



The Caribbean: History, Culture, Theory

Fall 2013
Fridays, 2:30 to 5:00 pm
Social Science 6105

Instructor

Jerome Camal
Office: Social Science Building, 5313
Email: camal@wisc.edu
Twitter: @jscamal
Office hours: Wed. from 2:00 to 4:00 pm or by appointment.

Description

The course will offer an introduction to the study of Caribbean societies from historical, economic, political, and cultural perspectives with an emphasis on the colonial and post-colonial periods. We will explain the impact of slavery and the plantation system on the emergence of Creole societies and investigate how colonialism shaped racial relations as well as gender and sexual norms across the region. We will also highlight the various ways in which Caribbean nations have resisted the pressures of colonialism and imperialism. We will continue our investigation of the process of creolization through a critical survey of religion, carnival, music, and dance in contemporary Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad. We will conclude by considering how the circulation of people, capital, and ideas continues to fuel the influence of Caribbean culture across the globe. This course will also serve as an introduction to the anthropological scholarship on the Caribbean, from Melville Herskovits to Aisha Khan.

Course Materials

Books on reserve in the Social Science library

Barrow, Christine, and Rhoda Reddock. 2001. *Caribbean Sociology: Introductory Readings*. Kingston: Ian Randle.

Cooper, Carolyn. 2004. *Sound Clash: Jamaican Dancehall Culture At Large*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

*Khan, Aisha. 2004. *Callaloo Nation: Metaphors of Race and Religious Identity among South Asians in Trinidad*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Knight, Franklin W., and Colin A. Palmer. 1989. *The Modern Caribbean*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

- Françoise Lionnet, and Shu-mei Shih, (eds.) 2011. *The Creolization of Theory*: Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Mintz, Sidney W. and Sally Price, (eds.) 1989. *Caribbean Contours*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Palmié, Stephan and Francisco Scarano, (eds.) 2011. *The Caribbean: a History of the Region and Its People*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- *Pérez, Louis A. Jr. 2008. *Cuba in the American Imagination: Metaphor and the Imperial Ethos*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- *Price, Richard. 2008. *Travels with Tooy: History, Memory, and the African American Imagination*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- Sheller, Mimi. 2012. *Citizenship From Below: Erotic Agency and Caribbean Freedom*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- *Thomas, Deborah A. 2004. *Modern Blackness: Nationalism, Globalization, and the Politics of Culture in Jamaica*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- *Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. 1995. *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Books to purchase

From the list above, we will read the books preceded by an asterisk in their entirety. (Don't panic, I will explain what that means in class and how to do this efficiently.) You are encouraged to get these books from whichever source is most convenient (and least expensive) for you. Some of these books are available as e-books and you are welcome to get them in this format if you would like.

Articles

All articles and book chapters will be available to download from the course page on Learn@UW.

Films on reserve in the Social Science library

Dancehall Queen. 1997. Directed by Rick Elgood and Don Letts.

Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti. 2005. Directed by Maya Deren, Cherel Ito, and Teiji Ito. Originally released 1984.

As of the writing of this syllabus, *Divine Horsemen* is available on YouTube. *Dancehall Queen* is available through Netflix DVD rental (but not streaming).

Further readings

I have tried as much as possible to suggest some additional readings for those of you interested in learning more about a particular topic. These readings are optional. If enough of you want to discuss one or several of them during our class meetings, please let me know in advance and we will amend the syllabus accordingly.

Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as needed.

Week 1: Sept. 6**Introduction: Geography, History, Economy**

Read

Knight, Franklin W., and Colin A. Palmer. 1989. "The Caribbean: A Regional Overview."
In *The Modern Caribbean*, edited by Franklin W. Knight, and Colin A. Palmer. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. 1992. "The Caribbean Region: An Open Frontier in Anthropological Theory." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 21 19-42.

Further reading

Benitez-Rojo, Antonio. 1996. Introduction. In *The Repeating Island: the Caribbean and the Postmodern Perspective*. Second ed. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Original edition, 1992.

Week 2: Sept. 13**Slavery and the Birth of Caribbean Societies**

Read

From Barrow and Reddock, *Caribbean Sociology* (2001):

Smith, Raymond T. "Social Stratification, Cultural Pluralism and Integration in West Indian Societies." 87-107

Brathwaite, E. Kamau. "Creolization." 108-117.

Smith, M.G. "Pluralism and Social Stratification." 118-138.

Beckford, George L. "Plantation Society: Toward a General Theory of Caribbean Society." 139-150.

Further readings

Mintz, Sidney W., and Richard Price. 1992. *The Birth of African-American Culture: An Anthropological Perspective*. Boston: Beacon Press. Original edition, 1976.

Week 3: Sept. 20**Creolization (Part 1): Race and Identity**

Watch

Gates, Henry Louis Jr. *Black in Latin America, part 1: Haiti and the Dominican Republic, An Island Divided*. PBS. <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/black-in-latin-america/>

Read

Hall, Stuart. 1995. "Negotiating Caribbean Identity." *New Left Review* I(209) 3-14.

Hoetink, H. 1985. "'Race' and Color in the Caribbean." In *Caribbean Contours*, edited by Sidney Mintz and Sally Price. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press. 55-84.

Week 4: Sept. 27**Creolization (Part 2): Religion and African Retentions**

Watch

Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti. 2005. Directed by Maya Deren, Cheral Ito, and Teiji Ito. Original release, 1984.

