

**CARIBBEAN HISTORY**  
**HIST 3650**

**Fall term 2006**

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM**  
**214 Ray B. West**

**Dr. James Sanders**

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Office hours: Mondays, Fridays 9:30-10:15, Wednesdays 11:30-12:15 and by appointment

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This course will explore the history of the Caribbean from the epoch of the European conquest to the present. The focus of the course is the region as a whole, not individual societies, although we will delve into the stories of particular islands as well. The course seeks to understand the principal forces that shaped the Caribbean: the mixing of peoples and cultures from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas, plantation slavery, colonialism, nation-building, revolution, and the region's place in the international economic system. To help students construct their own histories, many of the reading assignments are primary sources (texts produced by the historical actors under study).

**READINGS**

There are five books, electronic reserve readings, and internet readings. The electronic reserve and internet readings are quite lengthy – be prepared! The books are available at the campus bookstore. The electronic reserves you can access from the USU library home page ([library.usu.edu](http://library.usu.edu)) and clicking the “Course Reserves” link. Internet readings can be accessed via the URL given below from any web browser.

1. Miguel Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave* (Willimantic: Curbstone Press, 1994).
2. Edwidge Danticat, *The Farming of Bones* (New York: Penguin, 1998).
3. Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press, 2004).
4. Elborg Forster and Robert Forster, eds., *Sugar and Slavery, Family and Race: The Letters and Diary of Pierre Dessalles, Planter in Martinique, 1808-1856* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1996).
5. Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1988).

You may wish to utilize a Caribbean History textbook, although this is not required. Two suggestions: Jan Rogozinski, *A Brief History of the Caribbean* (New York, Plume, 1999) or Eric Williams, *From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean* (New York: Vintage, 1970).

## EVALUATION

Class participation - 20%  
Pop quizzes and map test - 10%  
5 essays interpreting historical or scholarly documents - 30%  
Midterm - 15%  
Final Exam - 25%

The essays will be 2-3 page responses to the assigned readings. Students will read critically and analyze a problem in either a secondary or primary text and make an argument to support their position. A specific assignment will be given out for each essay at least a week before the assignment is due. You must attend class regularly or you will miss the assignments. Papers must be given to the instructor directly.

Papers one, three, and, five will be graded by the instructor. Papers two and four will be reviewed by the class as a whole, to allow students to better understand which types of arguments and styles make an excellent paper. These papers will be graded pass/fail – a fail grade will count towards your final paper grade. To encourage experimentation, I will drop the lowest essay grade.

Quizzes are based on the assigned readings for each class period. I will drop your lowest quiz grade. Missed quizzes cannot be taken later.

The tests will be essay and short answer format.

As noted earlier, student participation is central to the success of the goals of this course. Without participation you rob your classmates of the opportunity to benefit from your ideas and you yourself do not polish your skills in analyzing information and relating your conclusions in a comprehensible form to others. Missed classes will affect your participation grade. Simply attending class without participating will only earn you a D- participation grade.

### A Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is taking another person's ideas and claiming them as your own. This includes both copying directly from another work or taking the idea from that work without giving the author recognition with a citation. Paraphrasing without a citation is still plagiarism. Similarly, citing a work, and then copying directly without quotation marks or even almost directly (paraphrasing too closely), is plagiarism. Plagiarists will receive an F and be reported to the Dean.

### Disability Resource Center

If accommodations for the course are needed, students should contact the Disability Resource Center, located in the University Inn, Room 101: (435)797-2444 and (435)797-0740, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

\* = Reading on USU course reserves

@ = Reading available over the internet

### **August 28** – Introduction

No readings.

### **August 30** – The Caribbean Before Columbus

No readings.

### **September 1** – European Contact

READINGS: @ Christopher Columbus, *The Columbus Letter of 1493*. At Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education (University of Southern Maine).  
<http://www.usm.maine.edu/~maps/columbus/translation.html>

### **September 4** – Labor Day, NO CLASS!

### **September 6** – Spanish Settlement and Indigenous Response

READINGS: \*Inga Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517 – 1570* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 3-19.

### **September 8** - The First Economic Bust and The Challenge to Spanish Hegemony

READINGS: \*"Las Casas on the Conquest of Cuba," in *New Iberian World: A Documentary History of the Discovery and Settlement of Latin America to the Early 17th Century. Volume 1*, eds., John H. Parry and Robert G. Keith (New York: Times Books and Hector & Rose, 1984), 293-300.

