

Professor Hyacinth Miller
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Student support hours: via Zoom, by appointment

INTRO TO CARIBBEAN STUDIES

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Spring 2023 – January 17 – May 1
Tuesdays, 6 pm – 9 pm, Conklin 346

Mandatory Class – Wednesday March 8 – Hahne – Express Newark 12 noon – 1:30 pm

About This Course

The Caribbean – Crossroads of the World – is more than a tropical region filled with palm trees, exotic people and resorts. In this discussion-based interactive course, you will explore the history of the Caribbean, its geography, literary and cultural productions (music/film/food/religion), and its intellectual tradition. Together, we will reflect on major issues including colonialism; economic intra and interdependence; culture and language; regional, national and ethnic identity; and independence. We will also connect the events of the past to current events to help explain the political, social and economic status of the countries of the Caribbean and their relationship to and with the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Emphasis will be given to understanding contributions of Caribbean Studies to the exploration of contemporary issues in our interconnected world and serve as a foundation for future coursework in the Department of Africana Studies.

Course Outcome Goals

1. Explain the relevance of major actors, events and ideas that have shaped Caribbean history
2. Identify Caribbean nations on a map and differentiate according to colonial heritage, language and ethnicity
3. Evaluate the impact of colonialism, globalization and neocolonialism on the Caribbean's socio-economic and political status
4. Explain the strategies employed by indigenous, formerly enslaved and indentured laborers to undermine social, economic and political oppression
5. Improve critical thinking and writing skills, as applied to Caribbean Studies, through engagement with interdisciplinary scholarship and analysis of primary sources

[Africana Studies Mission Statement](#)

[Le Negré Marron in Haiti](#) - the photo below is a sculpture of an emancipated Black man on one knee with the other leg extended behind him. He is blowing a large conch shell looking upward and in the other hand, a machete placed on a rock.



Prerequisites: An open mind and a willingness to engage with new ideas

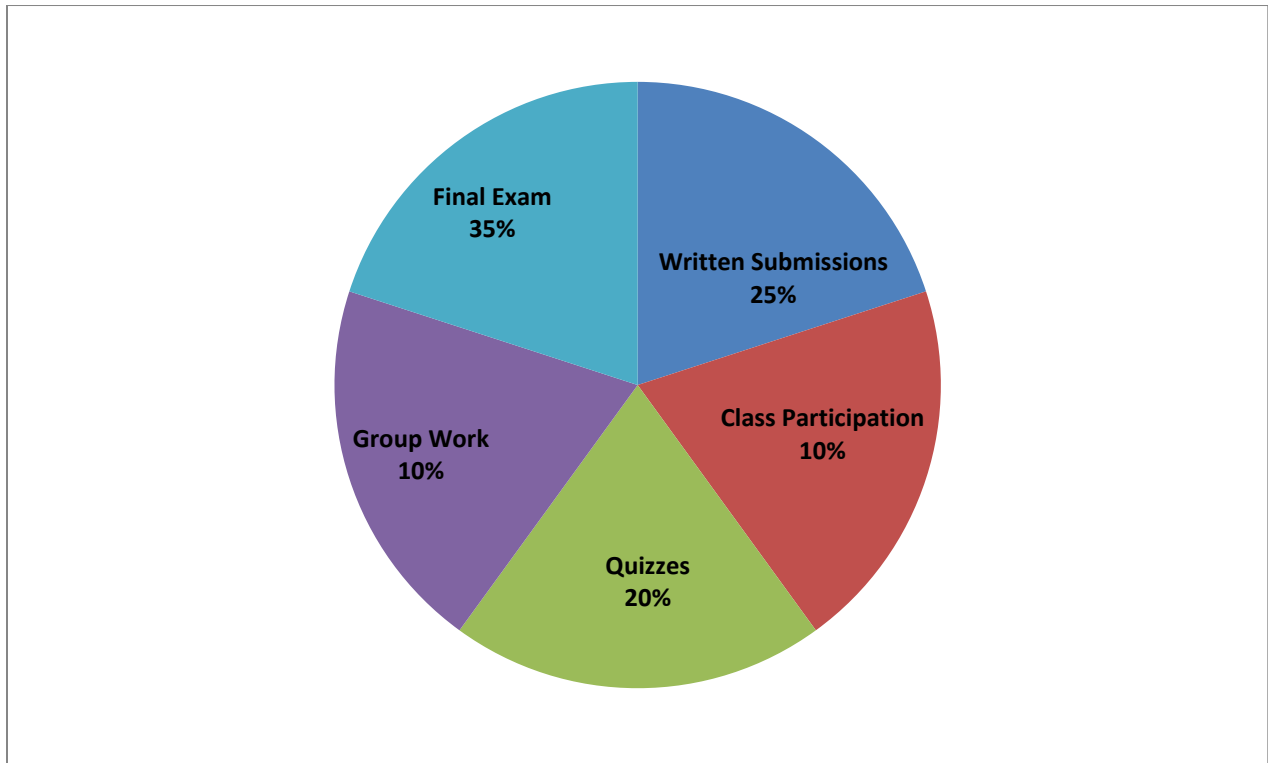
Required Texts - All books are available from the Rutgers campus bookstore and the RU library.

1. Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000)
ISBN: 978-0374527075
2. Frantz Fanon. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Grove Press.
ISBN: 978-0802143006

Grading

1. Article Submissions.....25%
Three article analyses that focus on a contemporary issue in the Caribbean.
2. Class Participation.....10%
Self-introduction video, no late required assignment submissions and appropriate responses to classmate videos and discussion threads.
3. Group Country Presentation.....10%
A country presentation video responding to question prompts
4. Quizzes.....20%
Four 10-question quizzes
5. Final Exam.....35%
This cumulative final exam will assess your introductory knowledge of the Caribbean

Course Grading Breakdown



Course Grading Scale

90 – 100+	A
87 – 89.9	B+
80 – 86.9	B
77 – 79.9	C+
70 – 76.9	C
65 – 69.9	D
0 – 64.9	F

Academic Integrity

This course follows Rutgers University policies relating to Academic Integrity. Rutgers University expects students to maintain the highest ethical standards. The consequences of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, are very serious. Violations will be reported and enforced according to this policy.

Use of external website resources such as Chegg.com or others to obtain solutions to homework assignments, quizzes, or exams is cheating and a violation of the University Academic Integrity policy. Cheating in the course may result in grade penalties, disciplinary

sanctions or educational sanctions. Posting homework assignments, or exams, to external sites without the instructor's permission may be a violation of copyright and may constitute the facilitation of dishonesty, which may result in the same penalties as plain cheating. Plagiarism means copying another person's written work and presenting it as your own. This covers all submitted work in this course. The University takes plagiarism very seriously as do I.

The department REQUIRES that the following honor pledge is written and signed on every exam, paper, or other major course assignment that is submitted for grading:

“On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).”

Privacy

To ensure a positive, productive and enjoyable learning experience for all participants, it is important that all students adhere to **Online Classroom, Meetings and Activities Expectations**, which include online behaviors and privacy guidelines for students.

Privacy Guidelines for Students

All students must follow the following privacy guidelines:

- ✚ Do not video record, audio record, photograph, live stream, transmit or share in any other way any part of online classes, meetings or activities, including no posting on any social media platform.
- ✚ Any confidential or personally identifiable information related to students participating during online classes, meetings or activities should not be collected, discussed or shared.

Behavioral Expectations for Students

- ✚ Use your Rutgers accounts when logging into Zoom or Canvas because they require the use of your Rutgers NetID and password.
- ✚ DO NOT SHARE your login credentials. Students who share login information violates other students' and instructors' rights to confidentiality and could allow class participation by unauthorized persons and/or lead to disruptive behaviors that detract from a productive and positive learning environment.
- ✚ All Rutgers University policies that apply to civility and appropriate student behavior must be adhered to, including the [University Code of Conduct](#) and Rules of Professional Responsibility.

