GEA 3320 – Population and Geography of the Caribbean
Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies, Florida International University
Fall Semester, 2018

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-10:45
Ziff Education Building 150

Course homepage: fiu.instructure.com

Dr. Kevin Grove
SIPA 311
kgrove@fiu.edu (**email is the best way to contact me!**)  
305.348.3343  
Office hours: Tues, Thur 2-3; OBA

Course Overview
This course provides an introduction to the geography of the Caribbean. It is organized around the core themes of mobility and resistance. The Caribbean emerged out of violent circulations of people, capital and resources of slave-based plantation colonialism, and many of the social, cultural, political, economic and environmental dynamics that shape the Caribbean today repeat the violent circulations of people, capital and resources of slave-based plantation colonialism and the forms of resistance Black and Brown people have forged over the past four hundred years. This course will foreground these irreducible conflicts in order to understand the changing societies of the region, the role of political economy, and the changing relationships between people and their environment. In the process, it will develop a nuanced understanding of the Caribbean as a region that continues to be shaped by a four-hundred year history of recurring violence and resistance.

In developing these themes, this course will encourage and cultivate critical sensibilities – an attitude or disposition to question what we commonly take for granted. We will develop this sensibility through a variety of reading, writing and research activities that develop your ability to search for information, analyze and present it in both written and oral form. Thus, rather than asking you to memorize and regurgitate trivial facts, we will focus on developing and internalizing your own understanding of key concepts and processes that shape this region.

Learning Objectives
At the end of the term, students will be able to:

• Describe and understand the basic concepts and facts of Caribbean geography;
• Understand and explain how local and global political economic relations have shaped contemporary Caribbean life;
• Understand and explain the centrality of social, spatial and temporal hybridity to contemporary Caribbean life;
• Conduct and present, in written and oral form, geographic research on political economic, cultural, and environmental topics related to the Caribbean region.
Readings
Readings will be drawn from a variety of Caribbean and Caribbeanist scholars, and will be made available through the module links on the course’s FIU Canvas page.

Grading
There will be 400 total points available in this class, broken down as follows:

50 points: Two in-class map quizzes (25 points each)
50 points: In-class assignments
300 points: Six reflective essays

The grading scale is: which translates to, in points:
A = 100-95%, A : 400 thru 380 points
A- = 94-90%, A-: 379 thru 360 points
B+ = 89-87%, B+: 359 thru 348 points
B = 86-83%, B: 347 thru 332 points
B- = 82-80%, B-: 331 thru 320 points
C+ = 79-77%, C+: 319 thru 308 points
C = 76-70%, C: 307 thru 280 points
D = 69-60%, D: 279 thru 240 points
F = 59-0%, F: 230 thru 0 points

Assignments

Reflective essays
The course is informally structured in terms of six modules: mobilities; slavery and (under)development; anti-colonial resistance; liberalism and nationalism; development futures; neoliberalism and recurring violence. At the end of each module, students will be given a writing prompt that asks them to reflect on and interpret the key concept and processes discussed in each module. The due dates for each essay are as follows:

- Sep 11 – Mobilities
- Oct 2 – Slavery and underdevelopment
- Oct 16 – Anti-colonial Resistance
- Oct 30 – Liberalism and nationalism
- Nov 15 – Development futures
- Dec 4 – Neoliberalism and recurring violence

Map Quizzes
We will have two scheduled map quizzes on the political and physical geography of the Caribbean, respectively. Study guides and hi-res map will be provided beforehand. Dates of the map quizzes are as follows:

- Sep 6 – Map Quiz 1
- Sep 18 – Map Quiz 2
**Quizzes and attendance**

During the course of the term, we will have six unscheduled quizzes and/or activities relating to readings and/or material we covered previously in class. Each quiz will be worth 10 points, and the lowest grade will be dropped. Note that this is a total of 50 points – or 10% of your final grade. This is one letter grade – so the easiest way to ensure a strong grade is to make sure you come to class and get these points!

All students are expected to attend class, take notes, and participate. There are no excused absences or assignments except in the case of hospitalization or a religious holiday, both of which require hard copy documentation. If you are not present when materials are collected for points, you will forfeit those points.

