

Anthropology 230
Cultures of the Caribbean
Fall 2009

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Syllabus

Course Description: This is what is known in anthropology as a “culture area course,” a broad survey course that covers the Caribbean region: the physical/economic geography, history, and selected cultural patterns. The Caribbean is pluralistic in the sense of language and culture; thus, we look across the English, Spanish and French-speaking islands. The early part of the course deals with physical geography and history, from prehistory to the colonial period, roughly 1500 to 1950. The next part is a survey of cultural topics. For this, we draw on selected case studies from Barbados, Jamaica, and Nevis. The last part of the course deals with the impact of tourism on island economies and ecologies and the topic of heritage.

Books Required:

Richard Hillman & T. D’Agostino, eds (2nd ed):

Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean

George & Sharon Gmelch:

The Parish Behind God’s Back

Wm. Lewis:

Soul Rebels

George Gmelch:

Behind the Smile

Please buy a regional map: “The West Indies and Central America”

Requirements:

Map/ geography quiz	5%	(Aug 31)
Midterm exam	25%	(Oct 26)
Final take-home exam	25%	(Distributed Dec 7 & due Dec 11)
Research paper* (Pt 1 & 2)	25%	(Oct 5 & Dec 7 th)
Presentation of part II of paper	5%	(last class. Dec. 7 th)
Participation** (attendance & presentation)	<u>15%</u>	
TOTAL	100%	

* See instructions end of syllabus. Present brief findings of Part II in last class. PPT preferred. Worth 5%.

** Presentation(s) on assigned book chapter.

Class rules: Do not miss an exam; there are **no make-ups** for missed exams (unless there are exceptional circumstances). Regular attendance is expected; points are deducted for absences. A paper found to be plagiarized, in whole or part, will get a zero (F) grade. Please observe basic rules of civility: arrive on time, turn off phone, do not talk or eat in class. I thank you in advance. Points are deducted for late papers – usually, 10 points per day.

Objectives and Assessment:

1. Geographical literacy: place locations and economic geography. Assessed by quiz and first exam.
2. Understanding of the historical forces, especially slavery, and plantation system, that shaped the contemporary Caribbean. Assessed by first exam.
3. Class, race and ethnic variation in the region. Assessed by exams.
4. In-depth understanding of culture of selected islands. Assessed by research paper.
5. Impact of tourism on island cultures, economies, and ecologies. Assessed by paper and exams.

Weekly Schedule: (Please do reading before each class)

August 24	Course requirements. Physical and economic geography of Caribbean. Map work. Read: Hillman & D'Agostino, chapter 1 & 2 (after first class) Video: PPT & portions, <i>Islands of the Caribbean</i> (CCC 53°)
Aug 31	Map & geography quiz (first 20° of class) – As preparation, study map & chap 2 of Hillman Prehistory: indigenous inhabitants – Ciboney, Taino Arawak, Carib. Historical context: conquest and colonization (PPTs) Read: Hillman & D'Agostino & D'Agostino, chapter 7 Video: portion, <i>Dark Passages. Story of Atlantic Slave Trade</i> (60° CCC)
Sept 7	Labor Day : no class
Sept. 14	Colonial period: slavery, plantation era, abolition and emancipation (PPT) Class exercise: historical scenarios. Read: Hillman & D'Agostino chapter 3 Video: <i>A Son of Africa</i> (Lehigh 28°)
Sept. 28	Barbados- short overview of history, politics, and culture (PPT) Case study: <i>Parish behind God's Back</i> . <i>Students reports on assigned chapters</i> Read: Gmelch's <i>Parish</i> book this week.
Oct 5	Complete discussion of <i>Parish behind God's Back</i> . Read: complete Gmelch book Part I of paper due today.

