

**University of Wisconsin–Madison
Departments of History and Afro-American Studies**

**History/Afro-American Studies 347
THE CARIBBEAN AND ITS DIASPORAS
Semester II, 2007-2008**

Francisco A. Scarano
4134 Humanities
263-3945/263-1800
fscarano@wisc.edu

Office hours:
Mondays 1:00-2:00 (walk-in)
Mondays 2:00-4:00 (sign-up only)

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 European invasions five centuries ago. Competition between Atlantic powers for its fertile soils, vital trade routes, and strategic location has been a constant factor in the archipelago's development. So, too, has the islands' pervasive orientation toward, and dependence on, overseas markets for sugar, coffee, tobacco, and other tropical staples.

These patterns have defined the contemporary Caribbean in precise ways. They have led to, among other things, an entrenched colonial and neocolonial dependence on outside powers; to a plantation economy--and, more recently, an industrial and tourism economy--geared for the satisfaction of external demands, and to the widespread use of slavery and other forms of unfree labor. All of these systems of exploitation were (and are) predicated, to one degree or another, on racial and cultural distinctions. In the end, the social and cultural patterns spawned by outside dependence and required for labor control have had an ambiguous result. For one, they have aggravated social problems and have diminished the opportunities for resolving them. But at the same time, they have led to the establishment of resourceful, multiracial cultures, built upon a resilient African substratum which serves as a common denominator of the region's 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.

Since World War II, the Caribbean has emerged as one of the world's regions most affected by the emigration of its people to countries in the North. While there are precedents for these out-migrations going back to the 1800s, after the War a fundamentally changed political economy of industrial labor spurred massive emigration to Europe, the United States, and Canada. Simultaneously, decolonization and globalization opened up new "Caribbeans" in the former or current metropolises. The intimate connections existing between "inner" and "outer" communities are of great import if one is to fully understand the dynamics of Caribbean life today.

This course will explore major topics in the history of Caribbean societies, with emphasis on the processes by which they became the multiracial and diasporic nations of today. Our prime objective is to develop an understanding of the manner in which colonial rule, and the social institutions on which it was built--in particular, slavery and other forms of forced labor--shaped regional societies, beginning in the early days of European expansion and continuing into our

times. A secondary emphasis will be on the diaspora communities created by Caribbean peoples in the United States and Europe.

Requirements:

A) Mid-term and Final Exams:

The mid-term (Thursday, March 13, in class) and final examination (Monday, May 12, at 7:45 a.m., place TBA) will consist of several identification items and two essay questions each. I will select these questions from a review list handed out several days 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 each worth 30% of the final grade.

B) Papers:

Two 5-7 pp. essays, due *Friday, March 3*, and *Friday, April 21*. For each, students will select one topic from those listed at the bottom of this section and will write a 5 to 7-page essay which concisely develops a thesis or argument about a specific, well-defined problem which relates to the chosen topic. Further details, including specific instructions on writing the papers, will be provided in class. Each paper is 10% of the grade.

Paper topics:

For paper # 1 you will select from the following list of general topics:

- 1) Consequences (social, economic, ecological, cultural, etc.) of the European conquest of the Caribbean;
- 2) Caribbean slavery as an economic and demographic system;
- 3) Slave women, the family, and culture-building in the Caribbean;
- 4) Capitalism, slavery, and anti-slavery (the so-called Williams Debate);
- 5) Resistance, rebellion, and the forging of autonomous and/or independent spaces and states
- 6) Causes and consequences of Emancipation;
- 7) Marronage and maroon societies.

For paper # 2 you will select from the following list of general topics:

- 1) The establishment of U.S. hegemony in the Caribbean;
- 2) Race and nation-building in the twentieth century;
- 3) Workers' organizations and their problematic support of nationalist projects;
- 4) Gender as a factor in colonial domination;
- 5) Populist movements;
- 6) Comparative decolonization processes;
- 7) Tourism as economic development--prospects and limitations;
- 8) Relationship of diasporic communities with sending societies;
- 9) Ethnic politics among Caribbean emigrants in the United States and Europe.

C) Reaction paragraphs:

Several times during the semester, on an unannounced basis, students will be asked to write short (one-page maximum) reaction essays to the week's readings. These will be graded on a pass/fail basis and will count toward 10% of the final grade.

D) Class participation:

Because a part of each class hour will be devoted to discussion, it is essential that students participate actively in such exchanges. At the end of the term, I will assign a grade to each person's participation based on my impression of the frequency and value of the student's in-class commentaries.

Grading

The final grade will be based, therefore, on 100 points, divided as follows:

Midterm and final exams.....	40 points
Papers.....	30 points
Reaction paragraphs.....	10 points
Class participation.....	20 points

Books and other materials

The following books are available for purchase at Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, 426 W. Gilman St. (tel. 257-6050). They will be used extensively throughout the course.

Fray Ramón Pané, *An Account of the Antiquities of the Indians*, intro. by José Juan Arrom, translated by Susan Griswold, foreword by Neil Whitehead .

Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*.

Polly Pattullo, *Last Resorts: The Cost of Tourism in the Caribbean*, 2nd. ed.

Other required readings

Most other required readings will be available for electronic download from the Library Reserves system. For those items not so available, I will announce their availability in class before the week they are due.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS

(PD = primary documents)

Week 1: Introductory session; Caribbean Geography and Ecology (1/22-24)

Tuesday: Course Introduction

Thursday: The Geographic Background to Caribbean History

Bonham C. Richardson, "A Colonized Environment," ch. 2 in *The Caribbean and the Wider World, 1492-1992: A Regional Geography*, pp. 13-37.

Charlotte Benson and Edward J. Clay, "Dominica: Natural Disasters and Economic Development in a Small Island State," in *Understanding the Economic and Financial Impacts of Natural Disasters* (Washington: The World Bank, 2004), appendix A, pp. 69-78.

PD#1: "Fled into Sea for Safety from Mt. Pelée," *New York Times*, May 37, 1902.

Week 2: The Aboriginal Past and the Spanish Invasion (1/29-31)

Tuesday: The Taínos and their Predecessors

Thursday: The Arrival of the Bearded Ones

PD #2: Fray Ramón Pané, *An Account of the Antiquities of the Indians*, entire book.

Stephen Greenblatt, *Marvelous Possessions* (Chicago: U. of Chicago Pr., 1991), 52-60.

John Kicza, "Patterns in Early Spanish Overseas Expansion," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd. ser. 49, 2 (1992):229-253

Week 3: Negotiations of Conquest (2/5-7)

Tuesday: Economy and Society of the Conquest Caribbean

Thursday: Aboriginal Resistance and the Challenges of Depopulation

PD #3: Bartolomé de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (London: Penguin Books, 1992), intro. by Anthony Pagden. Introduction and chpts. on Hispaniola, XIII-?? and 14-30.

Lynne A. Guitar, "Willing it So: Intimate Glimpses of Encomienda Life in Early-Sixteenth-Century Hispaniola," *Colonial Latin American Historical Review*. 7:3 (1998):245-63.

Week 4: The Competitive Empires (late 16th-17th. centuries) (2/12-14)

Tuesday: Becoming Backwaters of Empire

Thursday: Imperial Competition

Lennox Honychurch, "Crossroads in the Caribbean: A Site of Encounter and Exchange on Dominica," *World Archaeology* 28, 3 (1997):291-304.

PD #4: *Letter of a Seville Merchant to his Consignee, 1553.*

Week 5: The Sugar Revolution: From Barbados to Saint Domingue (2/19-21)

Tuesday: The Sugar Revolution, from Indentured Servants to Slaves

Thursday: Slave Societies Compared: Jamaica and Saint Domingue

Hilary Beckles, "Plantation Production and White Protoslavery: White Indentured Servants and the Colonization of the English West Indies," *Americas: A Review of Inter-American Cultural History* 41, 3 (1985): 21-45.

Richard Dunn, "'Dreadful Idlers' in the Cane Fields: The Slave Labor Pattern on a Jamaican Sugar Estate, 1762-1831," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 17, 4 (Spring 1987): 795-822.

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, "Motion in the System: Coffee, Color, and Slavery in Eighteenth-Century Saint-Domingue," *Review (Fernand Braudel Center)* 5,3 (1982): 331-388.

PD #5: Bob Marley, "Redemption Song"

PD #6: Olaudah Equiano, "The Middle Passage," and "The Case Against the Slave Trade."

Week 6: The Caribbean between Corsairs and Reformers (2/26-28)

Tuesday: Peasant Societies in the Spanish Caribbean

Thursday: Daily Lives and Struggles of Enslaved People

Michael Craton, *Searching for the Invisible Man: Slaves and Plantation Life in Jamaica* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1978), selections ("Introduction," "Bunga-Men: Six Africans," "Conformists: Ten Ordinary Slaves," "Resisters: Five Slave Nonconformists").

Trevor Burnard, "'A Matron in Rank, A Prostitute in Manners,': The Manning Divorce of 1741, and Class, Gender, Race, and the Law in Eighteenth-century Jamaica," in Verene Shepherd, ed., *Working Slavery, Pricing Freedom: Perspectives from the Caribbean, Africa, and the African Diaspora* (New York: Palgrave, 2001), 133-152.

PD #7: George D. Flinter, "The Xivaros," in *The Puerto Ricans: A Documentary History*, eds. Kal Wagenheim and Olga Jiménez de Wagenheim (1994), pp. 38-44.

Week 7: The Haitian Revolution (3/4-6)

Tuesday: Revolution, Emancipation, and Citizenship

Thursday: The Consequences of Revolution

Franklin W. Knight, "The Haitian Revolution," *The American Historical Review* 105, no. 1 (2000): 103-15.

