

01:595:270/01:195:260 Introduction to Caribbean Literature

SAS Core Goal [AHo]

Fulfills Culture and Creative Expressions Distribution for LCS Major/Minor

Course Description

The history, culture, and geography of the Caribbean have made it a distinctive and complex world area: the experiences of colonialism, slavery, and indentured servitude; the region's multiplicity of races, cultures, and languages; the insular and maritime condition of its geography; and its proximity to the United States have shaped the region's literary, cultural, and artistic production. The objective of this class is to become acquainted with major authors, themes, and literary movements that have emerged in the Caribbean. The course incorporates a range of media and employs an interdisciplinary perspective in exploring Caribbean prose, poetry, and drama. Some of the topics that will organize our discussions include: empire, revolution, sugar and labor, decolonization, storytelling and the oral tradition, re-visioning European traditions, ritual and carnival, transnationalism, diaspora, and exile, and constructions of race, class, gender, and sexuality.

Course Learning Goals

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

- Demonstrate knowledge of major authors, themes and movements in Caribbean literature;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the major events, processes and intellectual debates that have shaped Caribbean history and culture;
- Employ strategies of interpretation, including an ability to use critical and theoretical terms, concepts, and methods in relation to a variety of textual forms and other media;
- Formulate persuasive written and oral arguments.

Required Reading

Consult Rutgers Barnes & Noble for current books for the course. Additional articles and resources are available electronically through the course Sakai site.

Evaluation*

Class Grade:	20%
(attendance, participation, pop quizzes)	
Written Assignments:	30%
(3 response papers, weekly posts, annotated bibliography)	
Two Exams:	40%
In-Class Essay:	10%

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