

# HISTORY OF THE CARIBBEAN

HIST 4485-03, Spring 2009. Pafford 204, MW 7:00-8:15 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

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## Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed as an introduction to the history and civilization of the Caribbean, defined as the West Indies and the nearby coastal areas of Central and South America. We will examine the contributions of Native American, African, and European peoples and cultures to the region from the fifteenth century to the present. We will discuss the political, cultural, and economic forces which made the Caribbean a world crossroads, and investigate how creole consciousness and Caribbean identity have emerged from the meeting of peoples, empires, and economies.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to improve their skills in writing, critical thinking, and map reading and increase their awareness of the diversity of our world. They will also gain a greater knowledge of the history of some of the U.S.'s closest neighbors, and an understanding of the impacts of empire, slavery, and the world economy on small, developing nations.

## Course Requirements

Students will be expected to keep up with the reading and to participate in class discussions. Because of the large amount of material to be covered, class attendance is absolutely essential. Attendance will be taken. You are allowed up to five absences for all reasons (including sporting events, illness, and family issues). More than five absences will result in the loss of 5% of your final grade. More than ten absences will result in the loss of 10% of your final grade. If you leave class early, you will be counted as absent.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. It is your responsibility to attend class so that you may be aware of any changes.

## Grading

There will be two written examinations: a midterm worth 25% of the final grade, and a final worth 30%. You will have written assignments based on the Laurent & Garrigus, Alexis, and Kincaid books, worth respectively 10%, 15%, and 10% of the final grade. You will do a biographical presentation on one famous person associated with the Caribbean worth 5% (the person and date of your presentation will be determined in class). Map quizzes will make up 5%. You are allowed up to five absences for all reasons (including sporting events, illness, and family issues). As noted above, excessive absences may result in the loss of up to 10% of your grade.

Your exam dates are noted on this syllabus. Do not make travel plans that conflict with your exam dates.

### **Academic Honesty**

You are expected to be familiar with and abide by the university's policies on academic honesty. As a West Georgia student, you have pledged not to lie, cheat, steal, or commit plagiarism. It is equally wrong to give aid as it is to receive it. When copying word for word from another source, you must use quotation marks and cite your source. When paraphrasing material or borrowing another author's ideas, you must also cite your source. Assignments are to be done independently. Two or more students cannot hand in variations of the same paper, even if they study together. You are not allowed to submit your own work from a previous course without the prior instructor's and my permission.

### **Special Accommodations**

If you are on record with the university's Disability Services as having special academic or physical needs requiring accommodations, please meet with me during my regular office hours as soon as possible. We need to discuss your accommodations before they can be implemented. Also, please note that arrangements for special accommodations must be made at least one week before the exams.

If you believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not formally contacted Disability Services, please call (678) 839-6428 or drop by the Student Development Center at 272 Parker Hall.

### **Policy on Electronic Devices and Communication**

Cell phones and pagers must be turned off prior to entering the classroom. Laptops are not to be used in the classroom. Do not text, check your messages, or use the internet on any device during class time. The use of any electronic device during a quiz or exam is strictly prohibited. Any use of such devices during a quiz or exam will be considered a breach of academic honesty.

To protect your privacy, all electronic communication with me must be conducted through your West Georgia e-mail. As all e-mail is potentially insecure, I will only discuss your grades with you in person.

### **Required Books:**

Rogoziński, Jan. *A Brief History of the Caribbean*. Plume (Penguin), 2000. ISBN 9780452281936

Dubois, Laurent & John Garrigus. *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean 1789-1804*. Bedford St. Martin's, 2006. ISBN 9780312415013

Alexis, Jacques Stephen. *General Sun, My Brother*. University of Virginia Press, 1999. ISBN 9780813918907

Kincaid, Jamaica. *A Small Place*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000. ISBN 9780374527075

**Course Schedule:**

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS (Rogoziński)
Jan. 7	Defining the Caribbean; Geography and Environment	x-xv, 3-13
Jan. 12	Native Americans: The Islands and the Mainland	14-17
Jan. 14	Columbus	22-29
Jan. 19	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Martin Luther King Day)	
Jan. 21	The Early Spanish Caribbean	29-33, 45-55
Jan. 26	16 <sup>th</sup> century Foreign Intrusion and Spanish Response	34-44
Jan. 28	17 <sup>th</sup> Century Northern European Trade & Colonization	59-84
Feb. 2	17 <sup>th</sup> Century Northern European Piracy	85-104
Feb. 4	African Slavery and the Slave Trade	125-142
Feb. 9	Sugar, the Caribbean, and Europe	107-121
Feb. 11	The 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century Spanish Caribbean	121-124
Feb. 16	The Northern European Colonies in the 18 <sup>th</sup> Century	143-164
Feb. 18	Revolution in France and Haiti <b>Revolution Assignment due</b>	164-175
Feb. 23	The Revolutionary Era in the Lesser Antilles and the Spanish Mainland	
Feb. 25	Film	
Mar. 2	Film <b>Last day to withdraw with a grade of W</b>	
Mar. 4	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Mar. 9	Ending Slavery	179-187
Mar. 11	Labor after Slavery	187-198

Mar. 16-18	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Spring Break)	
Mar. 23	Economics after Slavery	211-216
Mar. 25	The Hispanic Caribbean, 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	199-209
Mar. 30	U.S. Involvement since 1898	255-277
Apr. 1	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> -Century Cuba	225-234
Apr. 6	Haiti after Independence <b>Alexis review due</b>	216-222
Apr. 8	Northern European Colonies, 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	279-308
Apr. 13	Revolutionary Cuba	234-253
Apr. 15	Other Hispanic Lands, 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	
Apr. 20	Tourism <b>Kincaid review due</b>	
Apr. 22	Caribbean Music	
Apr. 27	Non-Hispanic Lands since Independence	309-366
Apr. 29	Film	
May 6	<b>Final Exam: 8:00-10:00 PM</b>	