Course Description:

The dynamic ancestral traditions of the Caribbean, and the cultural plurality and encounters from the colonial invasions to the present policy invasions and colonality are researched, analyzed and assessed during the course through our engagement in the readings, films discourse, and lectures on the region. The Caribbean, a major contributor to world culture and economy, was long ignored as significant and universally applicable to the study of world culture. The region nevertheless demands attention, as it continues to bring forward exciting theoretical positions based on ancestry and history, its geography, demographics, and scholarship, performance in music, dance, ways of worshipping, film, governance and population diversity. Viewed from all of these dimensions, the Cultures of the Caribbean takes an anthropological gaze, and focuses on the theoretical approaches to evaluate the status of Caribbean contentions and social living today.

There is an abundance of literature on the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, which in this course we conceptual as a single region. Each time the course is offered, the readings differ a bit because the wealth of publications is extensive and it gives us an opportunity to review new literature. I have selected two primary readers this term. We will read many other selections, and I will continuously provide you with references and papers as hand outs. Our approach is anthropological, which means we are concerned with the macro or institutional history including the institution of the family, political economy, ecology/geography/labor and land organization, governments, religion, the evolution of socio-cultural forms such as race, class, ethnicity, and ideas of development. We are also concerned with the micro evolution of Caribbean societies, the local and more personalized sensibilities of Caribbean people and how this ethos impacts structures and re-invents structures. To historicize these two dynamic levels of social living and order, I have selected to use as primary text Eduardo Galeano’s *Open Veins of Latin America: five centuries of the pillage of a continent*, a book given to President Obama by President Chavez of Venezuela, and Gad Heuman’s, *Brief Histories: The Caribbean*. This text will be supplemented with readings from Brian Meeks and Folke Lindahl’s *New Caribbean Thought*. Journal articles from *Caribbean Quarterly, Ideaz, Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* and others will also be included. A few readings will be assigned from *The Afro-Latina Reader* edited by Miriam Jimenez and Juan Flores (2010).
These articles will be distributed as handouts during the term, or put on reserve.

The central foundation of anthropology is theory. The theoretical reasoning’s of Caribbeanist will be examined and will likely fuel our sessions. Scholarly journal publications generally published with a purpose of challenging some aspect of Caribbean life will be included as hand-outs to expose students to the wide array of literature today on the Caribbean as a region.

The course should be of value to advance students with Caribbean and Latin America area interest. It is an opportunity for students in International Relations, Anthropology, Sociology, African Studies, Geography, and Environmental Studies to initiate papers that can be developed into more serious proposals for later work. It is an opportunity to study towards a Caribbean Studies Certificate or certification in Latin American and Caribbean Studies offered through ANWS and LACC. The transnational Diaspora populations are included in this course curriculum. Our focus is on culture, both ancestral and newly created (popular) and the impact of the cultures which have evolved over time in the region on the efforts of nation building today, ideas of development, resistance to globalization, identity changes and shifts with migration, geographic and resource issues, responses to exploitation and future challenges of governance in the region.

Class Organization:

In an advanced seminar students are expected to come prepared to discuss the readings and contribute to the discourse. Subsequently participation in class is a valuable way to achieve high standing in the class.

Class Requirements:

Students are asked to identify a topic they want to research. This will involve conducting a literature search of authors who have written on these issues. These arguments should be summarized and assessed for consistency, commonalities, range of themes, most predominate themes and so on. Students will present their analysis based on the reading and any additional research. For example, interviews, participatory observation, focus groups, literary or film searches, and other methods common to anthropological qualitative research measures are open to you in constructing your topics. Challenging theories is a good approach. One generation has a different vision or eye than another regarding history. Fresh assessments are welcomed. Alternatives to research may be constructing a proposal for applied intervention, proposals to begin businesses such as non-government organizations whereby you present the significance of the business and what it will be based on. Everything should be defined such as purpose, method, theory, aims, mission and vision for the company idea. This should be supported by literature reviews and a Business Plans. Reports will be presented to the class. Papers are to be well-referenced and well thought out. They should be concise, as if prepared for publication. You should look at journal articles to get a sense of how one writes a paper
for a journal article or a conference presentation. The papers should not be longer than about 7 pages.

