Spring 2012

Course: 01:508:271 History of the Caribbean to 1898
(Cross-listed as 01:595:204:01)

Professor Marisa J. Fuentes
T/Th 2:15-3:35PM WAL-210 D/C
Office Hours: Thurs. 11-1 or by appointment
Office Location: RDJC Building, 162 Ryders Lane, Douglass College
Email: fuentesm@rci.rutgers.edu

Course Overview

The development of Caribbean nations began in the fifteenth century as colonial projects founded on exploration, conquest and the quest for imperial wealth. The first few centuries of Caribbean colonialism can be characterized by cross-cultural (racial, gendered, religious) contact, indigenous genocide, African slavery and cash crop/economic production for various European (Spanish, French, English, Dutch) powers. Each group of people who found themselves in the Caribbean between the 15th and 19th centuries shaped life in the region in significant ways. This course will examine the social, political and cultural history of the region from the pre-Columbian period to the Cuban Revolution (1898). In our comparative examination of these eras and peoples in Caribbean history we will cover a series of themes to guide our movement through time including but not limited to: colonial geographies, the economics of labor exploitation, legal systems of servitude and slavery, racial and gender construction in the Caribbean, cross-cultural exchange and imposition, and the politics of resistance and revolution. As this is a history course we will also take note of and analyze primary and secondary sources and how the authors we read use sources to construct arguments and important themes. By the end of the course students will have an understanding of how the Caribbean colonies developed over-time, the specific differences in types of labor employed, recount the significance of African slavery to the development of the region, identify significant events that changed the course of this history and be able to identify, analyze and put into context both primary and secondary sources. This course will include lectures, class discussions, and films.

♦Course Learning Goals: This course has been designated as an SAS Core Course which will address and assess the following learning goals♦:
H. Understand the bases & development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
I. Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.
L. Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.
M. Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.
Required Texts (available at the Rutgers University Bookstore at Ferren Mall, NJBooks and AMAZON.COM)
*Readings listed on the course schedule marked with an * that are not on the following list will be posted to Sakai by the Professor.


Course Requirements and Assessment:

Participation (10%): Attendance will be taken at each meeting. You are expected to come to class on time and having completed the assigned reading. For each class you are expected to be prepared to participate in class discussion based on the reading and lectures. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in a grade drop and if the absences continue you will receive a failing grade for the course. If there are circumstances which prevent you from coming to class notify the professor and provide proper documentation for excused absences. **Arriving late to class or leaving early more than 3 times will result in a 5% drop in your participation grade.**

Midterm Exam (25%): A midterm exam will be given mid-semester and will include a map quiz, identifications (short answers) and an essay based on the assigned readings and lectures.

Reading Blogs Sakai (20%): Students will create their own reading blog on our course’s sakai site and write reading responses based on the assigned readings for the week. There will be 8 discussion days during the course of the semester and students are required to complete reading blog entries for 6 of the discussion days (therefore students are allowed to choose 6 entries out of 8 during the course of the semester). **Blog entries are due by 8AM on the day of class when an in-class discussion will be held marked (*Discussion Day) on syllabus.** These blogs will be read by the professor only and will be graded in the following manner: ✓+ for excellent responses that go beyond summary and engage the author’s arguments and sources; ✓ for good responses that demonstrate a working knowledge of the readings and identify some arguments; ✓- for responses that are poor quality and do not demonstrate engagement with or evidence of having done the readings. A record of mostly ✓+ and ✓ will result in a half grade rise (i.e. B to B+) and a record of mostly ✓- marks will result in a half grade drop (i.e. B- to C+). Discussion days when these blog entries are due are clearly marked on this syllabus. Professor will provide prompts for the first 2 blogs.

Primary Source Analysis Short Paper (15%): Each student will write a 3-5 page paper on a primary source related to the eras of Caribbean history we will cover in this course. This paper will require you conduct library research to find a primary source and analyze the source by answering the following questions: Who is the author of the source? What is the source about? In what context does this source emerge from (location, time period, colonial power)? What does this tell us about the time period? What does this source leave out (who is not represented in this source and whose perspective is not being presented?) Primary sources can be found
online at http://libguides.rutgers.edu/Caribbean_Slavery. Contact: "Melissa Gasparotto" gasparo@rci.rutgers.edu Rutgers Librarian (Alexander Library) if you need additional help.  

**Primary source due April 5 and primary source paper is due April 17.**  

**Final Exam (30%)** A final exam will be given during the assigned exam time and will consist of material post-midterm. This exam will include short answer identifications, and 2 essays based on the course material including required readings.

**GRADING SCALE**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89 – 92</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>81 – 88</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 80</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>64 and Below</td>
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**This syllabus is subject to be revised as necessary during the semester by the professor.**  

**IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY to keep up with the changes announced in class and on Sakai.**

**Laptops will not be permitted for use in class unless you have written permission from the Disability Services Center. All cell phones must be turned off and put away (completely out of sight) before class begins. Texting or otherwise engaging with computers or cell phones will result in a 5% drop in your participation grade.***

**Academic Integrity and Rutgers Plagiarism Policy:**

You will be responsible for following Rutgers’ rules of academic honesty and integrity in all assignments, exams and classroom activities. Plagiarism, cheating or engaging in other such activity will be reported to the department and/or Dean and will result in the failure of the assignment or class depending on the circumstances. The Rutgers policy on academic integrity defines plagiarism as “the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic work. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks, or by appropriate indentation, and must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline. Acknowledgment is also required when material from any source is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one's own words.” Please refer to Rutgers’ policy on plagiarism at: http://wp.rutgers.edu/courses/plagiarism for more complete information. If you have any questions regarding the use of others’ work and how to properly cite from academic sources ask the professor.

