

University of Wisconsin--Madison  
Department of History  
Semester II, 1989-90

History 533  
MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETIES IN LATIN AMERICA--  
THE CARIBBEAN: AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN MOSAIC

Francisco A. Scarano  
5115 Humanities  
263-3945/263-1800

Office hours:  
Wed. 3-4:00 (sign-up)  
Th. 2:30-4:00 (walk-in)

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:

Two papers, each between 7 and 10 pages long. They will discuss in depth a particular aspect of problems raised by a specific benefit of colonialism.

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.

Franklin W. Knight and Colin Palmer, eds., The Modern Caribbean (Chapel Hill, 1989).

Sidney W. Mintz and Sally Price, eds., Caribbean Contours (Baltimore, 1985).

Rebecca Scott, Slave Emancipation in Cuba: The Transition to Free Labor, 1860-1899 (Princeton, 1985).

Verena Stolke, Marriage, Class, and Colour in Nineteenth-Century Cuba (New York, 1974; a newer ed. by U. of Michigan Press).

Sidney W. Mintz, Worker in the Cane: A Puerto Rican Life History (1960; New York, 1974).

## TOPICS AND READINGS

## I. THE CARIBBEAN REGION: AN OVERVIEW

*Principal readings:*

Knight and Palmer, "The Caribbean: A Regional Overview", in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 1-19.

Carl Stone, "A Political Profile of the Caribbean," in Mintz and Price, Caribbean Contours, 13-53.

Sidney W. Mintz, "The Caribbean as a Socio-Cultural Area," in M. Horowitz, ed., Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean (1971), 17-46.

*Supplementary:*

Gordon K. Lewis, "The Contemporary Caribbean: A Regional Overview," in Mintz and Price, Caribbean Contours, 219-250.

Jean Benoist, "La organización social de las Antillas," in M. Moreno Fragnals, ed., Africa en América Latina (1978), 77-102.

David Lowenthal, "The Caribbean Region," in Marvin W. Miskesell, ed., Geographers Abroad (1973), 47-69.

Anthony P. Maingot, "The Caribbean: The Structure of Modern-Conservative Societies," in Latin America: Its Problems and its Promise, A Multi-disciplinary Introduction, ed. by Jan Knippers Black (Boulder, Colo., 1984), 362-378.

## II. SLAVERY AND THE MAKING OF AFRO-CARIBBEAN CULTURE

*Principal readings:*

Philip D. Curtin, "Slavery and Empire," Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, 292 (1977), 3-11.

Paul E. Lovejoy, "The Volume of the Atlantic Slave Trade: A Synthesis," Journal of African History 22/4 (1982).

Franklin W. Knight, The Caribbean: The Genesis of a Fragmented Nationalism (New York, 1978), chs. 4-5, pp. 67-120.

*Supplementary:*

Hilary McD. Beckles and Andrew Downes, "The Economics of Transition to the Black Labor System in Barbados," Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 18:2 (Autumn 1987), 225-247.

Sidney W. Mintz and Richard Price, An Anthropological Approach to the Afro-American Past: A Caribbean Perspective (Philadelphia, 1976).

Richard S. Dunn, Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the British West Indies, 1624-1711 (Chapel Hill, 1956).

Manuel Moreno Fraginals, The Sugarmill (New York, 1978).

Sidney W. Mintz, Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History (New York, 1985).

Eric Williams, Capitalism and Slavery (Chapel Hill, 1944).

### III. STRUCTURES OF THE SLAVE PLANTATION

#### *Principal readings:*

Richard S. Dunn, "'Dreadful Idlers' in the Cane Fields: The Slave Labor Pattern on a Jamaican Sugar Estate, 1762-1831," in Barbara H. Solow and Stanley L. Engerman, eds., British Capitalism and Caribbean Slavery: The Legacy of Eric Williams (New York, 1987), 163-190.

Rhoda E. Reddock, "Women and Slavery in the Caribbean: A Feminist Perspective," Latin American Perspectives, 12:1 (Winter 1985), 63-80 (Latin America's Colonial History, ed. Steve J. Stern).

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:*

Michael Craton, Searching for the Invisible Man: Slaves and Plantation Life in Jamaica (Cambridge, Mass., 1978).