Communication Policy

You are responsible for reading all of my posted announcements. You should log into our course site frequently to check for new announcements.

Contact me via email at hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu. I will usually respond to email messages within 24 to 48 hours (except for weekends).

When sending me an email, address the email as Dear Professor Miller, or Dear Professor. **I WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAIL MESSAGES THAT BEGIN WITH “Hey”, “Yo”, “Hi” or NO GREETING AT ALL.**

Always include the subject and course name in the subject line because I teach more than one class per semester.

RU Web mail is the official email address used by the course software. University policy is to **only communicate with students using a Rutgers email address.**

Participation Policy




I designed this course to be an interactive learning experience.

Life happens and a global pandemic does not make it easier. Make sure to communicate with me and/or your Rutgers-Newark Academic Advisor if anything happens to you that disrupts your academic progress.

Late Submission Policy - No late submissions accepted.

Time Commitment

This course includes considerable time spent doing readings, assignments and other work toward course mastery. To be successful in this course, guidelines estimate that you will need to spend at least six to nine hours of coursework per week. Depending on your individual background and/or schedule, some Units may require more time, some less.

 Watching Instructor Videos and other Multimedia:	up to 2 hours
 Reading Assignments	up to 3 hours
 Various Weekly Assignments	up to 2 hours

This course has a schedule with deadlines. **This course is NOT self-paced.** Do not try to ‘save-up’ all course work to the day before assignments are due. Doing work every day works best.

Dropping or Withdrawing from the Course

In order to drop or withdraw from this course, it is not sufficient to stop posting assignments or contributing to discussion. **You must do so formally through the Registrar's office.** It is your responsibility to complete all forms. If not, I must assign you an F grade at the end of the semester.

Required technological skills - Ability to use Canvas and MS Word

Technical Problems

Direct ALL technical questions to the Student Help Desk at help@newark.rutgers.edu. You can also call them at **973-353-5083**. This link directs you to the Newark Computing Services Web site [Help Desk](#). If there is a technical glitch on Blackboard, email the assignment to me at hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu, **BEFORE** the deadline.

In an online environment, there is always a possibility of technical issues (e.g., lost connection, hardware or software failure). Many of these can be resolved relatively quickly, but if you wait until the last minute to do/submit an assignment, the chances of these glitches affecting your success increase. Plan appropriately. If a problem occurs, it is essential you take immediate action to resolve the problem.

Required equipment

Computer, Internet access, webcam with microphone OR headphones with microphone; software that can save a file in the format of Microsoft Word. Canvas does not always read Pages very well

Videos and Web sites

Full versions of many of the films shown in class are available for you to borrow from the Rutgers Media Library.

Protecting the intellectual property of students and instructors

Almost all original work is the intellectual property of its authors. These works may include syllabi, lecture slides, recorded lectures, homework problems, exams, and other materials, in either printed or electronic form. The authors may hold copyrights in these works, which are protected by U.S. statutes. Copying this work or posting it online without the permission of the author may violate the author's rights. More importantly, these works are the product of

the author's efforts; respect for these efforts and for the author's intellectual property rights is an important value that members of the university community take seriously.

For more instructions on copyright protections at Rutgers University, refer to the [Rutgers Libraries](#).

Course Content - Refer to the course modules for specifics on each unit

Section 1. Indigenous Peoples, Colonization and Slavery

Section 2. Emancipation, Decolonization and Independence

Section 3. Caribbean Political Movements

Section 4. Globalization



The photo above is of [Cap-Haïtien](#), a white, grandiose, palatial structure. Cap-Haïtien was not only the first capital of French Haiti, but also the government seat for the Kingdom of Northern Haiti, led by King Henri Christophe, the country's first independent leader.

Changes to course schedule

I will adjust the course schedule, required assignments or readings to provide the best learning experience possible, so this syllabus may not be the final version.

