

Professor Hyacinth Miller
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Office hours: By appointment

INTRO TO CARIBBEAN STUDIES
21:014:113:90| 21:014:113:91 ONLINE ONLY COURSE
Spring 2022 – January 18 – May 2

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 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 ethnicity
3. Evaluate the impact of colonialism, globalization and neocolonialism on the Caribbean's socio-economic and political status
4. Explain the strategies employed by indigenous, formerly enslaved and indentured laborers to undermine 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

Department of African American and African Studies Mission Statement: [African American and African Studies Mission Statement](#)



Le Nègre Marron in Haiti (Wikimedia Commons) - <https://www.theroot.com/look-at-all-these-monuments-from-around-the-world-that-1798358305>

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

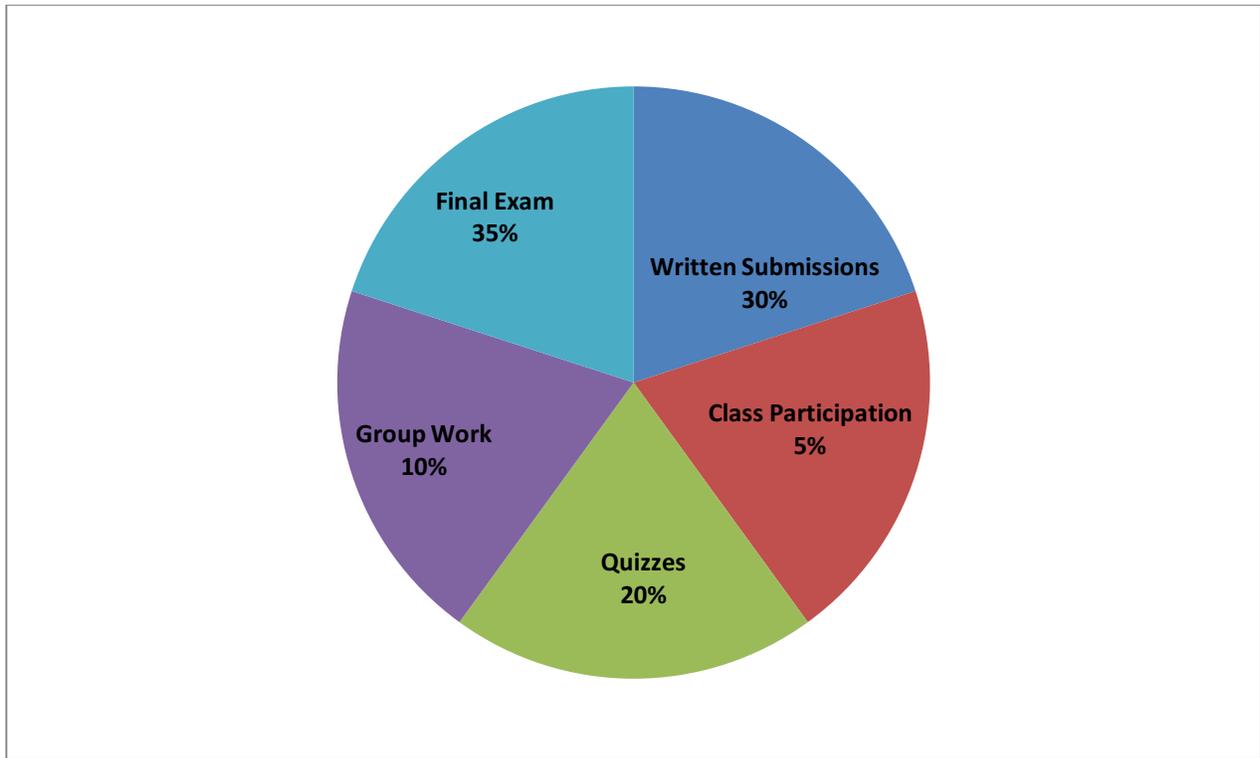
Required Texts - All books are available from the Rutgers campus bookstore and book 2 and 3 are available at the RU library.

1. Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000)
ISBN: 978-0374527075
2. Frantz Fanon. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Grove Press.
ISBN: 978-0802143006

Grading

1. Article Submissions.....30%
Three article analyses that focus on a contemporary issue in the Caribbean.
2. Class Participation.....5%
Self-introduction video, no late submissions and appropriate responses to classmate videos and discussion threads.
3. Group Country Presentation.....10%
A seven-minute country presentation video responding to question prompts
4. Quizzes.....20%
Four 10-question quizzes
5. Final Exam.....35%
This final exam will assess your introductory knowledge of the Caribbean

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

This course follows Rutgers University policies relating to 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 here [Academic Integrity for Students](#). Violations will be reported and enforced according to this policy.

Use of external website resources such as Chegg.com or others to obtain solutions to homework assignments, quizzes, or exams is cheating and a violation of the University

Academic Integrity policy. Cheating in the course may result in grade penalties, disciplinary sanctions or educational sanctions. Posting homework assignments, or exams, to external sites without the instructor's permission may be a violation of copyright and may constitute the facilitation of dishonesty, which may result in the same penalties as plain cheating. Plagiarism means copying another person's written work and presenting it as your own. This covers all submitted work in this course. The University takes plagiarism very seriously as do I.

