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Office Hours:
Keene-Flint TA Office, Tue.
2:00-3:00; Th. 3:00-4:00; and
by appointment

LAH 3470: INTRODUCTION TO CARIBBEAN HISTORY

Classroom: FLI 0111
Tue. Periods 8-9 (3:00-4:55)
Th. Period 9 (4:05-4:55)

Course Description

This course introduces the Caribbean as a complex region whose history has impacted a broad range of global processes. We will cover major developments, from pre-Colombian regional networks to modern challenges facing Caribbean nations. The course will discuss the Caribbean as a focal point of European overseas settlement and colonization, as a major depot of the transatlantic African slave trade, as a revolutionary space, and as a center of modern intellectual, artistic, and literary movements.

We will **respectfully** discuss influential lives, actions, and ideas and analyze how they have shaped Caribbean history. We will cover the destructive power of humans but also our creative capacity through the arts and sciences, which includes the consequences of human actions (or lack thereof). We will also study the complexity of religion and its positive and negative catalytic role in the creation of modern Caribbean societies. Finally, we will study the roots of the paradoxical idea that the Caribbean can be both a peripheral and central node of a globalized world. Much of the globalized world as we know it has its roots in the Caribbean, and its history is deeply rooted in global economic networks.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

***Caution:**

This course will explore and present ideas and events that may be shocking, distressing, or offensive to some students. Images and accounts of atrocities caused by the conquest and colonization of the Americas and the subsequent transatlantic slave trade and the consequent violation of human rights are part of this curriculum. In exploring these matters, the instructor aims to foster students' ability to analyze, critique, and synthesize information in thorough and objective ways in the same way that professional historians do. If any of the class content triggers any adverse emotional reaction, please

seek immediate help from a professional. Resources are available at the end of this syllabus and on the Canvas resource page.

Course Objectives:

By the end of LAH 3470, students will be able to

- Understand the general historical narrative of Caribbean history from pre-Columbian times to the modern age.
- Critically analyze preconceived constructs of the Caribbean from an historical perspective and will be able to locate and properly utilize source material needed to do so.
- Articulate their research findings and ideas in a proper academic writing style using active rhetorical and writing skills.
- Demonstrate critical thinking and listening skills through participation in group activities and discussions.

Required texts for purchase:

1. Dubois, Laurent & Turits, Richard Lee. *Freedom Roots: Histories from the Caribbean*. UNC Chapel Hill Press, 2019.
2. Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2000.

Additional Readings (will be posted on Canvas or available online via UF Libraries):

3. Barreiro, José. *Taino: A Novel*. Arte Publico Press, 1993. Pages 1-120 (e-book available for free from the UF library catalogue).
4. Altman, Ida. "Marriage, Family, and Ethnicity in the Early Spanish Caribbean." *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 70, No. 2, Centering Families in Atlantic Histories (April 2013), pp. 225-250 (on Canvas).
5. Wheat, David. *Atlantic Africa and the Spanish Caribbean, 1570-1640*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2016. 181-215 (on Canvas).
6. Lane, Kris. *Pillaging the Empires: Global Piracy on the High Seas, 1500-1750*. 2nd edition. New York and London: Routledge, 2016. Pages 89-122 (on Canvas).
7. Landers, Jane. "Cimarrón and Citizen: African Ethnicity, Corporate Identity, and the Evolution of Free Black Towns in the Spanish Circum-Caribbean" (on Canvas)
8. Klooster, Wim. "From Prize Colony to Black Independence" (on Canvas)
9. Geggus, David. "Slave rebellion during the Age of Revolution" (on Canvas)
10. James, C.L.R. James. "French Capitalism and Caribbean Slavery" (on Canvas).
11. Williams, Eric. "Capitalism and Slavery" (on Canvas).
12. Knight, Franklin. "Slavery and Lagging Capitalism in the Spanish and Portuguese American Empires, 1492-1713." In *Slavery and the Rise of the Atlantic System*, Vol. 1. Edited by Barbara L. Solow. Pages 62-74. Cambridge University Press, 1993. (on Canvas).
13. Sanders, Mark A. *A Black Soldier's Story: The Narrative of Ricardo Batrell and the Cuban War of Independence*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1963. Introduction, ix-xxxix (on Canvas).
14. Spence-Benson, Devyn. "Not Blacks, But Citizens." *World Policy Journal* Vol.33, No.1 (Spring, 2016), pp. 23-29.

