

# ***INTRODUCTION TO CARIBBEAN HISTORY***

**LAH 3470, Section 16219,**

**~ Spring 2019 ~**

Prof. David Geggus	office hours: M 4pm-6pm
MWF 6 (12.50-1.40pm)	or by appointment
Flint 119	Grinter 333
E-mail: dgeggus@ufl.edu	tel. 392 6543 (w)

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This course introduces students to some of the main issues and debates in Caribbean history from the time of Columbus to the mid-twentieth century. Approximately equal attention is given to Spanish-, English-, and French-speaking regions, and to political, cultural, and economic developments. No other part of the world has been shaped so completely as the Caribbean by the two institutions of European colonialism and plantation slavery. They provide a unity, which otherwise is lacking in the region's highly fractured history and geography. Their rise and fall, and the role they played in shaping the contemporary Caribbean, constitute the dominant themes of this course.

The principal mode of instruction will be lecturing, supplemented by occasional class discussion and required readings. Several video excerpts will be shown, which should be considered integral parts of the course material. Regular attendance and good note-taking are essential to passing the exams. Students are expected to attend all classes, having read carefully the reading assignments for that session

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**Course objectives:** 1) to provide an understanding of the making of the modern Caribbean, and to familiarize students with the main topics and debates in the region's history; 2) to develop students' ability to analyze critically historical problems, using primary and secondary sources, and to debate the causes of historical change; 3) to improve students' writing skills.

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**Course texts:**

1) Gad Heuman, *The Caribbean: a Brief History*, 2nd ed. \$29.95 from Amazon. Background reading to complement the lectures.

2) A collection of readings on Google Drive (the link will be sent to class members). These readings concern the Amerindian genocide (Las Casas); a plantation manager's view (Thistlewood) and a slave's view (Montejo) of slavery; and a modern analysis of patterns of Caribbean race relations (Hoetink). Each will be discussed in class and is to be read before the assigned date. The second will be the subject of a brief analytical report.

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**Requirements:**

- 1) First exam, Feb 2
- 2) [Report](#), due Feb 7, on the Thistlewood reading (4pp.). This must be submitted on time.
- 3) Second exam, Mar 14
- 4) Map Quiz, Mar 30
- 5) Final exam, Monday, Apr 29, 10.00am

These account respectively for 15%, 25%, 20%, 10%, and 30% of the final grade. Students will need to produce a medical certificate to be allowed to make up missed work. Exams should be written in ink, in bluebooks, please.

**Grades:**

A portion of the marks for the report is allotted to correct word-usage, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

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**Other:**

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the University's [honesty policy](#) regarding cheating and use of copyrighted materials; and with University [grading policy](#). Those requesting classroom accommodation due to a disability must register with the Dean of Students Office and should see me at the beginning of semester. Students taking the class for graduate credit as LAH 5476 will write an extra paper.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online, typically during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu) <<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>>.

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**COURSE OUTLINE**

(subject to change)

- 1 Introductory: geography and history
- 2 The Sixteenth Century: Genocide & Empire (Heuman ch 1; Las Casas)
- 3 Tobacco, Indenture, & Buccaneers (Heuman ch 1)
- 4 The Sugar Revolution (Heuman ch 2)
- 5 Slave Society (Heuman ch 3-5; Thistlewood) **First Exam, Feb 2**
- 6 Maroons & Rebels (Heuman ch 6) **[Thistlewood report](#) due, Feb 7**
- 7 Impact of the American, French, and Haitian Revolutions (Heuman ch 7)

- 8 Emancipation & its Aftermath (Heuman ch 8-9)
- 9 Spanish Caribbean in the 19th Century (Heuman ch 3-13; Montejo)
- 10 Spring Break
- 11 The 20th Century: Dependency and Independence (Heuman ch 12-15) **2nd Exam, Mar 14**
- 12 Caribbean Culture: Race, Religion, Music (Heuman ch 12, 17; Hoetink)
- 13 The U.S. and the Caribbean (Heuman ch 13, 15) **Map Quiz, Mar 30**
- 14 Caribbean Societies (Heuman ch 15-16))
- 15 The Contemporary Caribbean (Heuman ch 16)
- 16 Summing up

**Final Exam, Apr 29, 10.00am**