The department REQUIRES that the following honor pledge is written and signed on every exam, paper, or other major course assignment that is submitted for grading:

“On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).”

Privacy

To ensure a positive, productive and enjoyable learning experience for all participants, it is important that all students adhere to **Online Classroom, Meetings and Activities Expectations**, which include online behaviors and privacy guidelines for students.

Privacy Guidelines for Students

All students must follow the following privacy guidelines:

- ✦ Do not video record, audio record, photograph, live stream, transmit or share in any other way any part of online classes, meetings or activities, including no posting on any social media platform.
- ✦ Any confidential or personally identifiable information related to students participating during online classes, meetings or activities should not be collected, discussed or shared.

Behavioral Expectations for Students

- ✦ Students must use their Rutgers accounts when logging into Zoom, Webex or Canvas. These require the use of your Rutgers NetID and password.
- ✦ Login credentials must not be shared. Sharing of login information violates other students' and instructors' rights to confidentiality and could allow class participation by unauthorized persons and/or lead to disruptive behaviors that detract from a productive and positive learning environment.
- ✦ All Rutgers University policies that apply to civility and appropriate student behavior must be adhered to, including the University Code of Conduct and Rules of Professional Responsibility.

Communication Policy

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

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 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”, “Yo”, “Hi” or NO GREETING AT ALL.**

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. University policy is to **only communicate with students using a Rutgers email address.**

Course Delivery

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

Participation Policy

I designed this course to be an interactive learning experience.

Life happens and a global pandemic does not make it easier. Make sure to communicate with me and/or your Rutgers-Newark Academic Advisor if anything happens to you that disrupts your academic progress.

Late Submission Policy - No late 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 of coursework per week. Depending on your individual background and/or schedule, some Units may require more time, some less.

✦ Watching Instructor Videos and other Multimedia:	up to 2 hours
✦ Reading Assignments	up to 3 hours
✦ Various Weekly Assignments	up to 2 hours

This course has a schedule with deadlines. **This course is NOT self-paced.** Do not try to 'save-up' all course work to the day before assignments are due. Doing work every day works best.

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 [Registrar](#)

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. 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>

If there is a technical glitch on Blackboard, email the assignment to me at 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.

Required equipment

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

Videos and Web sites

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>



The photo above is of Cap Hatien, a white, grandiose, palatial structure. Cap Hatien was not only the first capital of French Haiti, but also the government seat for the Kingdom of Northern Haiti, led by King Henri Christophe, the country's first independent leader. Click the attached link for more information <https://www.tripsavvy.com/attractions-in-haiti-1488163>

Protecting the intellectual property of students and instructors

Almost all original work is the intellectual property of its authors. These works may include syllabi, lecture slides, recorded lectures, homework problems, exams, and other materials, in either printed or electronic form. The authors may hold copyrights in these works, which are protected by U.S. statutes. Copying this work or posting it online without the permission of the author may violate the author's rights. More importantly, these works are the product of the author's efforts; respect for these efforts and for the author's intellectual property rights is an important value that members of the university community take seriously.

For more instructions on copyright protections at Rutgers University, refer to the [Rutgers Libraries](#).

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

Section 1. Indigenous Peoples, Colonization and Slavery

Section 2. Emancipation, Decolonization and Independence

Section 3. Caribbean Political Movements

Section 4. Globalization, Migration and the Caribbean Diaspora

Overall Course Advice

Take deadlines seriously

All assignments and deadlines are in the syllabus and the course Web site so you can plan when and how to complete your work this semester. If you have several deadlines at once, you must still submit assignments on time. You will not receive credit for late assignments.

Take advantage of office hours

Office hours are for your benefit. It is an opportunity to assess your performance, or go over questions and/or issues with class materials and assignments. You can send me an email to schedule a time to discuss, if or when needed. Use this link - [Professor Miller's Calendar](#)

Changes to course schedule

I will adjust the course schedule, required assignments or readings to provide the best learning experience possible, so this syllabus may not be the final version.

Weekly Readings

Course Themes	Topics
Unit 1 Colonization and Emancipation	Introduction & the Indigenous
	The Maroons
	Revolution and Independence
Unit 2 Decolonization and Independence	Racial Formations
	Post-Emancipation and Indentureship
	Dutch-speaking Caribbean
	The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Unit 3 Caribbean Political Movements	Caribbean Economies
	Cuba
	Grenada, Carriacou, Petite Martinique
Unit 4 Globalization	Caribbean Tourism
	Cultural Productions - Music
	Migration and the Diaspora

Serving Students

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 different abilities

[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. 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 via email deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For individuals with [temporary conditions and 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 above link.

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: [Reporting Form](#). 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 [Compliance](#).

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.

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.

[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.

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 email the care team at: 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.

[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 VIRTUAL writing** support and workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers, Newark campus.

[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.

[Rutgers University Libraries](#)

Assistance with library resources is available through phone, email and chat. You can review the Introduction to Rutgers Libraries Library Guide for more information.

[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.