Islands in the Caribbean archipelago have been variously characterized as paradisical, as the sites of wealth-producing plantations, as staging posts for narcotics traders, as ideal Spring Break destinations. Caribbean societies and cultures have been shaped by forced convergences of indigenous populations, European, African and Asian peoples, the result of violent colonization and involuntary migrations. *Caribbean Counterpoint: Havana, Cuba and Kingston, Jamaica* offers Students in Global Liberal Studies who are interested in the Caribbean region the opportunity to spend two weeks of intensive study on two of the region’s most interesting cities. Drawing on readings from literature, history, cultural studies and film, this course takes an interdisciplinary, transnational approach to examining the formative influences on Caribbean urban cultures of contestations arising from histories of slavery, indentureship and colonialism in the making of the contemporary Caribbean. Questions addressed include: how have the residual legacies of slavery and colonization facilitated consumption in and of the Caribbean city?