

Travel Seminar to Puerto Rico with Skidmore Faculty

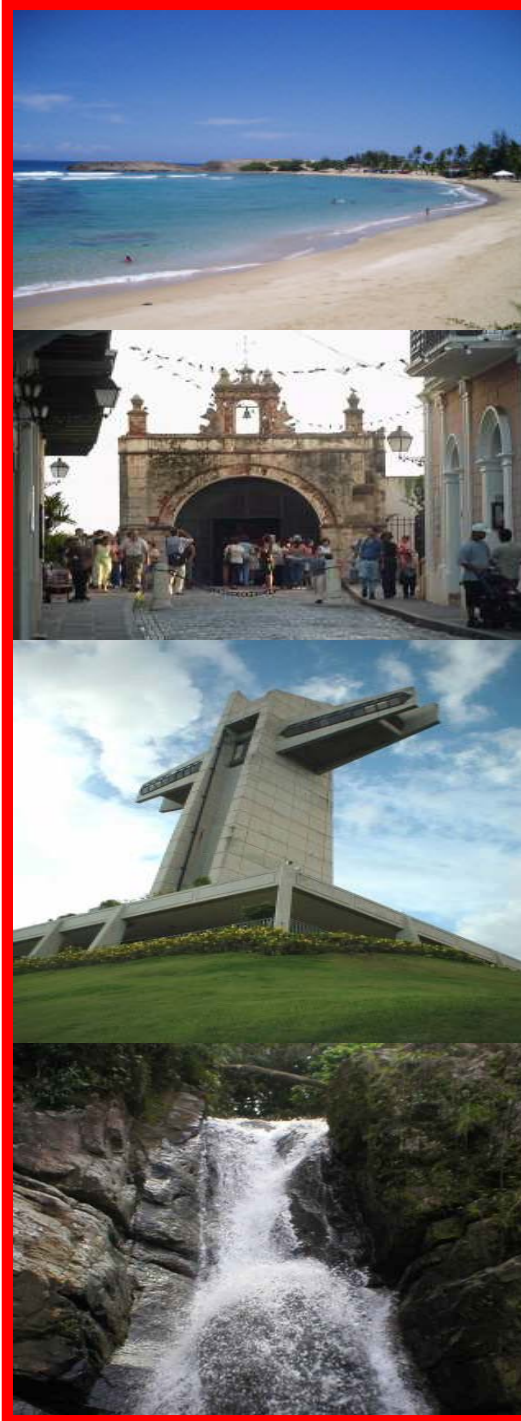
For information on the cost and travel logistics of TX 202, contact Lisa Hobbs in Off-Campus Study & Exchanges (OCSE) at 580-5355 or lhobbs@skidmore.edu.

For information on the Latin American Studies program, contact Professor Jordana Dym, Director of Latin American Studies at 580-5272 or jdym@skidmore.edu.

For information on the International Affairs program, contact Professor Gary McClure, Director of International Affairs program at 580-5117 or gmcclure@skidmore.edu



“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.” Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad* (1869) Chapter LXII



Skidmore College

Puerto Rico and the United States:

Culture and Colonialism



**TX 202: LAS/IA Faculty-led Travel
Seminar to Puerto Rico**

January 5-15, 2009

FACULTY

PROFESSOR JORDANA DYM
(jdym@skidmore.edu)

PROFESSOR VIVIANA RANGIL
(vrangil@skidmore.edu)

Travel Seminar to Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico and the United States is a two-course (3 credits total) learning experience combining class work and readings on campus during the Fall semester and a field trip with class work and lectures in Puerto Rico during January break. TX202 Faculty-Led Travel Seminar (1 credit) is the travel segment of the experience. TX 201B Regional Topics (2 credits) is the on-campus segment. Students must be registered for TX 201B in order to qualify for the travel seminar TX 202.

Why Puerto Rico?

