

INTRO TO CARIBBEAN STUDIES
21:014:113:01 Fall 2016
Mondays and Thursdays 1pm – 2:20pm Conklin 238

About This Course

The Caribbean – Crossroads of the World – is more than a tropical region filled with palm trees, exotic people and resorts. This is a discussion-based interactive course where 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 contributions of Caribbean Studies to the exploration of contemporary issues in our interconnected world.

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
- Describe the impact of colonialism, globalization and neocolonialism on the Caribbean's socio-economic and political status
- Identify and explain the strategies employed by 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, Voicethread and Padlet
- Demonstrate the necessary skill sets enabling you to interact effectively with your peers

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required Texts

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.

2. Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000) ISBN: 0374527075

Grading

1. Article Submissions/Commentary.....20%
2. Class Participation.....20%
3. Quizzes.....15%
4. Group Work.....20%
5. Final.....25%

Grading Scale

90 to 100+	= A
85 to 89.9	= B+
80 to 84.9	= B
75 to 79.9	= C+
70 to 74.9	= C
60 to 69.9	= D
0 to 59.9	= F

Communication Policy

You are responsible for reading all of my posted announcements. You should log into our course site, at least three times a week, to check for new announcements.

Please contact me via email at 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, please:

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

Attendance and Participation Policy

I have designed this course to be an interactive learning experience. Discussion of assigned readings/films 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 from both the quality and quantity of your classroom participation.

Because of the nature of the class design, you should make every effort to attend every class session. 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.** I will hold you responsible for any agreement or change to the course announced or decided in class if absent.

In addition, I will lower the final grade by two points for each unexcused absence beyond the initial two. Three late arrivals will count as an absence.

The improper use of technology in the classroom will count as an absence and I will dismiss a student from class if the behavior continues. Four or more unexcused absences will drop your final course grade by one letter grade. Please note that sending an email stating that you cannot attend the class does not constitute an excuse. I expect you to inform me about an absence in person before or immediately after the absence takes place. I require documentation to excuse an absence.

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 and reason for your absence. Please keep in mind that using the reporting system does not mean that your absence is automatically considered “excused.” If you miss a class or exam for religious reasons, please consult <http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/holidays1112.htm>

Late Submission Policy

All assignments submitted late lose **TEN** points per day.

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, and if you do not do so, I must assign a grade of F at the end of the semester. Please see the attached Registrar link for applicable deadlines <http://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/office-registrar-fall-academic-calendar#drop-w>

Required technological skills

Ability to use Blackboard

Technical Problems

If there is a technical glitch on Blackboard, you are responsible for e-mailing the assignment to me, before the deadline.

In the 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 before due dates, the chances of these glitches affecting your success are greatly increased. Please plan appropriately. If a problem occurs, it is essential you take immediate action to resolve the problem. Technical questions should be directed to the Student Help Desk at: help@newark.rutgers.edu. You can also call them at 973-353-5083, or drop-in, Hill Hall 109. This link directs you to the Newark Computing Services Web site <http://ncs.newark.rutgers.edu/hd>

Required equipment

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

Academic Integrity

Rutgers University expects students to maintain the highest ethical standards. The consequences of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, are very serious. Rutgers' academic integrity policy is at academicintegrity.rutgers.edu. 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)."

Serving Students

Office of Disability Services

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. 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>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible.

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 Kate Torres at (973)353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance

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](#).

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.

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

Rutgers University Libraries

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

Course Content

The four course units are:

1. Indigenous Peoples, Colonization and Slavery
2. Emancipation, Decolonization and Independence
3. Caribbean Political Movements
4. Globalization

Please view and refer to the expanded Course Schedule in Blackboard for specifics on each unit.

Grading Response Time

I will grade assignments within two weeks of the due date. Lengthy assignments may take longer to grade.

Time Commitment

To be successful in this course, you will need to commit to at least three (3) to six (6) hours of coursework per week. Some weeks will require more time, some less.