Weekly Readings

Course Themes	Topics
Unit 1 Colonization and Emancipation	Introduction & the Indigenous
	The Maroons
	Revolution and Independence
Unit 2 Decolonization and Independence	Caribbean Racial Formations
	Post-Emancipation and Indentureship
	Dutch-speaking Caribbean
	The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Unit 3 Caribbean Political Movements	Caribbean Economies
	Caribbean Diaspora
	Cuba
	Grenada, Carriacou, Petite Martinique
Unit 4 Globalization	Caribbean Tourism
	Cultural Productions - Music

Weekly Readings - Details

Unit 1 – Colonization and Enslavement

Module 1 – Introduction to Caribbean Studies

Lillian Guerra. March 2014. “Why Caribbean History Matters.” *Perspectives on History*

Module 2 – Indigenous and African Resistance – The Maroons

- European Encounters, The People Who Greeted Columbus, The Religion of the Taino People, The Indian Monarchs - The Dominican Republic Reader_Part 1.pdf
- Runaway Slaves in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Quilombo: Brazilian Maroons during slavery
- The Role of Women in the Maroon Societies of Suriname and French Guiana

Module 3 – Revolution and Independence – Ayiti

- Aaron Segal. (1988) “The Duvaliers and Beyond,” in *The Caribbean After Grenada: Revolution, Conflict and Democracy*. Eds. Scott B. MacDonald, Harald M. Sandstrom, and Paul B. Goodwin. (New York: Praeger) Pgs. 139-152.
- Bellegarde-Smith P. (1990). “The Haitian Revolution (1791-1806): Economic and Social Dynamics.” *Haiti: The Breached Citadel*. Westview Press.
- <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/jan/14/haiti-earthquake-where-did-money-go>

Module 4 – Caribbean and Racial Formations

- Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*
- Film clip, Frantz Fanon – Rutgers Media Library
- Palcy, Euzhan. (Director). 1983. *Black Shack Alley, Rue cases Negres*. France | Martinique: NEF Diffusion, Orca Productions, SU.MA.FA. Movie also known as Sugar Cane Alley.

Unit 2 - Post Emancipation Caribbean

Module 5 – Post Emancipation and Indentureship

- Look Lai, W. (1998). “The Chinese in the Caribbean Region”. In *The Chinese in the West Indies 1806-1905*. Kingston , JA: University of the West Indies Press, pp. 1-21
- Samaroo, B. (1987). “Two Abolitions: African Slavery and East Indian Indentureship.” In *India in the Caribbean*, (eds.) D. Dabydeen & B. Samaroo. Hansib Publishing.

Module 6 – Puerto Rico

- Pedro Cabán, “The Puerto Rican Colonial Matrix: The Etiology of Citizenship – An Introduction,” in *Centro Journal*. Vol. 25, No. 1, Spring 2013.

- Godreau, & Bonilla, Y. (2021). Nonsovereign Racecraft: How Colonialism, Debt, and Disaster are Transforming Puerto Rican Racial Subjectivities. *American Anthropologist*, 123(3), 509–525. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13601>
- Lecture clip, “Puerto Rico’s Death Spiral” (2015)

Module 7 – The Dutch Caribbean and the Kingdom of the Netherlands

- Rose Mary Allen, “The Complexity of National Identity Construction In Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean,” *Revista Europea de Estudios Latinoamericanos y del Caribe/European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* (2010): 117-125
- Edward Dew. “Apanjaht and the Revolution in Caribbean Politics: The Case of Suriname,” in *The Caribbean After Grenada: Revolution, Conflict and Democracy*. Eds. Scott B. MacDonald, Harald M. Sandstrom, and Paul B. Goodwin. (New York: Praeger) Pgs. 127-137