**Academic Integrity, Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Cheating and plagiarism are done by pathetic and desperate people – don’t be one of them. If you plagiarize on your research assignment, or cheat on an exam – you will receive *at minimum a zero on that assignment*, which instantly drops your score for the course by about two full letter grades. If you find yourself in a desperate situation while taking a test or up against a deadline – turn in the best work you can do at the time. Getting an F usually means you will get some points – getting caught cheating means you get zero. Furthermore, depending on the severity of the case, I can choose to pursue harsher penalties, including assigning an F0 for the course or pursuing your expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the FIU student handbook’s sections on cheating and plagiarism. Also, if you need to know more about how to not plagiarize, please check out the following websites:

1) “Plagiarism: What It is and How to Recognize and Avoid It (Indiana University)” at [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/plagiarism.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/plagiarism.html)
2) “Paraphrase: Write it in Your Own Words (Purdue University)” at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_paraphr.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_paraphr.html)

**Absences & Make-Up**

Excused absences include serious illness; illness of a spouse or dependent; death of an immediate family member; University-sponsored trips; and major religious holy days. It is your responsibility to *inform me of the absence in advance of class* by e-mail (and within 2 weeks of the start of class if it is a university trip or holy day), but no later than two class sessions after the missed class. In order to have an absence excused, you must provide original documentation which I can keep. If this is done, and I determine the absence to be excused, I will do my best make sure you make up what you missed.

Make-up essays will only be given in extreme circumstances. The essays have been scheduled to provide you with more than enough time to complete the assignment, even if an illness pops up. In extreme cases, you may receive an extension, but you must: 1) provide documentation to me.
in class within one class period of the missed essay addressing why your absence qualifies as excused; 2) have that documentation accepted by me; 3) email me asking to be given an extension; and 4) receive back an email from me confirming an extension will be given.

Your choices to attend or not attend have consequences – just like they would at work. I take my responsibilities and role as a teacher seriously; I hope you hold your role and responsibility as a student in equal respect.

**Disability Clause**

Students with disabilities, as defined by law, have the right to receive needed accommodations if their disabilities make it difficult to perform academic tasks in the usual way or in the allotted time frame. In order to receive accommodation, however, students with must register with Disability Resource Center:

GC 190 Voice: 305.348.3532 TTY: 305.348.3852 Fax: 305. 348.3850 Email: drcupgl@fiu.edu

**Course Schedule**

***This schedule is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. If it changes, the changes will be announced in class. It is the responsibility of the student to mark the changes on the schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – Aug 21 &amp; 23</td>
<td>Introduction Caribbean mobilities</td>
<td>Sheller 2003 (Ch. 1, pp. 25-35)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 – Aug 28 &amp; 30</td>
<td>Identity and difference Identity and difference</td>
<td>Sheller 2003 (Ch. 2, pp. 36-53) Said 1978</td>
<td>Assign reading groups – Aug 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 – Sep 4 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Sept 4 – No Class!! Sept 6 – Development and Underdevelopment</td>
<td>Rodney 1973 (Ch. 1, Ch. 4.1)</td>
<td>Sep 6 – Map Quiz 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 – Sep 11 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Slave production</td>
<td>Beckford 1972 (Ch. 2.3, Ch. 3)</td>
<td>Sep 11 – Short essay 1 (mobilities)</td>
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<td>5 – Sep 18 &amp; 20</td>
<td>Slave resistance</td>
<td>Campbell 1987 (Ch. 1 pt. 1) Excerpts from James 1938</td>
<td>Sep 18 – Map Quiz 2</td>
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<td>6 – Sep 25 &amp; 27</td>
<td>Post-emancipation politics</td>
<td>Sheller 2005 Heuman 2005 Trouillot 1988 (pp. 75-84)</td>
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<td>7 – Oct 2 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Hidden transcripts of resistance</td>
<td>Campbell 1987 (Ch. 1 pt 2) Meeks 2000 (Ch. 1)</td>
<td>Oct 2 – Short essay 2 (slavery &amp; development)</td>
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<td>8 – Oct 9 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Liberalism and bourgeoisie nationalism</td>
<td>Sheller 2012 (Ch. 3) Excerpts from Bogues 2002 Thomas 2007</td>
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<td>10 – Oct 23 &amp; 25</td>
<td>Urban resistance</td>
<td>Gray 2004 (Ch. 2) Thomas 2011 (Ch. 1)</td>
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<td>11 – Oct 30 &amp; Nov 1</td>
<td>Nationalism and resistance</td>
<td>Meeks 2000 (Ch. 5) Meeks 1993 (Ch. 4)</td>
<td>Oct 30 – Short essay 4 (Liberalism)</td>
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<td>14 – Nov 20 Thanksgiving break – Nov 22</td>
<td><em>Life &amp; Debt</em></td>
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<td>15 – Nov 27 &amp; 29</td>
<td>Case Study: Puerto Rico</td>
<td>Klein 2018</td>
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<td>16 – Dec 4 Exam Week</td>
<td>Turn in final short essay 6 on Dec. 4, 9:45am</td>
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<td>Dec 4 - Short essay 6 (recurring violence)</td>
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