

Professor Hyacinth Miller  
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Office: Conklin 304  
Office hours: by appointment

**INTRO TO CARIBBEAN STUDIES**  
**21:014:113:01**  
**Fall 2019 – September 3 – December 11**

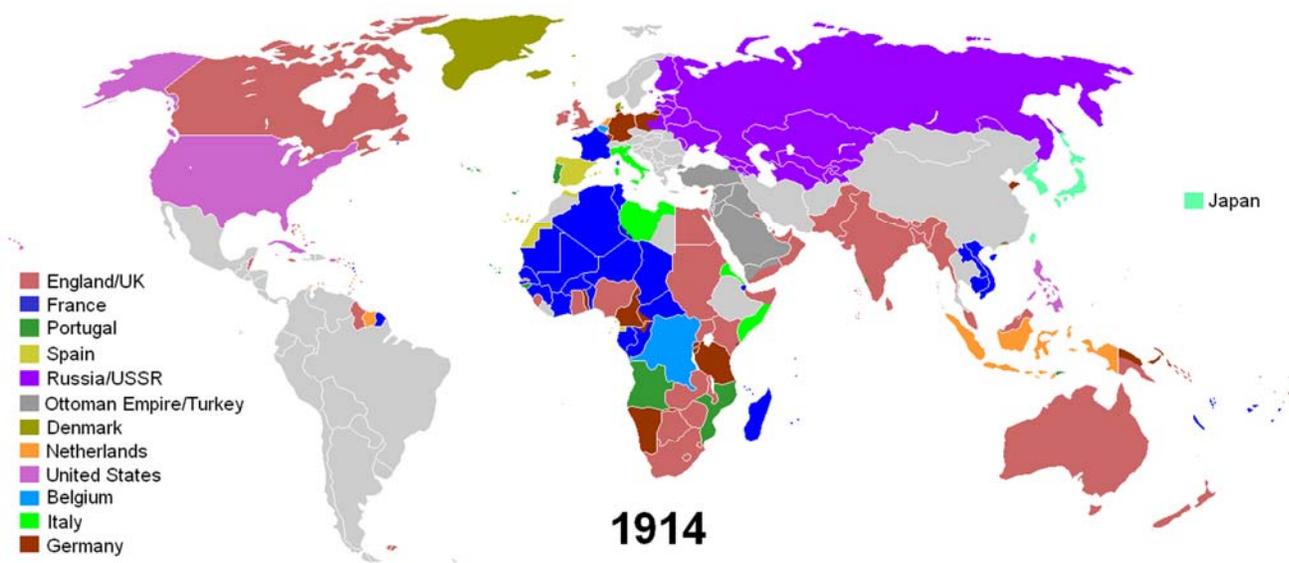
## **About This Course**

The Caribbean – Crossroads of the World – is more than a tropical region filled with palm trees, exotic people and resorts. In this discussion-based interactive course, you will explore the history of the Caribbean, its geography, literary and cultural productions (music/film/food/religion), and its intellectual tradition. Together, we will reflect on major issues including colonialism; economic intra and interdependence; culture and language; regional, national and ethnic identity; and independence. We will also connect the events of the past to current events to help explain the political, social and economic status of the countries of the Caribbean and their relationship to and with the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Emphasis will be given to understanding the contributions of Caribbean Studies to the exploration of contemporary issues in our interconnected world and serve as a foundation for future coursework in the Department of African American and African Studies.

## **Course Outcome Goals**

1. Explain the relevance of major actors, events and ideas that have shaped Caribbean history
2. Identify Caribbean nations on a map and differentiate according to colonial heritage, language and ethnicities
3. Describe the impact of colonialism, globalization and neocolonialism on the Caribbean's socio-economic and political statuses
4. Explain the strategies employed by indigenous, formerly enslaved and indentured laborers to undermine centuries of social, economic and political oppression
5. Improve critical thinking and writing skills, as applied to Caribbean Studies, through engagement with interdisciplinary scholarship and analysis of primary sources

The Department's mission statement is accessed via this link  
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/academics-admissions/academic-departments/african-american-african-studies/about-department/mission-statement>



500 years of European colonialism, in one animated map - <https://www.vox.com/2014/5/8/5691954/colonialism-collapse-gif-imperialism>

