Cultures of the Caribbean
ANT 4340-01
Spring 2012

Professor: Andrea Queeley
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Course Hours: TH 6:25-9:05 PM
Rm: Academic Health Center 3 Rm. 215
Office Hours: Tues 2-4PM or by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
What is the Caribbean? What is a Caribbean? If, as Michel Rolf-Trouillot states, “Caribbean societies are inescapably heterogenous”, what are the ties that bind its people and cultures? What are the historical roots of contemporary challenges facing the region? How does the Caribbean inform our understanding of the content and consequences of globalization? This course adopts an interdisciplinary approach in an effort to explore questions of regional, national, and individual identity. Students will become familiar with a range of Caribbean societies and cultures as well as topics critical to understanding the region. The first half of the course focuses on the historical development of the region and questions of race, class, and nationalism. The second half of the course addresses issues related to contemporary globalization, such as tourism and the informal economy, through the lens of gender, religion, and popular culture. During this portion of the class, students will be expected to choose a contemporary topic of particular interest to them, prepare and present on this topic to the class.

COURSE GOALS AND REQUIREMENTS
The primary goals of the course are to 1) provide students with a historical framework through which to analyze contemporary social processes, 2) increase familiarity with particular Caribbean nations, 3) develop a critical stance toward familiar social and cultural patterns, and 4) improve writing and presentation skills. The following requirements are designed to assist students in achieving these goals:

Class Participation (15 pts)
Attendance is mandatory. This class meets weekly for two hours and forty minutes with a 15-minute break. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss readings and films and complete in-class writing assignments. You are allowed two (2) unexcused absences. If you miss class more than two times, are consistently late to class, and/or do not participate in class discussion, you will lose class participation points.

Short Writing Assignments* (20 pts)
Autobiography/Biography (2-3 pages) (5 pts)
Three Film Reaction Papers** (2-3 pgs) (5 pts EACH)

Midterm Exam (20 pts)
The midterm will consist of a map test, multiple choice questions and two essay questions.
‘Wha Gwan Thursdays’ Presentation (15 pts)
This assignment is designed for students to engage with contemporary issues of interest in the Caribbean and relate these issues to the course materials. There are three components to this assignment: 1) choose a current event or issue relevant to the Caribbean, 2) find and distribute an article or articles (must be at least 5 pages of material) about this topic to the class, and 3) give a presentation and facilitate a class discussion on this issue.

Final Exam (30 pts)
The course final will be cumulative and consist of 3 essay questions. These essay questions will require students to demonstrate a thorough understanding of key concepts and issues raised in the readings, films, class discussions, and final presentations. In order to be successful in responding to these questions, students must be able to incorporate specific examples from course materials.

*Instructions for each writing assignment will be available on course website.
**There are 7 films assigned for this class. Students choose which 3 films to write about.

GRADING SCALE

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The total number of points that you can earn in this course is 100. Please note that no late papers will be accepted for full credit without a medical excuse. NO EXCEPTIONS.

GROUND RULES

1) Turn your cell phones OFF. If you have an emergency and have to use it, leave the room so that I do not have to request that you do so.
2) Use laptops ONLY for course related activity (ie: taking notes, in-class internet searches)
3) Arrive to class ON TIME. Persistent lateness will result in a lower grade.
4) Papers are to be submitted electronically on the course website. NO late papers will be accepted for full credit without a medical excuse. Each day late will result in the loss of 10% of the total possible points.
5) Plagiarism is a serious offense. This includes copying passages found on websites as well as in hard copies of books, articles, etc. It is imperative that you properly cite any source that you use. If you use the work of other authors without giving them credit, you will receive a ‘0’ for the assignment and be subject to failing the course and possible disciplinary action.
6) Papers must include a title, your name, the course name and number, and page numbers.

