

World Cultures: The Caribbean V55.0509 Mon/Wed 12:30-1:45, Cantor 101
Prof. Aisha Khan, 998-3751, ak105@nyu.edu, 25 Waverly Place, room 607
Office hours: Tues 2:30-4:30, and by appointment
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Course description

This course examines the impact of the Caribbean's long colonial history through the relationship between processes of development and exploitation of the region and the ideas about race, class, culture, gender, and sexuality that both justify and challenge these processes. Known for its beauty, cultural vitality, and mix of peoples, cultures, and languages, the Caribbean is where today's globalization began, some 500 years ago. Its sugar economy and history of slave labor and colonialism made it the site of massive transplantations of peoples and cultures from Africa for four centuries, from Asia and the Middle East since the mid-19th century, and, throughout, a sizeable influx of peoples from Europe. Our reading examines the history of the region's differing forms of colonialism, including contemporary (neocolonial) economic and political structures, and anthropological considerations of identity, community life, social stratification, local worldviews, the politics of popular culture, and the ways in which community, national, regional, and global connections are formed and expressed as today's "globalization." Our coverage will range across English-speaking, Spanish-speaking, and French-speaking territories.

Required reading: books

All of the following books are in the NYU bookstore. They are also on reserve in Bobst.

- (1) *A Small Place*, by Jamaica Kincaid
- (2) *What's Love Got To Do With It?*, by Denise Brennan
- (3) *Creole Economics*, by Katherine Browne
- (4) *Behind the Smile*, by George Gmelch

Required reading: articles and chapters from books

See schedule of topics below. The readings marked by a double ** on the syllabus are accessible on Blackboard.

Other course requirements

All students are expected to attend lectures and recitation sections, to arrive on time, to participate in class discussions, and to complete assignments by the date they are due. Students are permitted two "free" absences (combined lecture and recitation); more than two absences will result in a drop of one letter in your final grade—UNLESS you have verifiable documentation of a medical or comparable emergency.

- (1) **Attendance and class participation in lecture and recitation section are worth 20% of your final grade**, so your own efforts to be with us and participate can make a big difference.
- (2) There will be **five (5) essays (3-4 pages each), each worth 10% (total = 50% of your final grade)**. You will receive the questions on Blackboard at least one class meeting before the due date. See schedule of topics below for essay due dates. (Note: due dates may be subject to

change, depending on our progress through the syllabus.)

(3) There will be **one comprehensive final exam, held in class on university assigned final exam date (total = 30% of your final grade)**. You will receive on Blackboard an exam study guide one week in advance of final exam date.

(4) Students in each recitation section will post a **brief communique each week** to their section. These will be **one paragraph on some aspect of the reading or lecture material** (tba by your T.A.). Brief communiques will be read by everyone in your section, and your T.A., before the section meeting time, and discussed in section. The brief communiques will be figured into your attendance and participation grade (above).

Additional assistance for this class is available to you free of charge at the College Learning Center, located on the 1st floor of Weinstein Hall (right behind Java City). For information on one-on-one and group peer tutoring, please stop by the CLC or go to their website:
<http://www.nyu.edu/cas/clc>

Schedule of Topics

Wed 9/5 Overview of the course

reading: (1) **Boswell, "The Caribbean: A Geographic Preface"; (2) **Girvan, "Reinterpreting the Caribbean"

Mon 9/10 Historical foundations: class exercise; colonialism

reading: begin *A Small Place*

Wed 9/12 Historical foundations: colonialism continued

reading: continue *A Small Place*

Mon 9/17 Historical foundations: colonialism continued

reading: finish *A Small Place*

film: "Life and Debt" (1st part)

Wed 9/19 Historical foundations: colonialism continued

reading: **Dupuy, "Globalization, the World Bank, and the Haitian Economy"

film: "Life and Debt" (2nd part)

Mon 9/24 Historical foundations: class discussion

Wed 9/26 Historical foundations: agent provocateurs of primitive accumulation

reading: **Cordingly, "Wooden Legs and Parrots"

film: "Great Ships, Pirate Ships"

DUE: paper #1

Wed 10/3 Agent provocateurs continued

reading: **Marx, "The Golden age of Piracy"

Mon 10/8 **No class** (Columbus Day)

Wed 10/10 Agent provocateurs continued

reading: **Cordingly, "Women Pirates and Pirates' Women"

Mon 10/15 Global-Local: The Heritage of Slavery

reading: begin *Creole Economics*

Wed 10/17 Heritage continued

reading: continue *Creole Economics*

Mon 10/22 Heritage continued

reading: finish *Creole Economics*

Wed 10/24 Global-Local: Tourism

reading: *Behind the Smile* (class discussion)

DUE: paper #2

Mon 10/29 Tourism continued

reading: (1)**Pattullo, "The Lock and the Key"; (2)** Pattullo, "Linkages and Leakages"

Wed 10/31 Tourism continued

reading: (1)**Burac, "The Struggle for Sustainable Tourism in Martinique"; (2)**Miller, "Paradise Sold, Paradise Lost"

Mon 11/5 Tourism continued

reading: **Phillips, "Tourist Oriented Prostitution in Barbados"

film: "The Toured"

Wed 11/7 Global-Local: Debating Dancehall

reading: ***Vibe* Magazine, pp.157-161

Mon 11/12 Dancehall continued

reading: **Niaah, "Making Space: Kingston's Dancehall Culture"

film: selections from "Dance Hall Divas"

Wed 11/14 Dancehall continued

reading: (1)**Bakare-Yusuf, "Fabricating Identities"; (2)**Byrd, "Claiming Jezebel"

Due: Paper #3

Mon 11/19 Global-Local: Migration

reading: begin *What's Love Got To Do With It?*

Wed 11/21 Migration continued

reading: continue *What's Love Got To Do With It?*

Mon 11/26 Migration continued
reading: finish *What's Love Got To Do With It?*

Wed 11/28 **No class** (American Anthropological Association annual conference)

Mon 12/3 Local-Global: Rastafari
reading: **Fernandez Olmos and Paravisini-Gebert, "Rastafarianism"
DUE: Paper #4

Wed 12/5 Rastafari continued
reading: ** McFarlane, "The Epistemological Significance of I-an-I"
film: "The Emperor's Birthday"

Mon 12/10 Rastafari continued
reading: ** Giovannetti, "Jamaican Reggae and the Articulation of..."

Wed 12/12 Rastafari continued
reading: ** Chevannes, "Rastafari and the Exorcism of the Ideology of Racism and Classicism"
DUE: Paper #5

Wed 12/19 Final Exam, 12:00-1:50pm