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

Instructor

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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


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.


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


Further reading

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

Further readings

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

Watch

Read

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

Watch
Week 5: Oct. 4
Creolization (Part 3): Is creolization universal?

Read


Schwieger Hiepko, “Europe and the Antilles: An Interview with Edouard Glissant.”

Chancé, Dominique, “Creolization: Definition and Critique.”

Further readings


Week 6: Oct 11
Maroon Communities

Read

Further Readings

Week 7: Oct 18
Haiti: History and Historiography

Read

Further Readings


**Week 8: Oct. 25**

**Kinship, Gender, and Sexuality**

**Read**


**Week 9: Nov. 1**

**Trinidad**

**Read**


**Week 10: Nov. 8**

**Jamaica**

**Read**


**Week 11: Nov. 15 (SEM)**

**Jamaican Dancehall**

**Watch**


**Read**


**Further Readings**

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


Further Readings


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