**Prerequisites:** An open mind and a willingness to engage with new information

**Required Texts** - All books are available from the Rutgers campus bookstore.

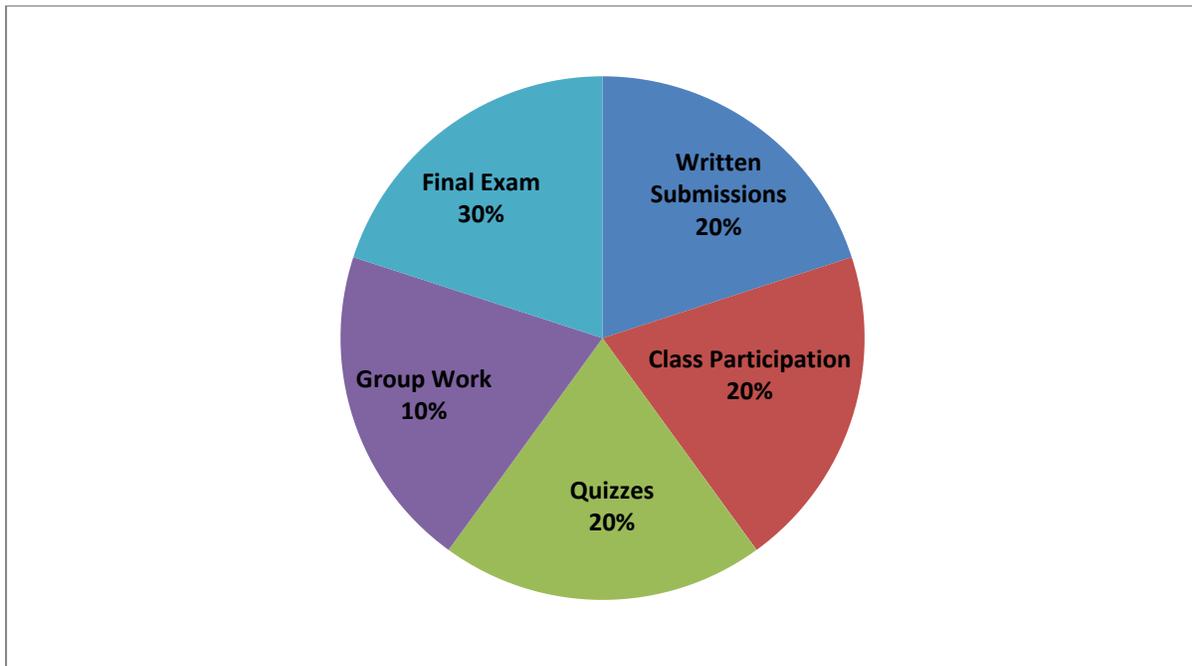
1. Camille Hernandez-Ramdwar. 2014. Introduction to the Caribbean, Diversity Challenges, Resiliency, Second Edition. (Kendall Hunt)  
ISBN: 978-1-4652-9983-3  
**This is an E-book only. Use the attached link to purchase the e-book.**  
<https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/introduction-caribbean-diversity-challenges-resiliency>
2. Jamaica Kincaid, A Small Place (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000)  
ISBN: 978-0374527075
3. Frantz Fanon. Black Skin, White Masks. Grove Press.  
ISBN: 978-0802143006

## Grading

1. Article Submissions.....20%  
Three article analyses that focus on a contemporary issue in the Caribbean
2. Class Participation.....20%  
Self-introduction video; no late submissions; appropriate responses to classmate videos; substantive contributions to productive in-class discussions; appropriate use of technology (as directed by instructor)

- 3. Group Country Presentation.....10%  
A seven-minute country presentation video responding to question prompts
- 4. Quizzes.....20%  
Three 10-question quizzes
- 5. Final Exam.....30%  
This cumulative 50-question final exam will assess your introductory knowledge of the Caribbean, based on all course readings, films and lectures

### Course Grading Breakdown



### Course Grading Scale

90...100+	A
87...89.9	B+
80...86.9	B
77...79.9	C+
70...76.9	C
65...69.9	D
0...64.9	F

## Academic Integrity

Rutgers University expects students to maintain the highest ethical standards. The consequences of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, are very serious. When you submit an exam or assignment, you need to abide by the honor pledge of "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

Plagiarism means copying another person's written work and presenting it as your own. This covers all submitted work in this course. Copying another's work will get you an F in the course and a meeting with the Dean for disciplinary action. The University takes plagiarism very seriously as do I.

