



STEVEN J. GREEN SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL & SOCIOCULTURAL STUDIES

COURSE SYLLABUS  
ANT 4340-U01 / SYD 4630-U01

## **Cultures of the Caribbean / Latin American and Caribbean Societies**

Spring Semester 2017  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 AM–12:15 PM  
PC 213

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **PROFESSOR INFORMATION**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Jorge Duany	<b>Phone:</b>	(305) 348-1991
<b>Office:</b>	DM 445 (MMC)	<b>Fax:</b>	(305) 348-7463
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesdays 2:00–4:00 PM	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:joduany@fiu.edu">joduany@fiu.edu</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://cri.fiu.edu/faculty/jorge-duany/">http://cri.fiu.edu/faculty/jorge-duany/</a>		

<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	Carolina Hernández	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:chern324@fiu.edu">chern324@fiu.edu</a>
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#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an overview of cultures and societies of the Caribbean and circum-Caribbean region with a focus on local cultures and their historical transformations, transnationalism and globalization, and class, gender, and ethnicity. It focuses both on the region's history and present day, with emphasis on sociological and anthropological perspectives. Discussion topics include the emergence of Afro-American culture, the legacy of

the slave plantation, and ethnic and race relations. Also discussed are the Caribbean diaspora in the United States and the development of transnational communities and identities.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define the Caribbean as a sociocultural area.
2. Explain the emergence of Afro-American cultures in the Caribbean.
3. Assess the impact of the plantation system and African slavery on Caribbean societies.
4. Identify the main similarities and differences among contemporary Caribbean cultures.
5. Describe the principal socioeconomic problems of the contemporary Caribbean.
6. Analyze the persistence of Caribbean cultures in the diaspora.

## **TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

1. Lectures
2. Class discussion
3. Discussion of assigned readings

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **POLICIES**

**Attendance:** Each student is required to attend every class and attendance will be a part of the grade. Students who miss a class are responsible for the course material covered in that class regardless of the reason for their absence. Faculty may excuse absences only in cases of documented serious illness, religious observance, civic obligations, or participation in an activity approved by the Academic Dean or Department Chair. If you will miss class for a religious observance or civic obligation, you must inform your instructor one week in advance of your absence. Any other absences, such as absences for work-related travel or a family emergency, may be excused at the discretion of the instructor upon receiving documentation. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor after any unanticipated absence.

**Examination Policies:** Take-home exams are to be submitted at the date and time shown in the course syllabus. Missing or late exams will be penalized, unless the student can provide a medical or other valid excuse.

**Accessibility and Accommodation:** The Disability Resource Center (DRC) collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at (305) 348–3532 or visit its office at the Graham Center (GC) 190.

**Incompletes:** An incomplete grade (IN) is given at the instructor’s discretion to a student who has been unable to complete the course due to a serious interruption not caused by the student’s own negligence. An incomplete should only be given to a student who has successfully completed at least half of the course work. Students should contact the instructor before the end of the semester to determine if they can receive an incomplete grade. Otherwise, they will be assigned an “F” grade for the course.

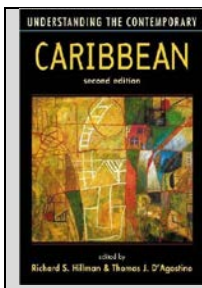
**Academic Integrity:** All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook. Academic misconduct includes:

1. Cheating: the unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, and class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not.
2. Plagiarism: the deliberate use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions, or materials taken from another source, including Internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES

This course has no prerequisites.

## TEXTBOOK



Hillman, Richard S., and Thomas J. D’Agostino, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Boulder, Co.: Lynne Rienner, 2009. ISBN: 158826663X.

The book has been ordered through the FIU Bookstore.

## SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIRED READINGS

In addition to the textbook, several book chapters will be assigned for the course, as noted in the weekly schedule.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	WEIGHT
Class attendance and participation	10%
Take-home exam 1	30%
Take-home exam 2	30%
Take-home exam 3	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## COURSE DETAILS

### ASSIGNMENTS

Three take-home exams (based on assigned readings and class discussions)

### GRADING

Range	Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade
A	Above 93	A-	91–92
B+	87–90	B	84–86
B-	81–83	C+	77–80
C	74–76	C-	71–73
D+	67–70	D	64–66
D-	61–63	F	>61

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS
Week 1: January 10–12	General Introduction to the Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hillman, Richard S. "Introduction." In <i>Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean</i>, edited by Richard S. Hillman and Thomas D'Agostino, 1–18.</li></ul>
Week 2: January 17–19	Geographic Definition of the Caribbean Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Boswell, Thomas D. "The Caribbean: A Geographic Preface." Chapter 2 in Hillman and D'Agostino.</li><li>Mintz, Sidney W. "The Caribbean as a Socio-Cultural Area." In</li></ul>