15. Patullo, Polly. *Last Resorts: The Cost of Tourism in the Caribbean*, 2nd. Ed. rev. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2005 (selected pages).

Films, Documentaries, and Podcasts (*this list may be updated over the course of the semester)

1. *Troubling Freedom: Antigua and the Aftermath of British Emancipation*. Natasha J. Lightfoot, 2015. New Books in Caribbean Studies Podcast. <https://tinyurl.com/5fterb5h>
2. *Burn! [Queimada]*, dir. Gillo Pontecorvo (1969). <https://tinyurl.com/7xhme9xe>
3. "Haiti & Dominican Republic" PBS Series *Black in Latin America*, produced by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. <https://youtu.be/fU3TWRKfTA>
4. *Windrush*, BBC documentary (1998), part 1: "Arrival." <https://youtu.be/MbNH4JBQiSY>
5. *Windrush*, BBC documentary (1998), part 2: "Intolerance." <https://youtu.be/Mg65lhSn2YM>
6. *El Otro Francisco*, dir. Sergio Giral (1974, w/Eng. subtitles). https://youtu.be/HNkKZ_Tp1VE
7. *Blockchain Island* (2018), <https://tinyurl.com/33emh285>

Course Requirements:

Assignments consist of a mid-semester twenty-four-hour take-home examination, a short research paper, and an end-of-semester twenty-four-hour take-home examination. In addition, you will be graded on attendance, which is required, class participation, a map worksheet, and a weekly assignment, which will entail a brief response on a topic posted on Canvas during Thursday classes and due within twenty-four hours, beginning on September 15. Each set of assignments, plus participation and weekly assignments will be worth 25 percent of your total grade. This course will employ [UF's grading scale](#) (A=4.0; A-=3.67; B+=3.33; B=3.0; B-=2.67; C+=2.33; C=2.0; C-=1.67; D+=1.33; D=1.0; D-=0.67; E=0.0).

Students cannot pass LAH 3470 unless they submit both take-home examinations and the research paper. All students must request and receive permission in advance in order to submit an assignment after the due date without penalization, except in cases of an acceptable absence. Acceptable reasons for absence from failure to engage in class include illness and other emergencies as defined by the [UF Attendance Policies](#). It is the responsibility of the student to email the professor as soon as possible to make up missed assignments that fall under acceptable absences.

All assignments will be submitted electronically on Canvas and will not be accepted after the posted due date for full credit, unless they fall under an acceptable absence.

*Students are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course and retaining all returned, graded work until the semester is over. Should the need arise for a resubmission of papers or a review of graded papers, it is the student's responsibility to have and to make available this material.

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their

accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, within the first three weeks of the start of the semester.

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire Student Honor Code, particularly its policy regarding cheating and the use of copyrighted materials, which can be reviewed at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>.

There is zero tolerance for plagiarism in this class, which could be punished with academic discipline as severe as expulsion from the university or a failing grade for the course.

Unintentional plagiarism could result in a failing grade for the assignment.

Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class.

Students are expected to provide professional feedback on the quality of instruction in this course at the end of the semester by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on giving this feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and the course-evaluation results will be available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, & SMALL ASSIGNMENTS: 25 percent of final grade. To receive credit for attendance, students must participate in class meetings, must participate in regular class discussions, must complete the map worksheet, and must submit the weekly assignments (If computer problems or other challenges arise or pose particular difficulties for completing the weekly assignments on Canvas, please discuss the issue with me immediately). Weekly assignments will be posted on Canvas at the end of Thursday's class and will be available for twenty-four hours.

MID-SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 25 percent of grade. Will be distributed on Wednesday, October 12 (and will be due on Thursday, October 13). Will consist of three questions, two of which you will choose to answer in two separate essays. The examination prompt will be made available on Canvas.

RESEARCH PAPER: 25 percent of grade. Will be four pages in length and will be due at the start of class on November 10. It will be based on Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place* and related course material. A prompt will be made available on Canvas.

END-OF-SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 25 percent of grade. Will be distributed on Monday December 5 (and will be due on Tuesday December 6). Will consist of three questions, two of which you will choose to answer in two separate essays. The examination prompt will be made available on Canvas.

Resources:

E-LEARNING TECHNICAL SUPPORT: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

WRITING STUDIO: The University Writing Studio is located in Turlington 2215 and is available to all UF students. Free appointments can be made up to twice a week. This is an excellent source for anyone looking to improve their writing. Students are encouraged to take their course research paper to the writing center before submission. See <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> to learn more.