**Student Resources:**

If you require particular accommodation in class for a disability please let me know as soon as possible and register with Office of Disability Services at Rutgers: Kreeger Learning Center, 151 College Avenue, Suite 123. The website can be accessed at:
http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/. These requests require documentation from the Office of Disability Services and must be made in advance or the requested accommodation.

A variety of resources are available to students through the Rutgers Learning Center including writing assistance. Utilizing these services can increase your chance of success in your course work. Refer to the RLC website for more information and to make an appointment: http://lrc.rutgers.edu/.

A note on the exchange of ideas in the classroom: Studying the history of the Caribbean will reveal material, experiences, and a past that is difficult and disturbing. As the circumstances and interpretations of history are often debatable I expect that students will address me and one another with respect inside and outside the classroom, and to respond to differing viewpoints in a sensitive manner.

Course Schedule

Week 1
Tu Jan 17: INTRODUCTIONS, THEMES AND REQUIREMENTS
Th Jan 19: CARIBBEAN GEOGRAPHIES

Week 2
Tu Jan 24: PRE-COLUMBIAN PEOPLES AND CIVILIZATIONS
Required Reading: *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 9-47
Th Jan 26: THE INDIGENOUS AND EUROPEAN ENCOUNTER
Required Reading: *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 52-59(*Discussion Day Blog entry due 8am)

Week 3
Tu Jan 31: COLUMBUS AND CONQUEST
Required Reading: *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 60-80
Th Feb 2: EUROPEAN COLONIZATION/INITIALWANDERING
Required Reading: *Primary Source Posted to Sakai: Excerpts from Columbus’ Journals

Week 4
Tu Feb 7: EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT: SPANISH, ENGLISH, FRENCH
Required Reading: *Primary sources posted on Sakai: Richard Ligon, Antoine Biet (Biet67.pdf) and Bartolomé De Las Casas
Th Feb 9: DUTCH RIVALRIES/TRADE

Week 5
Tu Feb 14: CONFLICT/COMPETITION IN THE CARIBBEAN (in class film: BURN)
Required Reading: *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 81-97
Th Feb 16: THE LAST PIRATES

Week 6
Tu: Feb 21: SUGAR REVOLUTION
Required: A Concise History of the Caribbean, pp. 97-121
Th: Feb. 23: CREATING RACE AND HUMAN COMMODITIES: THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE
Required: On Sakai *Stephanie Smallwood, “Turning African Captives into Atlantic Commodities,” in Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora
(*Discussion Day Blog entry due)

Week 7
Tu Feb 28: SLAVERY AND SERVITUDE (CODES AND LAWS)
Th Mar 1: THE PLANTATION COMPLEX/DOMESTIC & URBAN SLAVERY AND GENDER
Required: The History of Mary Prince (First Half) (*Discussion Day Blog entry due)

Week 8
Tu Mar 6: MIDTERM REVIEW: THEMES, CONCEPTS AND THE EARLY CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
Required: The History of Mary Prince (Second Half)
Th Mar 8: MIDTERM in class

Week 9 Tu March 13/Th March 15 SPRING BREAK!!

Week 10
Tu Mar 20: PAN-CARIBBEAN RELIGIONS, RITUALS AND CULTURAL (IN)CONGRUENCE
Required: On Sakai *“Witchcraft, Ritual and Resistance in the African Portuguese Diaspora,” by James Sweet
Th Mar 22: RESISTANCE!
Required: On Sakai *“Spiritual Terror and Sacred Authority: The Power of the Supernatural in Jamaican Slave Society” by Vincent Brown (*Discussion Day Blog entry due)

Week 11
Tu Mar 27: THE “AGE OF REVOLUTION” AND/IN THE CARIBBEAN
Required: On Sakai *“Border Skirmishes,” “Age of the American Revolution,” pp. 91-145
Th Mar 29: Film: L’Egalite (PBS: The Haitian Revolution)
Required: “Franco-American Revolutions, 1780s-1820s” in Seymour Drescher’s Abolition: A History of Slavery and Anti-Slavery pp. 146-180 (*Discussion Day Blog entry due)

Week 12
Tu Apr 3: THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION AND ITS WORLD-WIDE IMPACT
Required: The Kingdom of this World by Alejo Carpentier
Th Apr 5: ABOLITIONS/EMANCIPATIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN (Primary Source Due by 2:15 in class)
Week 13
Tu Apr 10: DISMANTLING SLAVERY: THE PRACTICE(S) OF FREEDOM (FRENCH AND ENGLISH CARIBBEAN)
Required: A Concise History of the Caribbean pp. 146-195
Th Apr 12: RE-INSTITUTION/APPRENTICESHIP AND COMPENSATION (Guest Lecture: Dr. Natasha Lightfoot, Columbia University)
Required: (*Discussion Day Blog entry due on A Concise History pages 146-195 and The Kingdom of this World readings)

Week 14
Tu Apr 17: LATIN AMERICAN EMANCIPATIONS AND CUBAN INDEPENDENCE
Required: On Sakai *“Abolishing New World Slavery-Latin America” by Seymour Drescher
Th Apr 19: FILM: The Last Supper
Required: (Primary Source Paper Due by 2:15 in class)

Week 15
Tu Apr 24: THE END OF SPANISH SLAVERY/NEW COLONIALISMS
Th Apr 26: LAST DAY OF CLASS/Final Review

Final Exam Schedule TBA
Locate exam time and location: https://finalexams.rutgers.edu/