Module 8 – Caribbean Economies

- International Monetary Fund - Western Hemisphere Department, *Caribbean Small States: Challenges of High Debt and Low Growth*, 2013.
- Wendy C. Grenade. “CARICOM: Coming of Age?” Jean Monnet/Robert Shuman Paper Series. Vol. 7. No. 4. April 2007. University of Miami Florida European Union Center.
- Race, Rights & Reparations on The Rock Newman Show
On this Rock Newman Show Race, Rights and Reparations. The dictionary defines reparations as making amends, payments and repairs for wrongs and injuries. We'll take an in-depth exploration of reparations and a call for a new design of the reparations concept with our guests Dr. Kathy Powers from the University of New Mexico and Dr. Niambi Carter of the Political Science department at The Howard University.
- CARICOM Reparations Commission –
 - http://caricom.org/jsp/pressreleases/press_releases_2013/pres285_13.jsp
 - http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Int-l-reparations-conference-ends-on-high-note_18754992
 - <https://www.npr.org/2023/01/07/1146807623/barbados-reparations-britain-caribbean>

Module 9 – Caribbean Diasporas

- Du Bois, C. (2011) Caribbean Migrations and Diasporas. In S. Palmié and F. Scarano (eds.) *The Caribbean: A History of the Region and Its Peoples*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, pp. 583-596.

- Wickham, L., & Felix, S. (2011). *Forward home: the power of the Caribbean diaspora* . Distributed by Caribbeantales Worldwide Distribution.
- Rogers, R. (2009). Political Institutions and Rainbow Coalitions: Immigrant-Minority Relations in New York and Hartford. In J. L. Hochschild & J. H. Mollenkopf (Eds.), *Bringing Outsiders In: Transatlantic Perspectives on Immigrant Political Incorporation* (1st ed., pp. 93–110). Cornell University Press.

Unit 3 – Independence & Sovereignty

Module 10 - A New Destiny – Cuba

- Hugh Thomas, “The Origins of the Cuban Revolution,” *The World Today* Vo. 19, No. 10 (1963): 448-460
- Eric Williams. *From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean 1492-1969*. Chapter 28
- Article on recent developments and discussion on Cuba and US relations

Module 11 – Political Self-Determination – Grenada

- Robert A. Pastor. “The Invasion of Grenada: A Pre and Post Mortem,” in *The Caribbean After Grenada: Revolution, Conflict and Democracy*. Eds. Scott B. MacDonald, Harald M. Sandstrom, and Paul B. Goodwin. (New York: Praeger) Pgs. 87-108.
- Video clip, President Ronald Reagan news conference on Grenada <https://www.c-span.org/video/?101120-1/reagan-news-conference-grenada-invasion>

Unit 4 – Globalization

Module 12 - Caribbean as a Tourism Destination

- Jamaica Kincaid, 1988. *A Small Place*.
- Kaifa Roland, L. (2010). Tourism and the Commodification of Cubanidad. *Tourist Studies*, 10:3. <http://tou.sagepub.com/content/10/1/3>

Module 13 - Caribbean Cultural Productions

- Manuel, Peter, Kenneth M. Bilby, and Michael D. Largey. 1995. *Caribbean Currents: Caribbean Music from Rumba to Reggae*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Chapter 1 - Introduction, Pgs. 1-18

Chapter 8 - Trinidad, Calypso and Carnival, Pgs. 216-245

Chapter 10 - Five Themes in the Study of Caribbean Music, Pgs. 271-291

A

Anguilla (UK)

Antigua and Barbuda

Aruba (Netherlands)

B

Bahamas

Barbados

Belize

Bermuda (UK)

Bonaire (Netherlands)

British Virgin Islands (UK)

C

Cayman Islands (UK)

Colombia

Costa Rica

Cuba

Curaçao (Netherlands)

D

Dominica

Dominican Republic

F

French Guiana (France)

G

Grenada

Guadeloupe (France)

Guyana

H

Haiti

Honduras

J

Jamaica

M

Martinique (France)

Montserrat (UK)

N

Nicaragua

P

Panama

Puerto Rico – (USA)

S

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Saint Lucia

Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines

Saba (Netherlands)

Saint Barthélemy (France)

Saint Martin (France)

Sint Eustatius (Netherlands)

Sint Maarten (Netherlands)

Suriname

T

Trinidad and Tobago

Turks and Caicos Islands (UK)

U

U.S. Virgin Islands (USA)

Caribbean Countries