Rutgers' academic integrity policy is here <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

## Attendance and Participation Policy

I designed this course to be an interactive learning experience. Discussion of readings comprises a significant portion of every student's final course grade. You must complete the required reading BEFORE class to enable informed participation. I calculate participation grades based on both the quality and quantity of your classroom participation.

Because of the nature of the class design, you should attend every class session. We meet for only 45 hours this semester – that is the equivalent of one, full-time workweek. Lack of participation and attendance will equal lower final course grades. **If you must miss a class, you are responsible for completing any in-class assignment for that day and for obtaining any important class related information from that day.**

If you are going to miss a class, within 24 hours of your absence, **the University requires you to use the University absence-reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>** to indicate the date/reason for your absence. Be sure to advise me of a religious-related absence.

Keep in mind that using the reporting system does not mean that your absence is automatically excused. In addition, sending an email stating that you cannot attend the class does not constitute an excused absence. I require valid documentation to consider excusing an absence.

**As per university guidelines, "Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F." (For classes that meet once per week, this should be four instead of eight.)**

**In addition:**

**Three Late Arrivals = Final Grade – 3 grade points**

**Four or more late arrivals = Final Grade – one grade level**

**Improper/Abusive use of technology = Final Grade – one grade level**

And I will dismiss you from the class if the behavior continues.

## Communication Policy

You are responsible for reading all posted announcements. You should log into our course site daily to check for new announcements. You can contact me via email at [hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu](mailto:hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu). I will usually respond to email messages within 24 to 48 hours (except for weekends).

When posting to our discussion board or communicating with others:

- Be courteous and respectful of other points of view
- Avoid using slang, colloquial language and abbreviations, which can be misinterpreted
- Do not capitalize all letters because this suggests shouting
- Think and proofread before you submit

**When sending me an email, address the email as Dear Professor Miller, or Dear Professor.**

I WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAIL MESSAGES THAT BEGIN WITH “Hey” or “Yo.” NO GREETING AT ALL WILL GO TO SPAM.

Always include the subject and course name in the subject line because I teach more than one class per semester.

RU Web mail is the official email address used by the course software. If you prefer your webmail forwarded to a personal email address, you can link it to your RU Web mail. Select this link [https://eas.rutgers.edu/?ht\\_kb=how-do-i-forward-my-email-to-another-account](https://eas.rutgers.edu/?ht_kb=how-do-i-forward-my-email-to-another-account) \_scroll down and then select “How do I forward my email to another account”

## Late Assignment Submission Policy

No late assignment submissions accepted.

## Time Commitment

This course includes considerable time spent doing readings, assignments and other work toward course mastery. To be successful in this course, guidelines estimate that you will need to spend at least six to nine hours on coursework per week.

 Watching Multimedia:	up to 3 hours
 Reading Assignments:	up to 3 hours

 Various Weekly Assignments:

up to 3 hours

Depending on your background and/or schedule, some Units may require more time, some less.

This course has a schedule with deadlines. Doing work every day works best.

## Dropping or Withdrawing from the Course

To drop or withdraw from this course, it is not enough to stop posting assignments or attending class. **You must withdraw officially through the Registrar's office.** If you do not attend class, do not complete the required assignments and do not withdraw, you will receive an F final course grade at the end of the semester. You can review this information using this link <https://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/office-registrar-fall-academic-calendar>

**Required technological skills** - Ability to use Blackboard and Kaltura

## Technical Problems

**Direct ALL technical questions to the Student Help Desk at [help@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:help@newark.rutgers.edu). You can also call them at 973-353-5083, or drop-in to their office in Hill Hall 109.** This link directs you to the Newark Computing Services Web site <https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/>

If there is a technical glitch on Blackboard, email the assignment to me at [hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu](mailto:hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu), **BEFORE** the deadline.

In an online environment, there is always a possibility of technical issues (e.g., lost connection, hardware or software failure). Many of these can be resolved relatively quickly, but if you wait until the last minute to do/submit an assignment, the chances of these glitches affecting your success increase. Therefore, plan appropriately.

## Required equipment

Computer, Internet access, webcam with microphone OR headphones with microphone; software that can save a file in Microsoft Word.