Read

Richman, Karen E. 2008. "Peasants, Migrants, and the Discovery of African Traditions: Ritual and Social Change in Lowland Haiti." In *Africas of the Americas: Beyond the Search for Origins in the Study of Afro-Atlantic Religions*, edited by Stefan Palmié. Leiden, Boston: Brill.

Simpson, George Eaton. 2001. "Haiti." In *Caribbean Sociology: Introductory Readings*, edited by Christine Barrow and Rhoda Reddock. Kingston: Ian Randle. Original edition, 1980. 565-586.

Week 5: Oct. 4

Creolization (Part 3): Is creolization universal?

Read

Hannerz, Ulf. 1987. "The World in Creolisation." *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 57 (4): 546-59.

Palmié, Stefan. 2007. "Is There a Model in the Muddle? 'Creolization' in African Americanist History and Anthropology." In *Creolization: History, Ethnography, Theory*, edited by Charles Stewart. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press. 178-200.

From Françoise Lionnet and Shu-mei Shih, *The Creolization of Theory* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2011):

Schwieger Hiepko. "Europe and the Antilles: An Interview with Edouard Glissant." Chancé, Dominique. "Creolization: Definition and Critique."

Further readings

Crichlow, Michaeline, and Patricia Northover. 2009. *Globalization and the Post-creole Imagination: Notes on Fleeing the Plantation*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Glissant, Édouard, and Betsy Wing. 1997. *Poetics of Relation*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Week 6: Oct 11

Maroon Communities

Read

Price, Richard. 2008. *Travels with Tooy: History, Memory, and the African American Imagination*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Further Readings

Price, Sally and Richard Price. 1999. *Maroon Arts: Cultural Vitality in the African Diaspora*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Week 7: Oct 18

Haiti: History and Historiography

Read

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. 1995. *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Further Readings

Dubois, Laurent. 2012. *Haiti: The Aftershock of History*. New York: Metropolitan Books.

- McAlister, Elizabeth. 2012. "Soundscapes of Disaster and Humanitarianism: Survival Singing, Relief Telethons, and the Haiti Earthquake." *Small Axe* 16 (3-39): 22-38.
- Oliver-Smith, Anthony. 2010. "Haiti and the Historical Construction of Disasters." *NACLA Report on the Americas* 43(4): 32-36.

Week 8: Oct. 25
Kinship, Gender, and Sexuality

Read

- Allen, Jafari. 2012. "Chapter 2, Discursive Sleight of Hand: Race, Sex, Gender." In *¿Venceremos? The Erotics of Black Self-Making in Cuba*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Besson, Jean. 1993. "Reputation and Respectability Reconsidered: A New Perspective on Afro-Caribbean Peasant Women." In *Women and Change in the Caribbean: A Pan-Caribbean Perspective*, edited by Janet Momsen. Kingston, Jamaica and Bloomington: Ian Randle and Indiana University Press. 15-37.
- Wilson, Peter J. 1969. "Reputation and Respectability: A Suggestion for Caribbean Ethnology." *Man*, New Series 4(1) 70-84

Week 9: Nov. 1
Trinidad

Read

- Khan, Aisha. 2004. *Callaloo Nation: Metaphors of Race and Religious Identity among South Asians in Trinidad*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Week 10: Nov. 8
Jamaica

Read

- Thomas, Deborah A. 2004. *Modern Blackness: Nationalism, Globalization, and the Politics of Culture in Jamaica*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Week 11: Nov. 15 (SEM)
Jamaican Dancehall

Watch

- Dancehall Queen*. 1997. Directed by Rick Elgood and Don Letts.

Read

- Cooper, Carolyn. 2004. "'Mama, Is That You?' Erotic Disguise in the Films *Dancehall Queen* and *Babymother*." In *Sound Clash: Jamaican Dancehall Culture At Large*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 125-144.

Further Readings

- Stolzoff, Norman C. 2000. *Wake the Town and Tell the People: Dancehall Culture in Jamaica*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press Books.

**Week 12: Nov. 22 (AAA)
Review**

Since I will be in Chicago, we will do a Google Hangout at our regular class time and revisit three readings that you will select from our reading list up to this day.

Week 13: Nov. 29 (Thanksgiving)

No class.

**Week 14: Dec. 6
Tourism**

Duval, David Anthony. 2004. "Cultural Tourism in Postcolonial Environments: Negotiating Histories, Ethnicities, and Authenticities in Saint Vincent, Eastern Caribbean." In *Tourism and Postcolonialism: Contested Discourses, Identities, and Representation*, edited by C. Michael Hall, and Hazel Tucker. London and New York: Routledge.

Sheller, Mimi. 2004. "Demobilizing and Remobilizing Caribbean Paradise." In *Tourism Mobilities*, edited by Mimi Sheller and John Urry. London and New York: Routledge.

. 2012. "Returning the Tourist Gaze." In *Citizenship from Below: Erotic Agency and Caribbean Freedom*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Further Readings

Palmer, Catherine. 1994. "Tourism and Colonialism: The experience of the Bahamas." *Annals of Tourism Research* 21(4) 792-811.

Saunders, Gail. 1997. "The changing face of Nassau: the impact of tourism on Bahamian society in the 1920s and 1930s." *New West Indian Guide/ Nieuwe West-Indische Gids* 71(1/2) 21-42.

Scheller, Mimi. 2003. *Consuming the Caribbean*. London and New York: Routledge.

**Week 15: Dec. 13
Secondary Diaspora: The French Antilles**

Beriss, David. 2004. *Black Skins, French Voices: Caribbean Ethnicity and Activism in Urban France*. Boulder, CO: Westview.