David Brion Davis, "Impact of the French and Haitian Revolutions," in David Patrick Geggus, ed. *The Impact of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2001.

PD # 8: Documents on the Haitian Revolution.

Week 8: Midterm week (3/11-13)

Franklin W. Knight, visiting lecturer: "Migration and Culture: A Case Study of Cuba, 1750-1850), noon-1:30, place TBA

Tuesday: Discussion of Franklin W. Knight lecture

Thursday: Midterm

SPRING RECESS (3/15-23)

Week 9: The "Second Slavery" trumps British and French Emancipation (3/25-27)

Tuesday: The Second Slavery: Cuba and Puerto Rico

Thursday: British and French Emancipation

Franklin W. Knight, "Origins of Wealth and the Sugar Revolution in Cuba, 1750-1850," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 57, 2 (May 1977):231-253.

W.C.V. Norman, "The Process of Cultural Change among Cuban Bozales during the Nineteenth Century," *Americas* 62, 2 (October 2005):177-207.

Francisco A. Scarano, "Labor and Society in the Nineteenth Century," in Franklin W. Knight and Colin Palmer, eds., *The Modern Caribbean* (1989), 51-84.

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, "The Inconvenience of Freedom: Free People of Color and the Political Aftermath of Emancipation in Dominica and Saint-Domingue/Haiti," in Seymour Drescher and Frank McGlynn, eds., *The Meaning of Freedom: Economics, Politics, and Culture after Slavery* (Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 1992), 147-182.

PD #9: Richard Henry Dana, *To Cuba and Back* (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1966), selections.

Week 10: Emancipation, Race, and Nationhood (4/1-3)

Tuesday: The Problem of Nationhood in the Nineteenth-Century Caribbean

Thursday: The Cuban War and the Making of a Third Empire

Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba* (entire book).

Week 11: The Rise of the American Empire (4/8-10)

Tuesday: The American Sugar Kingdom

Thursday: The Early Emigrant Communities in the U.S.

Barry Carr, "Identity, Class, and Nation: Black Immigrant Workers, Cuban Communism, and the Sugar Insurgency, 1925-1934," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 78, 1 (February 1998):83-116.

Winston James, "Race Consciousness, Class Consciousness and Afro-Puerto Rican Radicalism in America: Reflections on the Political Trajectories of Arturo Schomburg and Jesús Colón," *Centro: Journal of El Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños*, [Special Double Issue on "Race and Identity"], vol. VIII, nos. 1 & 2 (Spring 1996):92-127.

PD #10: Excerpts from the West Indian Royal Commission (Moyne Commission) report (1940-45)

Week 12: Crisis and Response (4/15-17)

Tuesday: Nationalisms of the Right and Left

Thursday: Decolonization by Any Other Name

Kate Ramsey, "Without One Ritual Note: Folklore Performance and the Haitian State, 1935-1946," *Radical History Review* 84 (Fall 2002): 7-42.

Anne S. Macpherson, "Citizens vs. Clients: Working Women and Colonial Reform in Puerto Rico and Belize, 1932-45," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 35 (2003):279-310.

PD #11: Luis Muñoz Marín, "The Sad Case of Porto Rico," in Wagenheim and Wagenheim, eds., *The Puerto Ricans: A Documentary History*, 153-161.

Week 13: Populism and Revolution (4/22-24)

Tuesday: Caribbean Dictators and Populists

Thursday: The Revolutionary Impulse

Richard Lee Turits, *Foundations of Despotism: Peasants, the Trujillo Regime, and Modernity in Dominican History* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003), 144-180.

Robert Whitney, "The Architect of the Cuban State: Fulgencio Batista and Populism in Cuba, 1937-1940," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 32 (2000):435-459.

Robin Blackburn, "Prologue to the Cuban Revolution," *New Left Review* 21 (October 1963):52-91.

PD #12: Ernesto Che Guevara, "Notes for the Study of the Ideology of the Cuban Revolution," originally published in *Verde Olivo*, Oct. 8, 1960.

Week 14: The Caribbean and the Cold War (4/29-5/1)

Tuesday: The Caribbean and the Wider World

Thursday: The Emigration Dialectic

Louis A. Pérez, Jr., "Fear and Loathing of Fidel Castro: Sources of U.S. Policy towards Cuba," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 34 (2002): 227-254.

Alejandro Portes and Ramón Grosfoguel, "Caribbean Diasporas: Migration and Ethnic Communities," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 533 (May 1994):48-69.

PD #13: Maurice Bishop, "In Nobody's Backyard," speech given on April 13, 1979.

PD #14: "Why Grenadians loved Bishop," *Manchester Weekly Guardian*, November 13, 1983, and "The Corrosive Effect of the Cuban Obsession," Dec. 4, 1983.

Week 15: The Caribbean in the Age of Globalization (5/6-8)

Tuesday: Revolutionary Cuba in the Special Period

Thursday: The Caribbean of Last Resorts

Pattullo, *Last Resorts* (entire book).