## Videos and Web sites

Any required films and videos will be available on Blackboard. There is no charge to view any films contained in the Rutgers Libraries. Full versions of many of the films shown in class are available for you to borrow from the Rutgers Media Library. You can find more information using this link <https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/borrow-access-request/students-faculty-staff>

## Traditional Carnival Characters – Moko Jumbie -

<http://www.tntisland.com/carnivalcharacters.html>



**Course Content** - View the expanded Course Schedule in Blackboard for specifics on each unit

Section 1. Indigenous Peoples, Colonization and Enslavement

Section 2. Emancipation, Decolonization and Independence

Section 3. Caribbean Political Movements

Section 4. Globalization, Migration and the Caribbean Diaspora

### Course Topics Covered

Course Themes	Topics Covered
<b>Section 1 Colonization and Emancipation</b>	Session 1 - Introduction & the Indigenous
	Session 2 - The Maroons
	Session 3 - Revolution and Independence

<b>Course Themes</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>
<b>Section 2 Decolonization and Independence</b>	Session 4 - Caribbean Racial Formations
	Session 5 - Post-Emancipation and Indentureship
	Session 6 - Dutch-speaking Caribbean
	Session 7 - (In)dependence and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
	Session 8 - The USVI
<b>Section 3 Caribbean Political Movements</b>	Session 9 - Caribbean Economies
	Session 10 - Cuba
	Session 11 - Grenada, Carriacou, Petite Martinique
	Session 12 - Panama
	Session 13 - Trinidad & Tobago
<b>Section 4 Globalization</b>	Session 14 - Caribbean Tourism
	Session 15 - Cultural Productions - Music
	Session 15 - Cultural Productions - Heritage
	Session 16 - Migration and the Diaspora

# Serving Students

## Office of Disability Services

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information, please contact the Director, Allen Sheffield, at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting [odsnewark@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@newark.rutgers.edu)

## Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance

The Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance offers counseling and advocacy services, educational programming, and training, consultation and policy development services to all members of the University community. Our programs and services are designed to promote ways of coping with the effects of interpersonal violence and to prevent such violence from occurring. <http://vpva.rutgers.edu/need-help/>

## Office of Student Life LGBTQ Resource Program

The Office of Student Life LGBTQ Resource Program seeks to create a safe and affirming environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally students, faculty and staff at Rutgers University-Newark. Read more about our program's main point for focus, here <https://lgbtq.newark.rutgers.edu/>

## Veteran and Military Programs and Services

Rutgers University welcomes current and prospective students who are veterans and Reservists. We want to help make your transition to college life as smooth as possible and your college experience rewarding and productive. Resources for Student Veterans can be found here <http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/resources-student-veterans>

## Mental Health Wellness

If you experience mental or other difficulties, please feel free to contact one of the university's psychological and counseling centers. The centers offer a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students enrolled at Rutgers.

<http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>

## Rutgers Legal Services

One of the goals of the Office of Student Legal Services at Rutgers University is to provide legal assistance and representation to eligible university students.

<http://rusls.rutgers.edu/contact-us/>

## Rutgers Immigrant Community Assistance Project (RICAP)

All students currently enrolled at Rutgers are eligible for a **free and confidential** legal consultation with RICAP Immigrant Rights Attorney Jason Hernandez. In some instances, direct representation may be available through RICAP directly or by referral to a reputable attorney. Contact Jason Hernandez, Immigrant Rights Attorney, at 856-225-2302 or [jason.c.hernandez@rutgers.edu](mailto:jason.c.hernandez@rutgers.edu) to schedule your appointment.

<https://law.rutgers.edu/rutgers-immigrant-community-assistance-project-ricap>

## Undocumented Student Services (USS)

The Office of the Dean of Students is happy to provide services to support undocumented and DACA students on our campus. For undocumented students seeking one-on-one support to navigate campus resources, obtain referrals, or address other concerns, please contact Yuriana Garcia Tellez, USS Senior Program Coordinator, at 848-209-5123 or [y.garcia@rutgers.edu](mailto:y.garcia@rutgers.edu).

<https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/student-support-services>

## The Writing Center

We will work together on improving your writing, but if you should wish, you may also contact the Writing Center, which offers writing tutoring and workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers, Newark campus. It is located in Conklin 126; phone 973-353-5847. <https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>

## Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)

Our center exists to support your studies. We can help to clarify key course concepts and through peer led discussion refine your understanding. This conversation demands active participation which in turn requires that you attend all your classes, read your textbooks, prepare and review well organized and copious notes, participate in class discussions and conscientiously attempt your homework before seeking assistance.

<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center>

## Rutgers University Libraries

Assistance with library resources is available through phone, email and chat. Please review the Introduction to Rutgers Libraries Library Guide.

<https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/dana>

## Rutgers Holiday Policy

Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The attached link has more information

<https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/religious-holiday-policy>