

HIS 4485/5485: History of the Caribbean
Fall 2011 T/TH 3:30-4:45

Instructor: Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos
Office Hours: TR: 12:30p-1:30p; W: 10a-2p
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Course Description

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.

Learning Objectives

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.

Assigned Readings (available in the bookstore and also in eBook format for most):

1. B.W. Higman, *A Concise History of the Caribbean*
2. Gad Heuman, *The Caribbean*
3. Bartolome de Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*
4. *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1789-1804: A Brief History With Documents*, edited by Laurent Dubois and John Garrigus.
5. Julia Alvarez, *In the Time of the Butterflies*

Additional Readings for Graduate Students:

1. Franklin Knight, *The Caribbean: Genesis of a Fragmented Nationalism*

Evaluation and Grading:

The course will be evaluated on a ten point scale. Emphasis will be on clarity of ideas, extent of research, reading, writing, analytical skills, class participation, and overall presentation. Participation in class discussions and lectures is encouraged and will form a component of the written assignment grades. There will be no extra credit offered in this class, so don't ask. Grade calculations for both graduate and undergraduate students are as follows:

Short Paper Assignments 15% each, 45% total	Primary Source Analysis 15%	
Class Participation: 20%	Mid-Term Exam: 10%	Final Exam: 10%

Short Paper Assignments: Rather than write a more traditional book review of Las Casas, 'A

Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies, Dubois and Garrigus,' *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean*, and Julia Alvarez,' *In the Time of the Butterflies*, you will instead write a review paper on each that follows a certain list of questions provided by me well ahead of the due date of each. Papers are due at the start of class, and we will then spend the class period discussing your papers and your reactions to the assigned books. One letter grade will be deducted from your grade for every day that your paper is late. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Undergraduates will complete a 4-5 page paper, while Graduate Students will write a 5-6 page paper. Each paper is worth 15% of your grade, for a combined 45% for all three papers.

Primary Source Analysis Paper: In addition to the three short papers you will write on the Las Casas, Dubois and Garrigus, and Alvarez books, you will also write a short document analysis on a collection of primary source documents that all relate to a particular topic of your choosing. Undergraduates must choose a minimum of three documents of any length, and graduate students must choose a minimum of five documents of any length. You can use more primary sources if you wish, but you must use the minimum required. The topics can be on any particular aspect of Caribbean history covered in this course, but they must all relate to the same person, place, or event in some way. In these papers you will not only summarize these documents, but provide an analysis of them as well as the particular topic to which they relate. I prefer that you use one of the Archival Databases on the UWG Library Website, but you can also use any other online archival database. Points will be deducted for failure to use primary and/or archival sources for this assignment, as well as failure to properly document your sources. This paper is short, but it should be treated as a formal research paper that is smaller in scale. **Undergraduates will complete a 5-6 page analysis, while Graduate Students will complete a 7-8 page analysis.** These papers are worth 15% of your grade. One letter grade will be deducted from your grade for every day that your paper is late. Email submissions will not be accepted. Please use the Chicago Manual of Style and/or Kate Turabian's guidebook as a model for your footnotes/endnotes.

Class Participation: Although there will be class lectures throughout the semester, the majority of the course will be a seminar where each student is expected to participate actively in and at times carry the course of the conversation. All reading assignments must be completed before the start of class, so that you will be ready to engage in class discussion, debate, and analysis. ***Class participation is not attendance, but actual participation in the class discussion of the day.*** **Therefore, even if you come to class everyday, but don't say a word, you will not receive the full 20% for your class participation grade. At most, you will be given a 70. Graduate Students who do not participate in class discussions and/or our weekly meetings will not make above a B in this course.** While you are expected to speak up in class and ask questions, you are also expected to respect your fellow students' opinions. I will not tolerate disrespect of any kind, and you will be asked to leave. If disruptive behavior continues, you will be asked to leave for the remainder of the course, and you will not be allowed to finish any assignments or take any exams that follow. In other words, you will fail the course.

Graduate Students: We will meet once a week to discuss the class material in greater detail. Time and day to be determined

Extra credit opportunities offered by the University will not be accepted in this class.

Class Policies

Cell Phones: TURN THEM OFF!!!! I'm serious. I don't want to hear it, see it, even know that it exists. If you need them on for emergency purposes, please set the ring to vibrate only. If I hear a phone ring, you will be asked to leave the class, and don't even let me catch you talking on it. If you are caught talking on the phone in class (even checking voice mail) you will not be allowed to return to class. **Furthermore, if your phone rings in class, I reserve the right to answer it.**

Attendance and Tardiness: I will not be taking attendance in this class. You are all adults. Please keep in mind, however, that excessive absence will affect your class participation grade. If you aren't here, then you can't participate in the class discussion. Excessive lateness is disruptive to the class, affecting your fellow students as well as me. If for any reason, you need to leave class early, please let me know ahead of time. In short, come on time and stay for the whole class. If you miss class, I suggest you borrow notes from a classmate. My notes are not available.

Academic Honesty: I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty in this class, and any student found guilty will automatically receive a failing grade for the course. Your assignments will be written in your own words, and will not consist of information found on the internet or from any outside source. If you plagiarize anything, you will receive no credit for that paper and you will be ejected from the course. I will also recommend that UWG administration take action as well. You should all know what plagiarism is at this point, but in case you don't, [see the Department of History's Statement on Plagiarism here](#)

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.

