

**Spring 2018 History of Haiti
01:595:392/01:508:392:02
Tuesdays and Thursdays,
Lucy Stone Hall A256
(Livingston Campus)**



Course Description

01:595:392 The History of Haiti

This course explores the struggle for popular democracy in Haiti throughout its two-hundred fourteen years of independence as a nation, which also makes the island one of the oldest sovereign countries in the Western Hemisphere. To understand Haitian history, we will read what historians have

written and what Haitians themselves had to say about their experiences in history by paying attention to their private correspondences, newspapers, and traditional music.

The course will particularly focus on three important historical events. First, we begin with the 1791-1804 Haitian Revolution when enslaved Africans revolted against the French colonial planters, government, and other European powers and successfully abolished slavery and achieved national independence. Second, the 1915-1934 US Occupation of Haiti in which US President Woodrow Wilson ordered American forces to invade Haiti and control the island for almost two decades. And finally, we will explore the rise of the François and Jean Claude Duvalier Dictatorship, its dreaded militia called the *Tonton Makouts*, and how and why the Haitian population overthrew the dictatorship and replaced it with the democratically elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Course Learning Goals

- Students will come to understand the history of Haiti since the Haitian Revolution.
- Students will become familiar with the role of foreign powers in the formation of Haiti as a Republic during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- Students will learn about the formation of the Haitian peasantry along gender lines, their socio-economic development, and their grassroots democratic traditions
- Students will learn how the development of Haitian politics and the state have been shaped by popular participation and foreign interventions

A complete description of Department Learning Goals and Major/Minor requirements can be found on the LCS website: <http://latcar.rutgers.edu/>

Required Readings:

Laurent Dubois, *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History* (Metropolitan Books, 2012) [ISBN: 9781250002365]; Edwige Danticat, *Farming of the Bones* Other readings will be available via Sakai.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based upon your discussion and short quizzes in section meetings, a mid-term examination, and a final. The midterm will be 20 percent of the grade; the final will be 40 percent of the grade (and covers the entire course); and participation and short quizzes will be 40 percent of the grade. There will be four unannounced quizzes (the lowest quiz score will be dropped from the grade calculation).