

History of the Caribbean since 1898 (LCS 01:595:205 / History 01:508:272)

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Young (kevin.young@rutgers.edu)

SAS Core Goals [HST] [SCL]

Fulfills "History, Politics, and Philosophy" Distribution for LCS Major and Elective for LCS Minor

From the colonial crossroads of European empires to post-colonial modernity, the Caribbean has been linked to all major civilizations around the globe, including Africa, India, and China. Caribbean nations have experienced conquest, colonization, revolution, dependency, independence, alignment, capitalism, democracy, socialism, Leninism-Marxism, despotism, and combinations thereof; they are, in the words of Hilary Beckles, "the first products of the modern world system." Students will gain an overview of the social, cultural, political, and economic history of the Caribbean since the formation of the U.S. sphere of influence in 1898. Emphasis is on Hispanic mainland areas and the islands of the Greater Antilles, as these contain the majority of the region's territories and population. Due consideration is also given to English, Dutch, and French-speaking territories, as well as connections to the Atlantic world and beyond. Students are required to participate in individual and group projects, both written and oral.

Course Learning Goals

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- understand the significance of the formation of the U.S. sphere of influence in 1898 for Caribbean history and society
- define and understand the basic processes and concepts of colonialism, postcolonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, dependence, development, and migration
- identify Caribbean cities and states on a map and differentiate according to colonial heritage and political status
- develop critical thinking skills through engagement with historical scholarship and analysis of primary sources

Required Reading*

Readings and other course materials are in Canvas.

Consult Rutgers Barnes & Noble for current books for the course.

Evaluation*

Attendance and Class Participation	= 10%
Midterm Exam/Essay	= 25%
Response/Review	= 20% (4 @ 5% each)
Panel Presentations	= 20% (2 @ 10% each)
Final Exam/Essay	= 25%

*This synopsis is intended for informative purposes only; it is provisional and subject to change before the beginning of the semester.