- Oct 12 Fall Break
- Oct 19 Ethnicity and race. Gender roles and family.
Read: Hillman & D'Agostino chapters 8 & 9
Video: portion of, *Profit and Nothing But....* (58°)
- Oct. 26 **Midterm exam**
- Nov 2 Jamaica - history, politics, economic, and culture.
Read: Hillman & D'Agostino chapter 4: 107 – 115, chapter 5; & handout on *Life & Debt*
Video: *Life and Debt* (55°)
- Nov 9 Discussion of *Life & Debt*. First half of *Soul Rebels*.
Students reports on assigned chapters
Read: *Soul Rebels*, first half
Video : *Ras Tafari* (first portion, CCC- 60°)
- Nov 16 Discuss second half of *Soul Rebels*
Students reports on assigned chapters
Read: complete *Soul Rebels*
Video : *Ras Tafari* (last portion)
- Nov 23 Tourism & and tourism work: *Behind the Smile*.
Read: Hillman & D'Agostino chapter 5: 138-146.
Gmelch, *Behind the Smile*, chaps 1-5
Video: Human Geography – Global Tourism (27° CCC)
- Nov 30 Tourism Work: *Behind the Smile*.
Student report on assigned chapters
Read: Gmelch, *Behind the Smile*, chaps 6-8
Video: *The Toured* (CCC 39°)
- Dec 7 Student reports on selected topics from second research paper: 5-10 minutes
Part 2 of Research paper due today
- Final take-home exam is based on material after the midterm and distributed Dec 7th; due Dec 11th by noon.**

Information on Paper
Research Paper: two parts are worth 100 points & 200 points (25%)

Instructions:

1. Each student is assigned an island or island group. Indicate a preference, if you have one.
2. There are two installment of the paper due Oct 5th and Dec 7th

Information about Part I: It should be 5-8 pages and worth 10% of your grade. **Due: Oct 5th**

- a. Physical environment: Prepare a physical map of the island locating major towns and cities, topographical features and any thing else of significance. Describe the physical environment (island type, flora, fauna, geology), population size and ethnic composition, and natural resources. Include pictures (thumbnail, if in the text, but add caption and give source if you include in paper.
- b. Economic profile of island: natural resources (survey & use of), industries, GDP, trading partners, trade deficit/surplus, employment rates by sectors, etc.
- c. Island history: Prepare a short historical outline of your island and include any events in detail that you think is especially significant (e.g. first contact with Europeans; events during the era of slavery and plantations; political upheavals; or a recent political or economic crisis). Historical review should end in present.

Information about Part II: Work with the ideas below and tailor topics to your island. This should be 8-10 pages and is worth 15 % of your grade. **Due Dec 7th.**

- a. Current cultural landscape: Write a descriptive account of social organization of the island population. This can include marriage and kinship patterns, gender relations, local politics, educational system, religion and ritual, migration patterns, land use patterns. Pick features which are relevant to your locale. Also, be aware of the differences across the lines of class, ethnicity, and race.
- b. Expressive culture: Coverage of one or some of the performing, visual, and writing arts. There are very strong traditions in literature and performance traditions on many islands. You could describe some of the unique performance traditions – festivals such as carnival, Junkanno, etc.
- c. Current issue(s) affecting the islands: pick one or two issues that are impacting the island. Some examples are: “brain drain,” political corruption, environmental degradation as a result of over-development of tourism or industry, foreign tourists, unemployment and poverty, trade deficits, racial issues, cultural globalization – ubiquity of foreign (American) popular culture, products, people on the island. Consider and offer some ways to address the problems: for example, local responses, governmental policies, tourism education abroad, new international policies emanating from the developed countries, etc. Take this part serious and discuss with your group mates. I will look closely at your responses and grade accordingly.

Sources: General *reference & reserve* material.

- (1) Encyclopedia of World Cultures (Levinson and Ember, ed.)
- (2) Research Guide to Latin America and the Caribbean
- (3) Cambridge Encyclopedia of Latin America and the Caribbean
- (4) World Guide – I will put my copy on reserve
- (5) Latin American Bureau <http://www.lab.org.uk/>
- (6) Handbook of Latin American Studies <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/hlas/>
- (7) CIA World Factbook <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>

Style Information:

Consult your favorite style guide. You should use several print (as in 3-5) sources, in addition to the reference material and Web sites.

- a. You need a cover page(s) for your paper with paper title, course number, date, names in group.
- b. Use headings for sections
- c. Be sure to use an Introduction that introduces paper and also a Conclusion that nicely ends paper
- d. Do **not** use long quotes in paper; they are usually just filler
- e. For notes, use either a parenthetical format, e.g. (Brown, 1990) or endnotes.
- f. Make sure your references section is in a correct style format as APA, MLA, or other standardized format.
- g. For Web sources, include as much information as possible in the citation: author and title, if available; URL; date of visit.
- h. If you include pictures from the Web in your paper, use only thumbnails in text. Larger pix can appear as appendices. Be sure to include citation under picture or figure: (Source: give URL)
- i. Points are deducted for incorrect style and grammar. Proof-read your paper.

Contact me if you have questions.