, but it is not necessary for the Cartagena region and we will not travel outside that region.

• **What about medical care in Cartagena?** Cartagena boasts excellent medical facilities and The University provides medical insurance to all University of Scranton students while travelling and it is valid at the local international hospitals. In addition, medi-vac coverage is provided in cases of extreme emergency.

• **Will students be able to contact their families while abroad?** Yes, internet access will be available to all students on the UTB campus; instructors will have emergency cell phones.

• **Students must have passports with an expiration date later than January 2015.** Students who do not yet have passports must apply immediately to be assured of obtaining their passport prior to travel; students with passports that expire prior to January 2015 should seek renewal.

*Students or parents are encouraged to contact Dr. Sharon Meagher, Chair of the Department of Latin American Studies and Women’s Studies at sharon.meagher@scranton.edu or 570-941-4075 if they have additional questions or concerns.*