Tentative Course Schedule

BWH=Higman's A Concise History

GH=Heuman's The Caribbean

Week 1 Introduction and Pre-Columbian Life

Tuesday, Aug 23: Introduction to the Course

Thursday, Aug 25: Pre-Columbian Life in the Caribbean. *Read BWH Ch 2*

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 1—Knight Chapter 1

Week 2: A Collision of Cultures

Tuesday, Aug 30: The Arrival of the Bearded Ones. *Read GH Ch 1; BWH Ch 3 to p60*

Thursday, Sept 1: Economy and Society of the Conquest. *Finish BWH Ch 3; BWH pp109-122*

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 2—Knight Chapter 2

Week 3: Conquest and Control

Tuesday, Sept 6: Growing Pains—War, Peace, and Territorial Expansion. *BWH pp109-122.*

Thursday, Sept 8: The Question of Genocide in the Caribbean and The New Laws—Discussion of Las Casas *Las Casas Paper Due*

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 3—Knight Chapter 3

Week 4: The Sugar Revolution and Plantation Slavery

Tuesday, Sept 13: The Slave Trade. *Read GH Ch 2, BWH pp122-130*

Thursday, Sept 15: Sweetness and Power—Slavery in the Greater Antilles *Read GH Ch 3, BWH Ch 4 to p109 and pp130-140*

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 4—Knight Chapter 4

Week 5: Sowing the Seeds of Change

Tuesday, Sept 20: Becoming Creole—Race and Class in the Caribbean. *Read GH Ch 4-5, & 9.*

Thursday, Sept 22: Slave Resistance and Rebellion. *Read GH Ch 6, BWH pp141-146*

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 5—Knight Chapter 5

Week 6: Challenging the Status Quo

Tuesday, Sept 27: Slavery and the Enlightenment—Abolitionism. *Read GH Ch 8*

Thursday, Sept 29: **Midterm Exam—Bring a large Bluebook!!!**

Week 7: The Haitian Revolution

Tuesday, Oct 4: Revolution, Emancipation, and Citizenship. *Read GH Ch 7, BWH pp146-153*

Thursday, Oct 6: Aftermath and Consequences. *Read BWH 153-162*

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 7—Knight Chapter 7 to p221

Week 8: The “Second Slavery,” Apprenticeship, and Emancipation

Tuesday, Oct 11: The Second Slavery: Cuba, and Puerto Rico. *See course website for readings*

Thursday, Oct 13: British and French Emancipation and the Problem of Inclusion. *GH Ch 10.*

Week 9: Emancipation’s Aftermath

Tuesday, Oct 18: Post Emancipation Caribbean—Labor, Land, & Economy. *BWH pp162-195*

Thursday, Oct 20: Case Study—The Morant Bay Rebellion and Jamaica After Slavery. *Read GH Ch 11. See course website for additional readings. Revolution Paper Due*

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 9—Knight Chapter 6

Week 10: The Rise of the American Empire

Tuesday, Oct 25: Cuba and the “Spanish American” War *Read BWH 196-203*

Thursday, Oct 27: The Caribbean—An American Lake? *Read GH Ch 13 and BWH 206-239*

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for week 10—Knight Chapter 8 to p 240, Chapter 9

Week 11: The Caribbean Finds Her Voice

Tuesday, Nov 1: AfroCubanismo, Garvey, and Caribbean Nationalisms--Right and Left. *Read GH Chapter 12 & 14, BWH pp239-250*

Thursday, Nov 3: Caribbean Dictators, Populists, and Revolutionaries. *Read GH Ch 15*

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 11—Knight Chapter 10

Week 12: Trujillo and the Dominican Republic

Nov 8-10: Watch and Discuss *In the Time of the Butterflies*

Read by Thursday: *BWH pp203-206*. See course website for additional readings.

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 12—Knight Chapter 7 pp221-226

Week 13: The Caribbean and the Cold War

Tuesday, Nov 15: Seeds of Change Sprout Again—Castro’s Cuba, Cuba’s Fidel, Haiti and Post-Trujillo Dominican Republic. Read *BWH pp251-266*

Thursday, Nov 17: The Emigration Dialectic. Read *BWH pp275-284*. See course website for additional readings. **Alvarez Paper Due**

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 13—Knight pp240-256

Week 14: Tuesday-Thursday, Nov 22-Nov 24: THANKSGIVING BREAK!

Week 15: The Caribbean in the Age of Globalization

Tuesday, Nov 29: The “New” Caribbean—Tourist Paradise or Neocolonial Empire? Read *GH Ch 16; BWH pp266-275 and BWH pp284-318*

Thursday, Dec 1: Final Thoughts—Case Study: Haiti from Aristide to the Earthquake
Read *BWH pp318-326; GH Ch 17*. See course website for additional readings.

Additional Readings for Graduate Students for Week 15—Knight Chapter 11

FINAL EXAM DETAILS

DATE: Thursday, Dec. 8

TIME: 2-4 pm

BRING A LARGE BLUEBOOK!!!

Primary Source Analysis Due