

## **Introduction to Caribbean Studies (LCS 01:595:100)**

**Hyacinth Miller**

*Hybrid Version: 40% of the sessions will meet face-to-face, and 60% of the sessions will meet online via Sakai.*

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 we 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.

**This course satisfies the following SAS Core Learning Goal in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges:  
[B] Analyze a contemporary global issue from a multidisciplinary perspective.**

### **Course Learning Goals**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and analyze the relevance of major figures, events and ideas that have shaped Caribbean history, society and culture
- Identify Caribbean nations on a map, differentiate according to colonial heritage and describe the historical impact of colonialism on its socio-economic and political status
- Improve research and critical thinking skills, as applied to Caribbean Studies, through engagement with interdisciplinary scholarship and analysis of primary sources
- Develop writing and presentation skills through the production of analytical and reflective essays and oral presentations in an academic setting

### **Required Reading\***

Articles, text selections, primary sources, and websites are available through the course Sakai site. In addition, students are required to purchase:

- Kincaid, Jamaica. *A Small Place*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1988. 978-0374527075
- Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Press, Revised 2008. 978-0802143006

### **Evaluation\***

In-Class Participation = 20%

Articles Analyses (four articles on current events from the region) = 20%

Reflections (two-page responses to readings and films) = 20%

Country Presentation (using VoiceThread) = 20%

Final Exam = 20%

\*This synopsis is intended for informative purposes only; it is provisional and subject to change before the beginning of the semester. Consult Rutgers Barnes & Noble for **current** books for the course.