

subject to change

History of the Caribbean



The Caribbean is more than just sun, sand, and azure colored water. This tropical region south of the United States, east of Central America and north of the shores of South America consists of thousands of islands, nations, and dependent territories spread out over thousands of miles within the Caribbean Sea basin. In this online course, students will explore the long and diverse history of the Caribbean through the study of its people, cultures, geographies, societies, identities, and traditions. Students will also trace the development of this region through text, images, sound, and digital databases and archives, and critically analyzing primary and secondary sources. Major themes will include pre-Columbian contact, European contact and colonialism, the Transatlantic slave trade and resistance, Emancipation and Freedom Dreams, migration and movement, agricultural and tourism economies, social movements, and popular culture.

Course Outcomes:

- ✓ Improving critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills
- ✓ Ability to interpret primary documents, sources, and texts (print/digital)
- ✓ Understanding the changes to various regions and polities of the Caribbean over space/time

Required Texts:

Tony Martin, *Caribbean History: From Pre-colonial Origins to the Present* (2012)

This textbook is available at Rutgers-Newark bookstore as well as online.

<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/caribbean-history-toni-martin-v9781315510118>

Required Software:

This course will take place on our course site on Canvas (<https://canvas.rutgers.edu/>). You will find course materials here, along with lecture videos, discussions, assignments, and quizzes.

Office Hours:

Wednesdays from 12 – 2 pm via Zoom
(feel free to pop in and ask any questions!)

Course Expectations:

This course will be asynchronous, meaning course materials will be posted online, and you are expected to complete readings at your own pace. Course assignments, discussions, quizzes, and the final exam will have specific deadlines as noted. **Students can choose to join a weekly virtual class discussion on Zoom.**

Grade Breakdown:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Slave Voyages Assignment | 15% |
| Discussion Responses (5 x 5%) | 25% |
| Quizzes (3 x 10%) | 30% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

Grading Scheme:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|--------|
| A | 90 – 100 | C+ | 76 - 79 | F | 0 – 59 |
| B+ | 86 - 89 | C | 70 – 75 | | |
| B | 80 - 85 | D | 60 - 69 | | |

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:

Students are required to acquaint themselves with university policies on academic dishonesty and to abide by them. Plagiarism will be reported swiftly, and consequences may involve an automatic zero for the course to expulsion. The official Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity can be found here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/>

Assignments:

All assignments will be posted on the course site on Canvas and should be submitted by the deadline. Make sure to check the syllabus and the course site throughout the semester to stay on track with the dates. For success in this course, try to work a little bit every day, rather than leaving everything to the last minute.

Slave Voyages Assignment:

This assignment asks you to use the *Voyages* database to track a specific slaver ship and analyse its various journeys. Based on the database, textbook, and class discussions, you will answer specific questions to historically contextualize the Transatlantic Slave Trade. **It is worth 15% of your grade.**

Discussion Responses:

Students will contribute to five discussions over the course of the semester. This guided discussion is based on the readings/course materials for that week. **Each is worth 5% (5 x 5% = 25%)**

Quizzes

Three short quizzes worth 10% each (**3 x 10% = 30% of final grade**)

Final Exam

Write a 3 – 5-page essay from the perspective of a historical figure we have discussed throughout the semester. Using evidence from the textbook, lectures, discussions, and primary materials, discuss how the person came to live in the Caribbean, interactions with locals and foreigners, and their daily lived experience. **This is worth 30% of your final grade.**

Lateness Penalty:

Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized a half letter grade for every day it is late. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the instructor.

The Writing Center:

If you are having difficulties with your writing, you may contact the Writing Center, which offers writing tutoring and workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers Newark campus. <https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>

Technology Resources for Students:

Check this website for resources that will be helpful for online instruction, <https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/technology-resources-for-students/>

Communication Policy:

You are responsible for reading all posted announcements. You should log into our course site daily to check for new announcements. Please contact me via email at marlene.gaynair@rutgers.edu if you have any further questions. 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, please:

- ✓ 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, please be sure to address the email as Dear Professor Gaynair, Dear Ms. Gaynair or Dear Professor. **I WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAIL MESSAGES THAT BEGIN WITH “Hey”, “Yo”, or NO GREETING AT ALL.**

Technical Problems:

Direct ALL technical questions to the Student Help Desk at help@newark.rutgers.edu. You can also call them at 973-353-5083, or check <https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/>

If there is a technical glitch on Canvas, email the assignment to me at marlene.gaynair@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.

Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For Individuals with Disabilities: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to University Policy 10.2.7 for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

For English as a Second Language (ESL): The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University's Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/>.

For support related to interpersonal violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a confidential resource and does not have an obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out TAO at Rutgers-Newark for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.