LIBRARY SUPPORT: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. See <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask> to learn more.

STUDENTS IN DISTRESS: For guidance during distressing situations, please contact U Matter We Care or the Dean of Students Office. They can help students navigate resources and academic procedures for personal, medical, and academic issues.

U Matter We Care: <http://umatter.ufl.edu>, umatter@ufl.edu, 352-294-2273 (CARE)
Dean of Students: <https://dso.ufl.edu/>, 202 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1261
Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 3190 Radio Road, (352) 392-1575
Field and Fork Pantry: <https://fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>, located near McCarty B, 352-294-2208
Student Health Care Center: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>, multiple locations, (352) 392-1161
University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies): <https://police.ufl.edu/>
UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website:](#) <https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>

Schedule of Class Meetings

Week 1 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, "Introduction," 1-5)
Th 8/25: Welcome and introduction

Week 2 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 9-35; *Taíno*, 1-42)
Tu 8/30: Taínos and Island Caribs
Th 9/1: Discussion: Encounter & Conquest

Week 3 (Readings: Altman, "Marriage, Family, and Ethnicity"; *Taíno*, 45-120)
Tu 9/6: Columbus & the Spanish Caribbean to c.1550s

Th 9/8: Discussion on *Taino*: Acculturation and Resistance

Week 4 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 36-68)

Tu 9/13: Spanish Caribbean, c. 1560-1800

Th 9/15: Jigsaw discussion: "Fringe Society" or Regional Patterns?

*Choose one chapter to read:

Wheat, *Atlantic Africa and the Spanish Caribbean*, "Black Peasants"
Lane, *Pillaging the Empires*, "The Seventeenth-Century Caribbean
Buccaneers"

Week 5 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 69-92; Landers, "Cimarrón and Citizen")

Tu 9/20: Northern European Island Societies: Plantations, Creolization, and Contraband

Th 9/22: Discussion: slave societies vs. societies with slaves

Week 6 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 93-101; Klooster, "From Prize Colony to Black Independence")

Tu 9/27: War, Resistance and Emancipation

Th 9/29: The Haitian Revolution

Week 7 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 101-114; Geggus, "Slave rebellion during the Age of Revolution")

Tu 10/4: Class cancelled, Holiday

Th 10/6: Haiti and the Atlantic's "Age of Revolution"

Week 8 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 114-136)

Tu 10/11: Abolition of slavery/indentured labor

*listen to podcast: *Troubling Freedom*

Th 10/13: ***24-hour take-home midterm exam***

Week 9 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 139-160)

Tu 10/18: USA and the Caribbean

*watch: *Burn!*

Th 10/20: Jigsaw Discussion: Slavery, Capitalism, and Industrialization

*Choose one article to read:

C.L.R. James, "French Capitalism and Caribbean Slavery"

Eric Williams, "Capitalism and Slavery"

Franklin Knight, "Slavery and Lagging Capitalism in the Spanish and Portuguese American Empires, 1492-1713"

Week 10 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 160-187; Mark A. Sanders, *A Black Soldier's Story*, introduction, ix-xxxix)

Tu 10/25: Spanish decolonization and political fragmentation

Th 10/27: Conflicting National Identities

*Watch documentary: "Haiti & Dominican Republic"

Week 11 (Readings: *A Small Place*, 1-37)

Tu 11/1: Post-emancipation migration to the Caribbean

Th 11/3: Post-WW2 migration out of the Caribbean

*Watch documentary: *Windrush* (Part 1 and 2)

Week 12 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 281-306; *A Small Place*, 38-81)

Tu 11/8: the post-colonial Anglophone Caribbean

Th 11/10: Discussion: *A Small Place* ***Paper Due***

Week 13 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 188-226; Devyn Spence-Benson, "Not Blacks, But Citizens")

Tu 11/15: Cuba before Revolution

Th 11/17: The Cuban Revolution

*watch: *El Otro Francisco*

Week 14 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 227-256; Patullo, *Last Resorts*, 156-173)

Tu 11/22: Class cancelled, Thanksgiving

Th 11/24: Class cancelled, Thanksgiving

Week 15 (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 256-280; Patullo, *Last Resorts*, 178-211)

Tu 11/29: The Modern Caribbean + exam review

Th 12/1: Discussion: Tourism, Offshore banking, & Environmental Challenges

*watch documentary: *Blockchain Island*

Week 16: (Readings: *Freedom Roots*, 306-320)

Tu 12/6: ***24-hr take home end-of-semester examination***