### **September 11** – Sugar and Slaves

READINGS: \*Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (Boston: Bedford, 1995), 33-58.

### **September 13** – The Economics of Sugar

READINGS: Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, 8-35.

### **September 15** – The Plantation System

READINGS: Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, 36-59.

### **September 18** – Slave Life on the Plantation

READINGS: Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, 17-43.

**September 20 – Women and Slavery – PAPER ONE DUE!**

READINGS: @Mary Prince, “History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave, Related By Herself,” at “Documenting the American South.”

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/prince/prince.html>

Read pages 1-23.

**September 22 – The Challenge of Piracy**

READINGS: \*Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, *The Many-Headed Hydra* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2000), 162-173.

\*“After What Manner the Pirates Arm their Vessels,” in John Esquemeling, *The Buccaneers of America* (New York: Barnes and Noble, 1951 (first published 1684), 58-60, 69-77.

**September 25 – Everyday Life and Death -**

READINGS: Forster and Forster, *Sugar and Slavery*, 44 (letter 17) – 62 (letter 37).

**September 27 – The Masters PAPER ONE DUE!**

READINGS: Forster and Forster, *Sugar and Slavery*, 63 (letter 38) – 75 (letter 57).

**September 29 – Systems of Control, Regimes of Terror**

READINGS: Forster and Forster, *Sugar and Slavery*, 89-100.

**October 2 – Considering the Slave Experience – PAPER TWO DUE!**

READINGS: Forster and Forster, *Sugar and Slavery*, 101-117.

**October 4 - Everyday Resistance and *Marronage***

READINGS: Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, 44-57.

Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, 60-90.

**October 6 – The Coming of the Haitian Revolution**

READINGS: Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, 91-151.

**October 9 – An Explosion of Light: The Haitian Revolution**

READINGS: Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, 152-193.

**October 11 – The First Great Emancipation – PAPER THREE DUE!**

READINGS: Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, 194-250.

**October 13** – Interpreting the Haitian Revolution

READINGS: Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, 251-306.

**October 16** – **MID-TERM**

No Readings.

**October 18** - Abolition in the British Colonies

No Readings.

**October 20** – Fall Break, NO CLASS!**October 23** - Post-Emancipation Life and Labor I

READINGS: Forster and Forster, *Sugar and Slavery*, 205-240.

**October 25** - Post-Emancipation Life and Labor II

READINGS: Forster and Forster, *Sugar and Slavery*, 241-260.

**October 27** – Abolition in the Spanish Colonies

READINGS: Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, 61-70, 79-84.

**October 30** – Independence from Spain

READINGS: Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, 99-105, 151-85.

**November 1** – The New Colonial Power to the North

READINGS: Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, 185-200.

**November 3** – Race and Nation I

READINGS: Danticat, *The Farming of Bones*, 1-83.

**November 6** – Race and Nation II

READINGS: Danticat, *The Farming of Bones*, 84-166.

**November 8** – Struggles for Democracy

READINGS: Danticat, *The Farming of Bones*, 167-229.

**November 10** – The Farming of Bones – **PAPER FOUR DUE!**

READINGS: Danticat, *The Farming of Bones*, 230-310.

**November 13** – The Coming of the Cuban Revolution

No Readings.

**November 15** – The Cuban Revolution in Power

READINGS: @Fidel Castro, "Speech of 1 May 1960," from Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Havana, selections.

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/cb/cuba/castro/1960/19600501>

\*Ernesto Che Guevara, "Letter to Fidel Castro, April 1, 1965," in *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58* (New York: Pathfinder, 420-422).

**November 17** – The Second Great Wave of Independence

READINGS: \*Eric E. Williams, "Massa Day Done," in *Eric E. Williams Speaks* (Wellesley: Calaloux Publications, 1993), 237-264.

**November 20** – Neo-Colonialism

READINGS: Kincaid, *A Small Place*, 1-37.

**November 22 and 24** – Thanksgiving, NO CLASS!**November 27** – Tourism – **PAPER FIVE DUE!**

READINGS: Kincaid, *A Small Place*, 41-81.

**November 29** – Film – Life and Debt

No Readings.

**December 1** – Film: Life and Debt

No Readings.

**December 4** – Emigration

READINGS: \*Judith Ortíz-Cofer, "Silent Dancing," in *Growing Up Latino*, ed. By Harold Augenbraum and Ilan Stavans (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993), 22-31.

**December 6** – Current Prospects

No Readings.

**December 8** – Conclusion and Review

No Readings.

**December 11 (MONDAY) – FINAL EXAM! 11:30 to 1:20**