Course description:
As a gateway to the Americas, the Caribbean region has been at the center of power rivalries and long-distance mercantile exchanges since the Columbian contact five centuries ago. Competition for its fertile soils, vital trade routes, and strategic location has been a persistent factor in the archipelago's development. So, too, has the islands' pervasive orientation toward fulfilling international demand for sugar, coffee, tobacco, and other tropical staples.

These historical factors have defined the contemporary Caribbean in precise ways. They have resulted, among other things, in an entrenched colonial and neocolonial dependence on outside powers; in a plantation economy (and, more recently, an industrial and tourism economy) geared for export, and in the widespread use of slavery and other forms of unfree labor—all predicated, in some manner, on racial and cultural distinctions. In the end, conditions such as these have impoverished as well as enriched the societies in question. They have aggravated social problems and have diminished opportunities to resolve them; but they have also led to the establishment of resourceful, multi-racial cultures on top of an African substratum, which serves as a common denominator of regional societies and cultural formations. Hence, although the societies in question are quite varied in ethnic, racial, political, and linguistic terms, they are united by a common African-American heritage and by their identity as the European world's oldest colonial sphere.

This course will explore major topics in the history of Caribbean societies, with an emphasis on the processes by which they became the multi-racial entities of today. Its prime objective is to develop an understanding of, and appreciation for, the manner in which different forms of colonial dependency have shaped a particular set of societies, beginning in the early days of European expansion and continuing into our times.

Requirements:
A) Exams:
A mid-term and a final (both in-class). Each will consist of one or two essay questions, to be selected by the instructor from a list of several review questions handed out at least one week before the exam date. Students are expected to be creative and original while integrating ideas and information gleaned from the pertinent core readings, as well as from lectures and class discussions. The exams are worth one-third of the final grade apiece.

B) Papers:
The papers, each between 7 and 10 pages long. They will consist of depth a present or set of problems raised by a specific historiographical...
ings, to be selected by the instructor and identified in separate instruction sheets that will be handed out at the beginning of the semester. Together, the papers are worth one-third of the final grade.

Readings:
The following titles are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and at Brown's. In addition, a supplementary reading packet has been prepared by Kinko's and is for sale.


TOPICS AND READINGS

I. THE CARIBBEAN REGION: AN OVERVIEW

Principal readings:


Supplementary:


II. SLAVERY AND THE MAKING OF AFRO-CARIBBEAN CULTURE

Principal readings:


Supplementary:


III. STRUCTURES OF THE SLAVE PLANTATION

Principal readings:
Robert L. Paquette, Sugar is Made with Blood: The Conspiracy of La Escalera and the Conflict between Empires over Slavery in Cuba (Middletown, Conn., 1988), chs. 2-3, pp. 51-103.

Supplementary:

IV. ACCOMMODATION, RESISTANCE, AND ADAPTATION

Principal readings:

Supplementary:
Michael Craton, Testing the Chains: Resistance to Slavery in the British West Indies (Ithaca, 1982).
Jalil Sued Badillo and Angel Lopez Cantos, Puerto Rico negro (Rio Piedras, 1956).
Esteban Maceo, La Vida De Un Esclavo Fugitivo: A Runaway Slave (Cleveland, 1996).
David Barry Gaspar, Bondmen and Rebels: A Study of Master-Slave Relations in Antigua, with implications for Colonial British America (Baltimore, 1985).

V. BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK: THE FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR

Principal readings:
Paquette, Sugar is Made with Blood, ch. 4, 104-128.


Supplementary:


VI. CLASS, COLOR, AND GENDER IN SLAVE SOCIETIES

Principal readings:

Supplementary:

Franklin W. Knight, Slave Society in Cuba during the Nineteenth Century (Madison, 1969).


VII. THE ORDEAL OF FREE LABOR

Principal readings:


Supplementary:


VIII. CUBAN EMANCIPATION: A CASE STUDY IN THE MEANINGS OF FREEDOM

**Principal readings:**

**Supplementary:**
Louis Pérez, Jr., _Cuba between Empires, 1878-1902_ (Pittsburgh, 1983).


Raúl Cepero Bonilla, _Azúcar y abolición_ (1948; Barcelona, 1976).