	<p><i>Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean: An Anthropological Reader</i>, edited by Michael M. Horowitz, 17–48. Garden City, N.Y.: The Natural History Press, 1971.</p>
<p>Week 3: January 24–26</p>	<p>Ecological Problems of the Caribbean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McGregor, Duncan. “The Environment and Ecology.” Chapter 7 in Hillman and D’Agostino.</li> <li>• McGregor, Duncan. “Contemporary Caribbean Ecologies: The Weight of History.” In <i>The Caribbean: A History of the Region and Its Peoples</i>, edited by Stephan Palmié and Francisco E. Scarano, 39–51. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 4: January 31–February 2</p>	<p>Historical Background of the Caribbean Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randall, Stephen J. “The Historical Context.” Chapter 3 in Hillman and D’Agostino.</li> <li>• Morgan, Philip. “Slave Cultures: Systems of Domination and Forms of Resistance.” In Palmié and Scarano, 245–60.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 5: February 7–9</p>	<p>Colonialism, Decolonization, and Nationalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D’Agostino, Thomas J. “Caribbean Politics.” Chapter 4 in Hillman and D’Agostino.</li> <li>• Macpherson, Anne S. “Toward Decolonization: Impulses, Processes, and Consequences.” In Palmié and Scarano, 475–89.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 6: February 14–16</p>	<p>Economic Development and Dependence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pantin, Dennis A., and Marlene Attz. “The Economies of the Caribbean.” Chapter 5 in Hillman and D’Agostino.</li> <li>• McBain, Helen. “Challenges to Caribbean Economies in the Era of Globalization.” In <i>Contemporary Caribbean Cultures and Societies</i>, edited by Franklin W. Knight and Teresita Martínez-Vergne, 17–42. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005.</li> </ul> <p><i>February 16</i>: First take-home exam due in class.</p>
<p>Week 7: February 21–23</p>	<p>International Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Braveboy-Wagner, Jacqueline. “International Relations.” Chapter 6 in Hillman and D’Agostino.</li> <li>• García-Muñiz, Humberto. “The Colonial Persuasion: Puerto Rico and the Dutch and French Antilles.” In Palmié and Scarano, 475–89.</li> </ul> <p><i>For Extra Credit</i>: Attend the Eleventh Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at FIU, February 23–25, 8:30 AM–5:45 PM, at GC Ballrooms.</p>

<p>Week 8: February 28–March 2</p>	<p>Ethnic and Race Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baronov, David, and Kelvin A. Yelvington. “Ethnicity, Race, Class, and Nationality.” Chapter 8 in Hillman and D’Agostino.</li> <li>• Duany, Jorge. “Neither White nor Black: The Representation of Racial Identity among Puerto Ricans on the Island and in the United States.” In <i>The Puerto Rican Nation on the Move: Identities on the Island and in the United States</i>, 236–60. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 9: March 7–9</p>	<p>Gender Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bolles, A. Lynn. “Women and Development.” Chapter 9 in Hillman and D’Agostino.</li> <li>• Peguero, Valentina. “Women’s Grass-Roots Organizations in the Dominican Republic: Real and Imagined Female Figures.” In Knight and Martínez-Vergne, 161–82.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 10: March 14–16</p>	<p><i>No class. Spring Break.</i></p>
<p>Week 11: March 21–23</p>	<p>Linguistic Diversity in the Caribbean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alleyne, Melvin. “A Linguistic Perspective on the Caribbean.” In <i>Caribbean Contours</i>, edited by Sidney W. Mintz and Sally Price, 155–80. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985.</li> <li>• Roberts, Peter A. “Language Varieties in the West Indies.” In <i>West Indians and Their Language</i>, 17–49. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988.</li> </ul> <p><i>March 23: Second take-home exam due in class.</i></p>
<p>Week 12: March 28–30</p>	<p>Religious Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desmangles, Leslie G., Stephen D. Glazier, and Joseph M. Murphy. “Religion in the Caribbean.” Chapter 10 in Hillman and D’Agostino.</li> <li>• Fernández Olmos, Marguerite, and Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert. “Haitian Vodou.” In <i>Creole Religions in the Caribbean: An Introduction from Vodou and Santería to Obeah and Espiritismo</i>, 101–30. New York: New York University Press, 2003.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 13: April 4–6</p>	<p>Musical Genres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kilby, Kenneth. “The Caribbean as a Musical Region.” Pp. 181–218 in Mintz and Price.</li> <li>• Manuel, Peter. “Cuba.” In <i>Caribbean Currents: Caribbean Music from Rumba to Reggae</i>, 19–64. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Temple University</li> </ul>

	Press, 2006.
Week 14: April 11–13	<p>Caribbean Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meehan, Kevin, and Paul B. Miller. “Literature and Popular Culture.” Chapter 11 in Hillman and D’Agostino.</li> <li>• Bernabé, Jean, Patrick Chamoiseau, and Raphaël Confiant. “In Praise of Creoleness.” <i>Callaloo</i> 13 (1990): 886–909.</li> </ul>
Week 15: April 18–20	<p>The Caribbean Diaspora in the United States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conway, Dennis. “The Caribbean Diaspora.” Chapter 12 in Hillman and D’Agostino.</li> <li>• Duany, Jorge. “In the Entrails of the Monster: A Historical Overview of Hispanic Caribbean Migration to the United States.” In <i>Blurred Borders: Transnational Migration between the Hispanic Caribbean and the United States</i>, 35–62. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011.</li> </ul>
Finals Week: April 27	<i>April 27</i> : Third take-home exam due in instructor’s office.