Puerto Rico, an ambiguous part of the United States for over 100 years, is not a state or colony or independent country or occupied territory. A former Spanish colony that the US acquired as part of the settlement with Spain after the Spanish American War, Puerto Rico has been a commonwealth in association with the US since 1952, and is, in the words of one author, “a four-storied country” whose past and present raise important questions about Puerto Rican (and US) national identity, cultural autonomy, political processes, and economic integration. Arguably part of Latin America and the Caribbean, with which it shares a colonial past and current popular culture, Puerto Rico is an island of contrasts—rich and poor, urban and rural, scientific and cultural—whose population is now almost evenly divided between people who live on the island and those who live on the US mainland.

This course explores the tensions and paradoxes of Puerto Rico as a commonwealth with the soul of a nation and an increasingly mobile and diasporic people. The on-campus segment will study the social, political, cultural, and economic impact of the U.S. and Puerto Rico on each other. Topics include the social construction of race, gender, and Puerto Rican identity; music and literature and identity; social and political movements from labor to feminist to pro-statehood and pro-independence organization, and migration. During the travel seminar students will test in museums, guided tours, and meetings, the ideas developed in classroom discussion and work on group projects that they will present upon their return to campus in Spring 2009.

Preliminary Travel Schedule

Subject to change

- January 5:** **Depart from NYC for Puerto Rico**
Afternoon: Introduction to San Juan
Evening: Welcome Dinner
- January 6:** **Morning:** IPC: Instituto Puertorriqueño de Cultura Archivo General de Puerto Rico
Afternoon: Walking Tour – Old San Juan
Evening: Dinner in Old San Juan
- January 7:** **Morning:** Guest Lecture: Musical Traditions
Afternoon: Lunch/Dance Lesson Puerto Rican Literary Traditions: Ruben Avila, UPR
Evening: Free Evening
- January 8:** Beyond San Juan 1: Day trip to Ponce, coffee hacienda
- January 9:** **Morning:** Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico
Afternoon: Independent Museum Visit
Evening: Sonia Fritz: Films of Puerto Rico (screening)
- January 10:** **Morning:** Guest Lecture: Being Nyuorican in Puerto Rico
Afternoon: Preserving biodiversity: El Yunque Forest
Evening: Bio-luminescent bay
- January 11:** Beyond San Juan 2: Day trip to Vieques
- January 12:** **Morning:** Politics: Discussion with political party representatives
Afternoon: El Capitolio
Evening: Dinner Old San Juan
- January 13:** **Morning:** Guest Lecture: Consumer Cultures
Afternoon: Mercadito & Mall of the Americas
Evening: Free Evening
- January 14:** **Morning:** Big Business on a Small Island
Afternoon: Meet with Business owners/activists
Evening: Farewell Dinner
- January 15:** Arrival back to Continental U.S.

Skidmore Faculty

Jordana Dym is Associate Professor of History, the author of one book and one edited volume in Central American history, and the author of several articles and book chapters (www.skidmore.edu/~jdym). She has led students in a 3-week study abroad course in Mexico City in Summer 2005 and served as director of Skidmore's Fall Seminar in Paris in Fall 2006. She also currently serves as the Director of Latin American Studies.

Viviana Rangil is Associate Professor of Foreign Languages of Literatures, the author of *Otro punto de vista: Mujer y Cine en Argentina*. Rosario, Argentina Beatriz Viterbo, 2005 and *Cine argentino de hoy. Entre el arte y la política*. Buenos Aires, Argentina, Biblos, 2007, and numerous articles on Latin American film and Latino culture. She was Director of Latin American Studies from 2004-2006 and currently serves on the advisory boards for LAS and WS.

Anticipated Costs

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar to Puerto Rico is \$2700 (may fluctuate). This includes roundtrip airfare from NY to Puerto Rico, all ground transportation onsite, onsite accommodations with double occupancy, 2 meals a day, medical insurance, entrance and performance fees, local guides, cultural excursions, Skidmore LAS faculty onsite, and the support of Skidmore's OCSE. The fee does not include personal expenses.

Application

Applications are available from Professor Dym in Tisch 326, Professor Rangil in Palamountain 410, OCSE in Starbuck Center 202 or online on the OCSE webpage. Application Deadline is April 3, 2008. Applicants are required to submit a \$250 non-refundable deposit at time of application to hold their space on the program. (100% refundable if not accepted to program). This deposit will be applied to program fee.