IX. RACE, POWER, AND NATION-BUILDING IN THE CARIBBEAN

**Principal readings:**


**Supplementary:**

X. NEITHER PEASANTS NOR PROLETARIANS: RURAL WORKERS IN CORPORATE PLANTATIONS

Principal readings:
Mintz, Worker in the Cane: A Puerto Rican Life History, entire book.


Supplementary:


Leland Jenks, Our Cuban Colony (New York, 1928).

Maurice Lemoine, Bitter Sugar: Slaves Today in the Caribbean (Chicago, 1985).

XI. BREAKDOWN OF THE OLD COLONIAL ORDER (PART I: THE BRITISH AND FRENCH WEST INDIES)

Principal readings:


Supplementary:


XII. BREAKDOWN OF THE OLD COLONIAL ORDER (PART II: THE SPANISH-SPEAKING ISLANDS)
**Principal readings:**


**Supplementary:**


**XIII. LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND IDENTITY**

**Principal readings:**


**Supplementary:**


Jan. 23 - Inaugural Session
25 - The Caribbean: A Geographic and Cultural Overview
   Due: [I]: The Caribbean Region: An Overview

Jan. 30 - Sugar, Colonization and Slavery
Feb. 1 - The Slave Trade
   Due: [II]: Slavery and the Making of Afro-Caribbean Culture

Feb. 6 - The Model Slave Plantation: Technical and Economic Features
   8 - Maximizing Labor: Strategies and Imperatives
   Due: [III]: Structures of the Slave Plantation

Feb. 13 - Resistance and Adaptation in the Sugar Colonies
   15 - Counter-plantation Strategies: The Spanish Caribbean
   Due: [IV]: Accommodation, Resistance and Adaptation

Feb. 20 - Patterns of Miscegenation
   22 - The Free Coloreds
   Due: [V]: Between White and Black: The Free People of Color

Feb. 27 - Women and Slavery
Mar. 1 - Gender and Race in a Slave Society
   First paper due (Discussion of readings by Dunn, Reddock, Paquette, and Stolke)
   Due: [VI]: Class, Color, and Gender in Slave Societies

Mar. 6 - The Destruction of Caribbean Slavery
   8 - Contract Labor: East Indian and Chinese Indentured Migrants
   Due: [VII]: The Ordeal of Free Labor

Mar. 13 - Late Slave Societies: Cuba and Puerto Rico in Comparative Perspective
   15 - Emancipation, War, and Freedom
   Due: [VIII]: Cuban Emancipation: A Case Study in the Meaning of Freedom
Mar. 27 - Race and Nationhood in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean
29 - Race and the American Empire
   Due: [IX]: Race, Power, and Nation-Building in the Caribbean

Apr. 3 - The Corporate Plantation: An Overview of Economic History
5 - Peasants and Proletarians
   Due: [X]: Neither Peasants nor Proletarians: Rural Workers in Corporate Plantations

Apr. 10 - Decolonization in Segmented Societies
12 - Race and Power: The View from Jamaica
   Second paper due (Discussion of readings by Scott, Hoetink, Helg, Mathews, Mintz, Brereton, Smith, and Palmer)
   Due: [XI]: Breakdown of the Old Colonial Order (Part I)

Apr. 17 - The Road to Revolution: Cuba, 1933-59
19 - Puerto Rico: Colony or Nation?
   Due: [XII]: Breakdown of the Old Colonial Order (Part II)

Apr. 24 - Literature and Identity
26 - Rumba, Salsa, and Reggae: A Theme and its Variations
   Due: [XIII]: Language, Culture, and Identity

May 1 - Migration: Patterns and Processes
3 - Migrant Communities in the U.S.
   Due: readings to be announced

May 8 - Recapitulation and Conclusions
10 - Review Session - End of semester.