COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Caribbean region has been a theater for European and U.S. imperial expansion and colonial administration, post-colonial nation building, migration, and economic subordination since the time of the “discovery.” In this course, we will explore the major themes of Caribbean history, including slavery and abolition, plantation agriculture, labor mobilization, mass migration and the creation of a (or many) Caribbean diaspora(s), industrialization and tourism, and colonialism and post-colonialism. We will use these converging historical themes to discuss their myriad manifestations throughout the geographic space that is the Caribbean. Although this course will emphasize the Anglophone and Hispanic Caribbean islands, we will also examine the Francophone islands, as well as the coastal regions of Latin America that face the Caribbean Sea.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

During the semester, we will build a learning community, where we will exchange ideas freely and honestly. To do so, it is imperative that we adhere to an ethical code of conduct. We will follow the guidelines set forth in the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and we will adhere to accepted online etiquette. Please see these two documents posted on the “Course Information” tab in our Blackboard site.

COURSE MATERIALS

There are many required books for this class, and they are listed in detail on the course outline. Our main textbooks will be:


Each week, several chapters from these books will serve as a general framework and foundation from which to discuss more specific cases, usually the other books or articles due that week. You will see that some weeks have many books. You are not expected read each one; we will divide the material so that your reading assignment will always be the chapters from our textbook and one additional book. Other readings and visual materials will be posted on our course site on Blackboard if needed.
REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1) **Historiographical Essay (50% of your final grade)**
   You will select a theme salient in Caribbean historiography and develop a historiographical essay that will identify, discuss, and critically evaluate the important scholarly contributions on that theme. We will meet to discuss your choice of theme and review the sources available, and you will receive approval of your theme after that meeting. The final essay should be between 25-30 pages in length and will be due no later than noon on December 23, 2015.

2) **Discussion Boards (30% of your final grade)**
   Every week, everyone will write 500-600 word reflection of the readings due that week. Your reflection will be thoughtful and well written. It will provide a short summary of the reading’s central argument(s) and a succinct yet critical evaluation of the author’s contribution to the historiographical debate(s) that the book deals with. The goal of these reflections is to assist you in preparing for our discussions in class. You must post your journal entry by Sundays at 5pm as a thread in the designated Discussion Board.

3) **Presentation (20% of your final grade)**
   All students will make two 20-minute in-class presentations that will synthesize and critique the most significant issues raised in the reading scheduled for the week. The presentation will lay the groundwork for discussion during that class and the presenter will assume a leading role in our discussions on that day. A schedule of presentations will be agreed upon during our first meeting.

COURSE OUTLINE

This is a tentative outline of the topics that we will discuss during the semester and the dates when everything is due.

Monday, August 31  
**Introduction**  
*Read:* Genesis, Preface and Introduction  
*Read:* The Caribbean, Introduction

Monday, September 7  
NO CLASS – Labor Day

Thursday, September 10  
**Colonial Precedents, Pre-Colombian Societies, and European Contact**  
**MONDAY SCHEDULE**  
*Read:* Genesis, Chapters 1 and 2  
*Read:* The Caribbean, Chapters 1-9  

Reflection DUE: Wednesday, September 9

Monday, September 14  NO CLASS – Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 21  Patterns of Colonization
Read:  Genesis, Chapter 3
Read:  The Caribbean, Chapters 10-14
Reflection DUE: Sunday, September 20

Monday, September 28  Capitalism and Slavery
Read:  Genesis, Chapters 4 and 5
Read:  The Caribbean, Chapters 15-17
Reflection DUE: Sunday, September 27

Monday, October 5  Revolution, Emancipation and Early Nation Building
Read:  Genesis, Chapters 6 and 7
Read:  The Caribbean, Chapters 18-24
Reflection DUE: Sunday, October 4

Monday, October 12  NO CLASS – Columbus Day

Monday, October 19  Economic Expansions, Race and Labor After Emancipation
Read:  Concise, Chapter 6
Read:  The Caribbean, Chapters 25-27
Reflection DUE: Sunday, October 18
Monday, October 26

**The New Empire**

*Read:* The Caribbean, Part 6


*Reflection DUE:* Sunday, October 25

---

Monday, November 2

**The Cuban Revolution**

*Read:* Genesis, Chapter 8

*Read:* The Caribbean, Chapter 34


*Reflection DUE:* Sunday, November 1

---

Monday, November 9

**Nation “Re”building**

*Read:* Genesis, Chapters 10 and 11

*Read:* The Caribbean, Chapter 35


*Reflection DUE:* Sunday, November 8

---

Monday, November 16

**“Colonial” Projects**

*Read:* Genesis, Chapter 9

*Read:* The Caribbean, Chapter 36


Reflection DUE: Sunday, November 15

Monday, November 23

**Imagined Islands: Haiti and the Dominican Republic**

Read: Caribbean, Chapter 37


Reflection DUE: Sunday, November 22

Monday, November 30

**The Gendered Caribbean**


Reflection DUE: Sunday, November 29

Monday, December 7

**The Pleasures of the Caribbean**

Read: The Caribbean, Chapter 38


Read: Voices, Chapter 9
Reflection DUE: Sunday, December 6

Wednesday, December 14

Migrations and Diasporas
Read: The Caribbean, Chapter 39
Reflection DUE: Sunday, December 13