Reading Schedule
Cultures of the Caribbean
ANT 4330
Professor Tafari

The Colonial Encounter: Indigenous People
Aug. 22-26 Introduction to the Course: review of the syllabus. Discussion of expectations, obligations and responsibilities.
Readings: Gad Heuman, pp 1-10
Eduardo Galeano, 11-58
Suggested Reading: Charles Mann, 1493
Film: Aguirre the Wrath of God

Aug. 29-Sept. 2 Who are these Africans: Black Ethnicities in the African Diaspora
Film: Ceddo, Ouseman Sembene
Assignment: Film response
“Antiquity” Chapter 1 from Reversing Sail
Eduardo Galeano: 59-91

Sept. 5-9 The Plantation Economy:
Goodbye Uncle Tom, (Addio Zio Tom), an Italian Film
Heuman: Sugar and Slavery, pp. 11-33 Sept
Complete readings. Open Discussion on the films and readings.
Suggested Reading: Mintz, S. W. Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History
Galeano, 91-133
Assignment: TBA

Sept. 12-16 Plantation Economies,
Galeano: pp 88-133 (continue)
Heuman: 34-66
Jan Nederveen Pieterse 1988 Slavery and the triangle of emancipation, Race and Class, 30 (2).
Film: Sankofa (Haile Gerima)


Sept 19-23 The Haitian Revolution
Aime Cesaire : A Voice for the 21st Century (vol.1)
Heuman, pp.55-77
Suggested reading (on reserve) Chapter 7, Gardens of Remembrance, In: The Reaper’s Garden, Victor Brown

Film: Herskovits At the Heart of Blackness
Read: Price & Price: The Roots of Roots
Defining Africa, the Caribbean and African American Studies
(hand-out/ reserve)
Hoffnung- Garuskof, Jesse, “The World of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg”. (Jimenez & Flores)
Assignment: Minorities in Anthropology and the emergence of Culture Area Studies: A discussion
How do the readings and films clarify the long time control the US has held in the region of the Caribbean, and how it has managed to control the region
Heuman, 78-95

Sept 26-30 The taxonomy of race and ethnicity in the Caribbean, Latin America and North America.
Barry Chevannes, The Exorcism of Race in Jamaica-, Caribbean Quarterly pp. (on reserve)
Chapter 9, Heuman pp. 88-106
Film: Neo African Americans

Assignment: How do Caribbean and Latin American notions of race accommodate the political, social, and economic agenda’s in the Caribbean?
Galeano, Eduardo, Open Veins of Latin America pp. 134-170
Yesterday and today: Discuss the similarities and the differences regarding the invisible sources of power

Oct. 10-14 Heuman pp: 96-118
Resistance and Revolution
Galeano, 173-204

Oct. 17-21 Film: Fantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask
In : The New Centennial Review:

Oct. 24-28 A Film on Marcus Garvey
Heuman, 119-128
Galeano: 205-261
Race and Resistance
New Discussions on Garvey and Jamaican support (Richard Hill)

Oct. 31-Nov 4 Caribbean Dependency Theory of the 1970’s
A Historical-Materialist-Feminist Revision,- Cecilia Green, In: New
Caribbean Thought, (reserved, pp 40-72).
Heuman: 129-148 (Discussion of My Mother Who Fathered Me, and
Mary Chamberlain’s Diaspora Love. Family and Household structure in
the Caribbean. Erna Brodber’s ethnographies, and other family studies.