Reading Schedule and Syllabus

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WEEK ONE (September 1 – 5, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 1: Original Peoples (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ The Relación of Fray Ramón Pane (Canvas)

Assignment(s):

- ✓ Discussion Response #1 (Due on September 6th)

WEEK TWO (September 6 – 12, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 2: The Coming of Columbus (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ Christopher Columbus logbook (Canvas)

Assignment(s):

- ✓ Quiz #1 (Due on September 12th)

WEEK THREE (September 13 – 19, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 3: The Northern European Challenge to Spain (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) (https://avalon.law.yale.edu/15th_century/mod001.asp)

WEEK FOUR (September 20 – 26, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 4: The Africans: Long Night of Enslavement (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ Slave Voyages Database (<https://www.slavevoyages.org/>)

Assignment(s):

- ✓ Slave Voyages Assignment (Due on September 27th, 2020)

WEEK FIVE (September 27 – October 3, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 5: The Enslaved and the Manumitted: Human Beings in Savage Surroundings (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ Mary Prince, “The Life of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave” (Canvas)

Assignment(s):

- ✓ Discussion Response #2 (due on October 4th, 2020)

WEEK SIX (October 4 – 10, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 6: The Big Fight Back: Resistance, Marronage, Proto-States (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ Melanie Newton, “The Race Leapt at Sauteurs’: Genocide, Narrative, and Indigenous Exile from the Caribbean Archipelago” *Caribbean Quarterly*, 60:2, 5-28, DOI: [10.1080/00086495.2014.11671886](https://doi.org/10.1080/00086495.2014.11671886)

- ✓ The Garifuna Heritage Foundation, (<http://garifunaresearchcenter.org>)

Assignment(s):

- ✓ Quiz #2 (due on October 10th, 2020)

WEEK SEVEN (October 11 – 17, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 7: The Big Fight Back: Suriname and Jamaica (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ Vincent Brown, “Slave Revolt in Jamaica, 1760-1761”, (<http://revolt.axismaps.com/>)
- ✓ “Papers relative to the Settling of the Maroons in His Majesty’s Province of Nova Scotia” (Canvas)

Assignment(s):

- ✓ Discussion #3 (due on October 17th, 2020)

WEEK EIGHT (October 18 – 24, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 8: The Big Fight Back: From Rebellion to Haitian Revolution (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ Haitian Declaration of Independence,
<https://today.duke.edu/showcase/haitideclaration/declarationstext.html>

WEEK NINE (October 25 – 31, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 9: Emancipation: Help from Europe, Final Push from the Enslaved (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ “An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves.” (https://www.pdavis.nl/Legis_07.htm)

WEEK TEN (November 1 – 7, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 10: After Emancipation: Obstacles and Progress (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ **Carta de Autonomia 1897**
 - http://www.proyectosalanhogar.com/enciclopedia_ilustrada/Carta_Autonomica.htm

Assignment(s):

- ✓ Discussion Response #4 (due November 7th, 2020)

WEEK ELEVEN (November 8 – 14, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 11: Immigration in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ “Gandhi and the Immigration Proposals” (Canvas)
- ✓ Immigration Act of 1924 (Canvas)

WEEK TWELVE (November 15 – 21, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 12: The Caribbean and Africa Through the Early Twentieth Century (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ Sabia McCoy-Torres. "'Cien por ciento tico tico': Reggae, Belonging, and the Afro-Caribbean Ticos of Costa Rica." *Black Music Research Journal* 36, no. 1 (2016): 1-29. <https://www.muse.jhu.edu/article/691604>.

Assignment(s):

- ✓ Quiz #3 (due November 21, 2020)

WEEK THIRTEEN (November 22 – 25, 2020)

Thanksgiving Recess: November 26 - 29, 2020

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 13: The United States and the Caribbean to World War II (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ Report of the West India Royal Commission (the Moyne Report) (Canvas)

WEEK FOURTEEN (November 29 – December 5, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 14: Twentieth Century to World War II: Turbulent Times (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ Ponce Massacre (1937) (<https://enciclopediapr.org/en/encyclopedia/the-ponce-massacre-1937/>)
- ✓ Jynessa Mendoza, “To Be a Woman: Gender and the Death of the Mirabel Sisters” (Canvas)

WEEK FIFTEEN (December 6 – 10, 2020)

Required Readings:

- ✓ Chapter 15: World War II to Century’s End (Martin)

Documents:

- ✓ “The Truman Doctrine, 1947,” <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/truman-doctrine>
- ✓ Immigration Act of 1965 (Canvas)

Assignment(s):

- ✓ Discussion Response #5 (due on December 10th, 2020)

FINAL EXAM

- ✓ Due December 17, 2020 (upload document to Canvas)