

Professor Hyacinth Miller
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Office hours: By appointment

INTRO TO CARIBBEAN STUDIES
21:014:113:90| ONLINE ONLY COURSE
Summer Session I – June 1 – July 8

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.

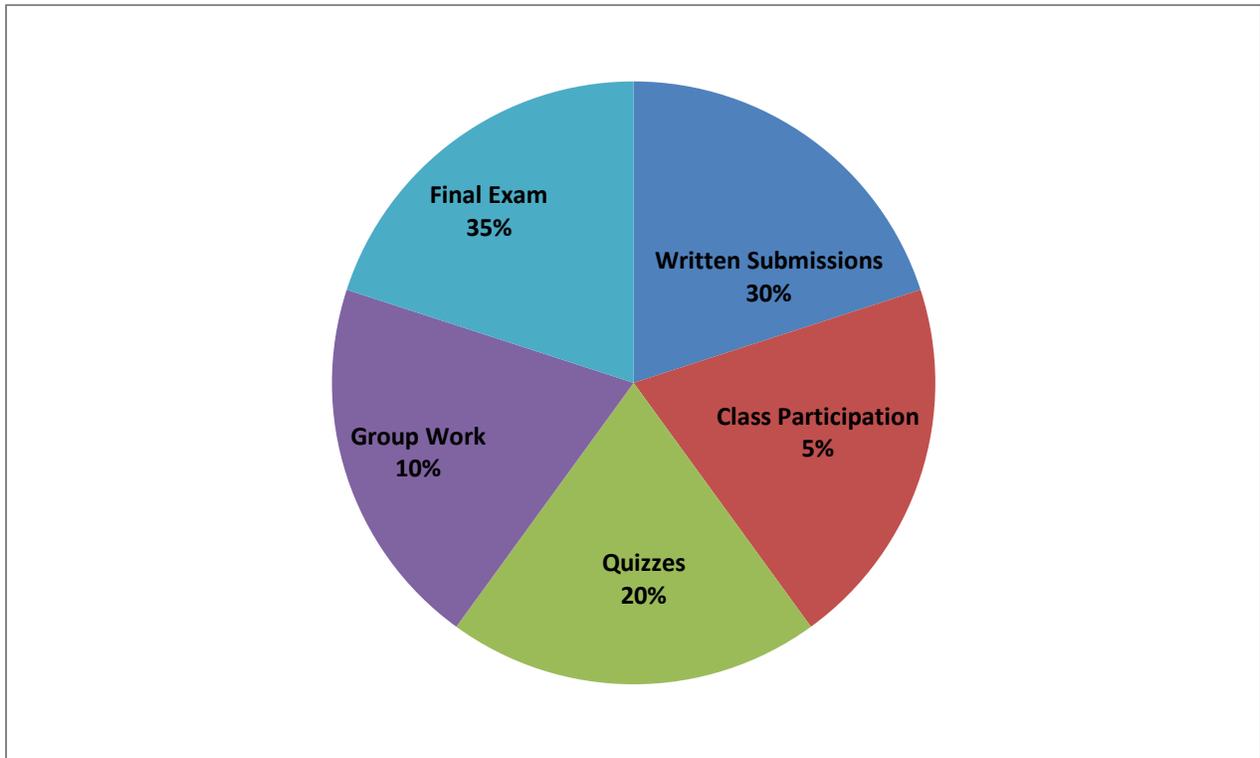
1. Camille Hernandez-Ramdwar. 2014. Introduction to the Caribbean, Diversity Challenges, Resiliency, Second Edition. (Kendall Hunt)
ISBN: 978-1-4652-9983-3
This is an E-book only. Use the attached link to purchase the e-book.
<https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/introduction-caribbean-diversity-challenges-resiliency>
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.....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

Course Assignment Due Dates

Assignment	Due Date
Self-Introduction	June 3
Quiz 1	June 9
Reflection 1	June 10
Quiz 2	June 23
Reflection 2	June 24
Country Presentation	July 1
Syllabus Quiz	July 6
FINAL EXAM	July 8

Weekly Readings

Course Themes	Topics Covered
Section 1 Indigenous Peoples, Colonization and Slavery	Introduction
	The Indigenous and African Resistance
	Revolution and Independence
Section 2 Emancipation, Decolonization and Independence	Caribbean Racial Formation
	Post-Emancipation and Indentureship
	(In)dependence & the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
	The U.S. Virgin Islands
	The Dutch Atlantic
Section 3 Caribbean Political Movements	A New Destiny - Cuba
<i>MUST READ MATERIALS</i>	Political Self-Determination
<i>FOR ONE OF</i>	Caribbean Sovereignty
<i>THESE COUNTRIES</i>	Trinidad and Tobago
Section 4 Globalization, Migration and the Caribbean Diaspora	Caribbean as a Tourism Destination
	Caribbean Cultural Productions

Course Themes	Topics Covered
	Migration, the Diaspora & Globalization

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.