COURSE MATERIALS

Book


Articles and Book Chapters

See course schedule below for these materials. They are available on the course’s website (Moodle) accessible through online.fiu.edu.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week ONE  
Defining the Region:  
Cultural and Physical Geography in Focus  
January 12th

1) Introduction to the Course
2) **Film #1: On the Map** with in-class analysis (reaction paper due Monday the 23rd)

Week TWO  
Historical Foundations: Conquest and Colonization  
January 19th

AUTOBIOGRAPHY/BIOGRAPHY PAPER DUE

4) **IN-CLASS AUTOBIOGRAPHY/BIOGRAPHY PRESENTATIONS**
Week THREE  
**Historical Foundations: Enslavement and Resistance**  
**January 26th**


3) Visual Media: “Amistad”, “Jamaica Maroons”

Week FOUR  
**Historical Foundations: Revolutions in Focus**  
**February 2nd**


**Film #2: Egalite For All: Touissant L’Ouverture and the Haitian Revolution**

Week FIVE  
**Historical Foundations: Asian Migration to the Caribbean**  
**February 9th**


5) Visual Media: Barrio Chino in Havana, Cuba (CNN)

**Week SIX**

**Defining the Nation: The Case of Hispaniola**

**February 16th**

1) **Assignment**: spend 30 minutes doing internet research on the 1937 Massacre of Haitians in the Dominican Republic and come to class prepared to discuss what you found


3) **Film #3**: Bitter Cane

**FILM REACTION PAPER #3 “Bitter Cane” DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20th by 11:55PM**

**Week SEVEN**

**Defining the Nation: The Case of Hispaniola**

**February 23rd**


2) Badillo, “Only My Hairdresser Knows For Sure”

3) Visual Media: “Haiti and the Dominican Republic: An Island Divided” (from Black in Latin America)

**SUBMIT ONE PARAGRAPH DESCRIPTION of PROPOSED TOPIC FOR ‘Wha Gwan Thursdays’ PRESENTATION IN CLASS**

**Week EIGHT**

**Defining the Nation: The Case of Hispaniola**

**March 1st**

1) Finish *Farming of Bones*

2) **Film**: Sugar Babies

**MIDTERM REVIEW**
FILM REACTION PAPER #4 “Sugar Babies DUE MONDAY MARCH 5th at 11:55PM

Week NINE
March 8th MIDTERM

Week TEN SPRING BREAK….NO CLASS
March 15th

WEEK ELEVEN: Caribbean Identities: Out of Many… March 22nd

LIBRARY SESSION—MEET IN GL 280

2) Hansing, Katrin. Rasta in Cuba
3) Behar, Ruth. Jews in Cuba
4) Film #4: Ras Cuba
5) Film #5: Adio Kerida

FILM REACTION PAPER #5/6 DUE MONDAY MARCH 26th by 11:55PM

Week TWELVE Economies of the Caribbean: Strategies for Survival March 29th

1) Harrison, Faye, “The Gendered Politics and Violence of Structural Adjustment: A View from Jamaica”
2) Gina Ulysses article on Informal Commercial Importers in Jamaica
4) Visual Media: Rent a Dread
5) Film #6: Life and Debt (ON RESERVE 5th FL GREEN LIBRARY)

FILM REACTION PAPER #7 “Life and Debt” DUE MONDAY, APRIL 2nd BY 11:55PM

EMAIL PROFESSOR CITATION FOR CLASS READING FOR ‘WHA GWAN THURSDAYS’ BY CLASS TIME ON THURSDAY, MARCH 29th
Week THIRTEEN  ‘Wha Gwan Thursdays’: Group 1
April 5th

Week FOURTEEN  ‘Wha Gwan Thursdays’: Group 2
April 12th

Week FIFTEEN  ‘Wha Gwan Thursdays’: Group 3
April 19th

FINAL EXAM REVIEW

Week SIXTEEN  EXAM WEEK
April 26th

**FINAL EXAM:**
**THURSDAY, APRIL 26th 9:45-11:45AM**