Francisco A. Scarano, Sugar and Slavery in Puerto Rico: The Plantation Economy of Ponce, 1800-1850 (Madison, 1984).

### IV. ACCOMMODATION, RESISTANCE, AND ADAPTATION

#### *Principal readings:*

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

David Geggus, "The Haitian Revolution," in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 21-50.

Sidney W. Mintz, "From Plantations to Peasantries in the Caribbean," in Mintz and Price, Caribbean Contours, 127-153.

#### *Supplementary:*

Richard Price, ed., Maroon Societies: Rebel Slave Communities in the Americas (Garden City, N.Y., 1973).

Michael Craton, Testing the Chains: Resistance to Slavery in the British West Indies (Ithaca, 1982).

Jalil Sued Badillo and Angel López Cantos, Puerto Rico negro (Río Piedras, 1986).

Esteban Montejo, The Autobiography of a Runaway Slave (Cleveland, 1900).

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.

Jerome S. Handler and Arnold A. Sio, "Barbados," in Neither Slave nor Free: The Freedmen of African Descent in the Slave Societies of the New World, ed. with an intro. by David W. Cohen and Jack P. Greene (Baltimore, 1972), 214-257.

*Supplementary:*

Harry Hoetink, Slavery and Race Relations in the Americas: Comparative Notes on their Nature and Nexus (New York, 1973).

Edward L. Cox, Free Coloreds in the Slave Societies of St. Kitts and Grenada, 1763-1833 (Knoxville, 1984).

Gad J. Heuman, Between Black and White: Race, Politics, and the Free Coloreds in Jamaica, 1792-1865 (Westport, Conn., 1981).

#### VI. CLASS, COLOR, AND GENDER IN SLAVE SOCIETIES

*Principal readings:*

Stolke, Marriage, Class and Colour in Nineteenth-Century Cuba (entire book).

*Supplementary:*

Médéric-Louis-Elie Moreau de Saint-Méry, A Civilization that Perished: The Last Years of White Colonial Rule in Haiti (Westport, Conn., 1985), ch. 9, "That Seductive Mulatto Woman", pp. 81-89.

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

Orlando Patterson, The Sociology of Slavery (London, 1969).

#### VII. THE ORDEAL OF FREE LABOR

*Principal readings:*

Scarano, "Labor and Society in the Nineteenth Century," in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 51-84.

Brian L. Moore, Race, Power and Social Segmentation in Colonial Society: Guyana after Slavery, 1838-1891 (New York, 1987), ch. 8 on "The Subjugation of the Indian and Chinese Immigrants," pp. 161-188.

*Supplementary:*

Walter Rodney, A History of the Guyanese Working People, 1881-1905 (Baltimore, 1981).

Richard Frucht, "From Slavery to Unfreedom in the Plantation Society of St. Kitts, W.I.," Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, 292 (1977), 379-88.

Herbert S. Klein and Stanley L. Engerman, "The Transition from Slave to Free Labor: Notes on a Comparative Economic Model," in Between Slavery and Free Labor: The Spanish Speaking Caribbean in the Nineteenth Century, Manuel Moreno Fraginals, Frank Moya Pons and Stanley L. Engerman, eds. (Baltimore, 1985).

David Vincent Trotman, Crime in Trinidad: Conflict and Control in a Plantation Society, 1838-1900 (Knoxville, Tenn., 1986), esp. ch. on "The Struggle for Cultural Hegemony," pp. 213-270.

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

##### *Principal readings:*

Rebecca Scott, Slave Emancipation in Cuba: The Transition to Free Labor, 1860-1899, entire book.

##### *Supplementary:*

Louis Pérez, Jr., Cuba between Empires, 1878-1902 (Pittsburgh, 1983).

Manuel Moreno Fraginals, Frank Moya Pons, and Stanley L. Engerman, eds., Between Slavery and Free Labor: The Spanish-Speaking Caribbean in the Nineteenth Century (Baltimore, 1985), especially chs. by Moreno-Fraginals, Iglesias, and Ramos-Mattei.

Raúl Cepero Bonilla, Azúcar y abolición (1948; Barcelona, 1976).

