

Hyacinth Miller  
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Office hours: By appointment

## INTRODUCTION TO CARIBBEAN STUDIES 21:014:113

### 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, cultural productions (music/film/food/religion) and its intellectual traditions. 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 contributions of Caribbean Studies to the exploration of contemporary issues in our interconnected world.



Photo courtesy of Ocean Trader <http://oceantrader.co/emerging-caribbean-art/#comments>

### Course Learning Goals

- ✚ Identify and describe the relevance of major actors, events and ideas that have shaped Caribbean history
- ✚ Identify Caribbean nations on a map and differentiate according to colonial heritage, language and ethnicity
- ✚ Describe the impact of colonialism, globalization and neocolonialism on the Caribbean's socio-economic and political status
- ✚ Identify and explain the strategies employed by indigenous and Caribbean people to undermine social, economic and political oppression
- ✚ Improve research and critical thinking skills, as applied to Caribbean Studies, through engagement with interdisciplinary scholarship and analysis of primary sources
- ✚ Develop writing skills through analytical and reflective essays and develop greater familiarity with the interactive collaborative software, Kaltura and Padlet
- ✚ Demonstrate the necessary skill sets enabling you to interact effectively with your peers

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

### Three Required Texts

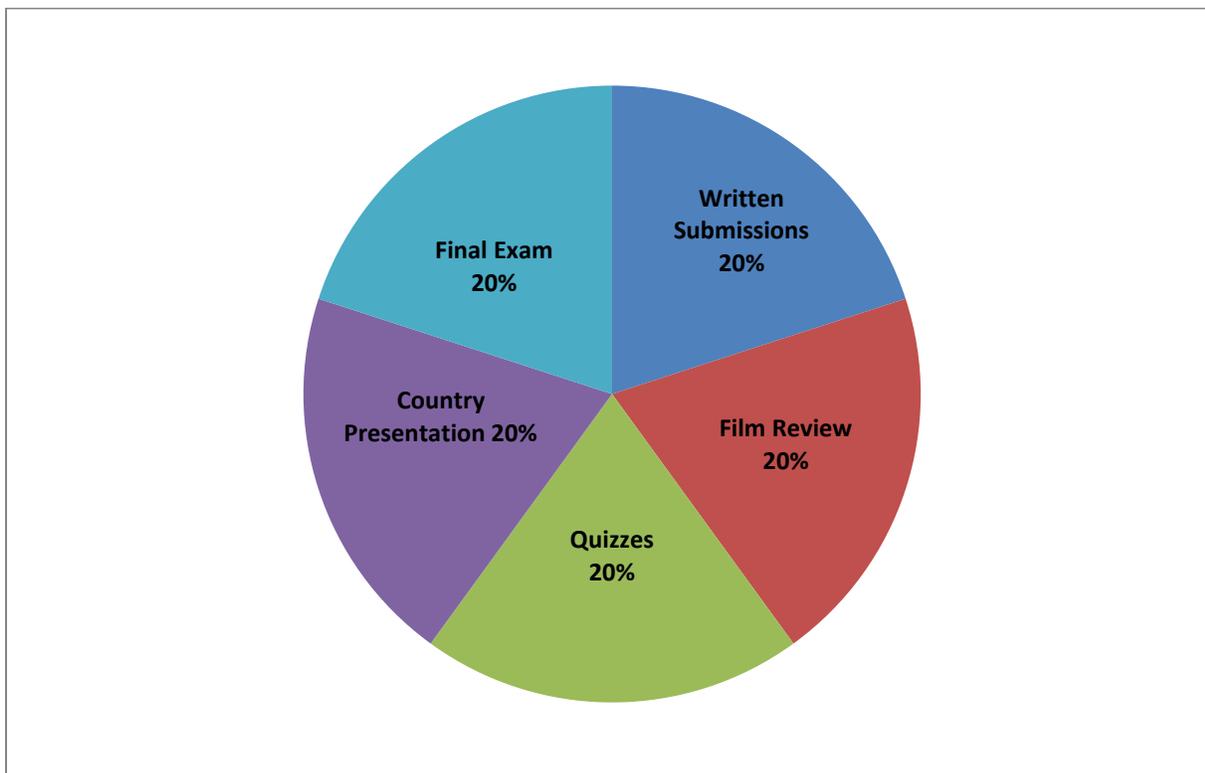
- ✚ Camille Hernandez-Ramdwar. 2014. *Introduction to the Caribbean, Diversity Challenges, Resiliency, Second Edition*. (Kendall Hunt) ISBN: 978-1-4652-9983-3 **This is an E-book.**
- ✚ Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000) ISBN: 0374527075
- ✚ Frantz Fanon. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Grove Press.



### Course Grading Breakdown

1. Written Submissions.....20%

- 2. Quizzes.....20%
- 3. Country Presentation.....20%
- 4. Caribbean Film Review.....20%
- 5. Final.....20%



### 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/>

## Communication Policy

You are responsible for reading all of my posted announcements. You should log into our course site daily to check for new announcements.

Please 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 sending me an email, please be sure to address the email as Dear Professor Miller, Dear Ms. Miller or Dear Professor. I WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAIL MESSAGES THAT BEGIN WITH "Hey", "Yo." I will delete messages with no greeting, because I will assume it is SPAM.

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



Christopher Columbus departure from Spain circa 1492  
Photo courtesy of Britannica.com

## Participation Policy

This is a fully online course with online activities, assignments, and lectures. Your engagement with the course is critical. I am able to monitor your activities on the course Webpage as Blackboard creates an electronic record of each student's participation.

## Late Submission Policy

Late assignments will lose FIVE points per day until submitted.

## 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 three to six hours on coursework per week. Researchers have calculated this based on the college standard requirement of approximately three hours of work each week per credit hour of the course. Depending on our individual backgrounds and schedules, some Units may require more time, some less.

Schedule regular study/assignment times in your calendar. Studies show that the more hours you put in, the better the work output. Students who can only put in two to three hours per week are not as likely to get top grades as those students who can study at least six or more hours per week.

## Dropping or Withdrawing from the Course

In order to drop or withdraw from this course, it is not sufficient to stop posting assignments or contributing to discussion. **You must do so formally through the Registrar's office.** It is your responsibility to complete all forms. If not, I must assign you an F grade at the end of the semester. You can review this information using this link <https://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/registrar-spring-academic-calendar-0>

## Required technological skills

Ability to use Blackboard and Kaltura

## Technical Problems

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.

**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 <http://ncs.newark.rutgers.edu/hd>

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. Please plan appropriately. If a problem occurs, it is essential you take immediate action to resolve the problem.

## Required equipment

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

### Carnival in Trinidad



## Course Content

The course consists of five themes:

- ✚ Slavery and Emancipation
- ✚ Independence and Sovereignty
- ✚ Literature and Culture
- ✚ Tourism and the Economy
- ✚ Migration, Globalization and the Diaspora