Nov7-11 Caribbean Migration to North America
Life and Debt (Jamaica and Brazil)
Film: LEBOUILLON D’AWARA (Awara Soup), (alternative, The
Garifuna Journey)
Masculinities/ and other gender issues
H2 Workers
Caribbean Erotica

Nov. 7-11 Social Movements
Heuman: 129-148 (continue)
Why does Poverty Persist? Gerald Meier
Film clips: “Yardie”, “City of Men” (Brazil)
1968 Movement and the memory of Walter Rodney
Galeano: The Contemporary Structure, 205-261 (continue)

Nov 14-18 Popular culture and Resistance Today: Reggae Babylon
Reggae Nashville: Deep Roots Music, Vol. 1,2,3. Other resistance music,
Timba in Cuba, Spanish Caribbean traditions, Hip Hop in Cuba and Latin
America.
The Drug Wars

G. White: “Rudie, Oh Rudie” (hand out: The evolution of the Sound
System and the emergence of Dance Hall, Hip Hop, Reggaetone,,
Boukman Experience…Wycliffe Jean and so on)

“Breaking the Silence: The Fugees and The Score”. Journal of Haitian
Studies, v.12, n.1 Spring. University of California, Santa Barbara. CA.
(On Reserve) also

Nov 21-25 Tourism, the new industry:
Film: The Lunatic, Film: Smile Orange
Hueman, Chapter pp.149-184
Reconsidering the Role of the Middle Class in Caribbean Politics
(see also) Deborah Thomas , Modern Blackness, 2005

Papers due:

Thanksgiving week:

Nov. 28-Dec 2 Student Presentations

There are many sources to draw from in doing Caribbean research. I suggest you use your time wisely to define a project or idea you can develop as you move through other classes. The FIU library has an extensive collection of Latin American and Caribbean literature and social science scholarship. Please use the library as a source for research. I do not accept just internet references in a paper.

Student Examinations and Evaluation

Six essays focused on a major category of knowledge covered in our sessions will be required writing for this class. The essays will focus on our topics of discussion and our readings. Two in class writings will go toward your grade. Questions will be issued prior to the in class writing for you to study. This total of eight assignments will be evaluated as follows:

Three essays on categories covered in the reading: 45 points
Two in class writings 20
Issue paper 15
Participation/Preparedness 20

Students will be asked to construct a discussion group to make an analysis of issues presented in our reading. 10% of the Participation/Preparedness will be based on this presentation. The second 10% will be based on general preparedness and responsiveness in the seminar

GUIDELINES ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students have an obligation to exhibit honesty in carrying out their academic assignments. Students may be found to have violated this obligation if they plagiarize or cheat. Plagiarism is presenting the work of others as one’s own and cheating is taking or accepting any illicit advantages for any course work inside or outside of the classroom. Refer to Florida International University’s catalog for further information.

Notes:
The following readings have been used to construct this curriculum. You may find them valuable as additional readings. Some additional films are also attached.
These text and journals may also contribute background data for your research. Anthropological focus in the Caribbean has been given to particular areas. The family, race and class, religion, stratification, pluralism, political economy and governance.

Some additional readings

5. Beckford, George. *Persistent Poverty*
6. Cesaire, Aime, 1955 *A Discourse on Colonialism, Return to My Native Land*
10. Cooper, Carlyon, *Noise in my Blood*
16. James, C.L.R. The Black Jacobins

*James, C.L.R. 1947 Dialectical Materialism and the Fate of Humanity.

[http://www.marxists.org/archive/james-clr/works/dimat/dimat47.htm](http://www.marxists.org/archive/james-clr/works/dimat/dimat47.htm)
18. Jayawardena, C. Caribbean Tourism: more than Sun, Sand and Sea
19. Kelly, Michael J. and Brendan Bain, 2005 Education and HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean
25. McAdoo, Harriette Pipes 2007 Black families
27. Meier, Gerald The Persistence of Poverty, pp 157
28. Mintz, S. W. Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History
29. Opal-Palmer, Adisa and D.A. Weir Soley Caribbean Erotic, Peepee Tree Press. UK, 9781845230890
37. Taylor, Patrick (ed) 2003 “Sheba’s Song: The Bible, the Kebra Nagast, and the Rastafari.” In: nation dance
40. Williams, Eric From Capitalism to Slavery
41. Witter, Michael Caribbean Development and the Caribbean People: The Present as History, pp 189