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

##### *Principal readings:*

Harry Hoetink, "The Dominican Republic in the Nineteenth Century: Some Notes on Stratification, Immigration, and Race," in Race and Class in Latin America, ed. Magnus Mörner (New York, 1970), pp. 96-121.

Aline Helg, "Struggle and Repression: Afro-Cubans after Independence," Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Texas Papers on Latin America, No. 89-18 (1989).

Thomas Mathews, "The Question of Color in Puerto Rico," in Slavery and Race Relations in Latin America, ed. by Robert B. Toplin (Westport, Conn., 1974), 299-323.

##### *Supplementary:*

Martínez-Vergne, "Politics and Society in the Spanish Caribbean during the Nineteenth Century," in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 185-202.

Truman S. Clark, "'Educating the Natives in Self-Government': Puerto Rico and the United States, 1900-1933", Pacific Historical Review, XIII, (May, 1971), 220-231.

Edward J. Berbusse, The United States in Puerto Rico, 1898-1900 (Chapel Hill, 1966).

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

*Principal readings:*

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

Jay R. Mandle, "British Caribbean Economic History," in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 229-258.

*Supplementary:*

Sidney W. Mintz, "The Culture History of a Puerto Rican Sugar Cane Plantation, 1876-1953," The Hispanic American Historical Review 33:2 (May, 1953), 224-251.

George L. Beckford, Persistent Poverty: Underdevelopment in Plantation Economies of the Third World (New York, 1972).

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:*

Brereton, "Society and Culture in the Caribbean: The British and French West Indies," in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 85-110.

M.G. Smith, "The Plural Framework of Jamaican Society," in The Plural Society in the British West Indies (Berkeley, 1965), 162-175.

Palmer, "Identity, Race, and Black Power in Independent Jamaica," in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 111-128.

Bennett, "The Challenge to the Post-Colonial State: A Case Study of the February Revolution in Trinidad," in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 129-146.

*Supplementary:*

Gordon K. Lewis, The Growth of the Modern West Indies (New York, 1968).

Rex Nettleford, Caribbean Cultural Identity: The Case of Jamaica (Los Angeles, 1978).

Joseph J. Levy, Un village du bout du monde : modernisation et structures villageoises aux Antilles francaises (Montreal, 1976).

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

*Principal readings:*

Blanca Silvestrini, "Contemporary Puerto Rico: A Society of Contrasts," in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 147-167.

Franklin W. Knight, "Cuba: Politics, Economy, and Society, 1898-1985," in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 169-184.

Nelson R. Amaro, "Mass and Class in the Origins of the Cuban Revolution," in Cuban Communism, ed. by Irving L. Horowitz, 6th. ed. (New Brunswick, NJ, 1988), 13-36.

*Supplementary:*

James O'Connor, The Origins of Socialism in Cuba (Ithaca, 1970).

Morris H. Morley, Imperial State and Revolution: The United States and Cuba, 1952-1986 (New York, 1987).

## XIII. LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND IDENTITY

*Principal readings:*

Roberto Márquez, "Nationalism, Nation, and Ideology: Trends in the Emergence of a Caribbean Literature," in Knight and Palmer, The Modern Caribbean, 293-340.

Mervin C. Alleyne, "A Linguistic Perspective on the Caribbean," in Mintz and Price, Caribbean Contours, 155-179.

Kenneth M. Bilby, "The Caribbean as a Musical Region," in Mintz and Price, Caribbean Contours, 181-218.

*Supplementary:*

Amon Saba Saakana, The colonial legacy in Caribbean literature (London, 1987).

Selwyn Reginald Cudjoe, Resistance and Caribbean literature (Chicago: Ohio University Press, 1980).

Ileana Rodriguez and Marc Zimmerman, eds., Process of unity in Caribbean society : ideologies and literature (Minneapolis, 1983).

José Luis González, El país de cuatro pisos y otros ensayos (Río Piedras, PR, 1980) [trans. as The Four-Storyed Country and other Essays (Maplewood, NJ, 1990)].



The University of Wisconsin--Madison  
Department of History

History 533  
Semester II, 1989-90

SCHEDULE

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.