

**History of the Modern Caribbean**  
**HIST 348/548 • Spring 2018**  
**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**  
**Mondays, 4:00 to 6:30 pm, 231 CCC**

Instructor:	Dr. Anju Reejhsinghani	Office Hours:	Mondays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or by appointment
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**Course Description**

This course offers an advanced introduction to the history of the islands of the Caribbean region from pre-Columbian times to the present. No previous training in U.S., Latin American, Caribbean, or European history is required.

Topics to be discussed include the geography of the Caribbean; the Columbian Encounter; enduring legacies of European conquest, colonialism, transatlantic slavery, and indentured servitude; the Age of Revolutions, with a particular focus on Haiti; U.S. military interventions and hegemonic rule; formal decolonization; the rise of transnational citizenries; and the pressing impacts of climate change. We also probe the evolution of cultural forms and issues of race, gender, sexuality, and national identity.

Throughout, we blend discussions of these and other general topics with case studies of specific territories. The course begins with a focus on the Francophone Caribbean, especially Haiti. It then moves briefly to decolonization in the British West Indies before considering the Hispanic Caribbean, particularly Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Other areas, such as the Dutch West Indies and Danish/U.S. Virgin Islands, are considered within a larger geographical context.

The class format is a hybrid lecture-seminar style, with a lecture, film, or guest speaker taking up one part of the class and student-led, instructor-facilitated discussion taking up the other. Rather than students being passive recipients of knowledge, therefore, the course operates in a more open-ended, interactive fashion – based on an active platform for student learning through discussion and engagement.

**Goals and Objectives**

This course has several aims, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) To obtain a general understanding of Caribbean history from 1492 to the present, with an emphasis on the period since 1898;
- (2) To examine processes such as decolonization, nation-state formation, economic and political integration, emigration and transnationalism, environmental degradation, and globalization in the Caribbean as well as their regional and global impacts elsewhere;

- (3) To interpret primary and secondary sources from a variety of disciplines to gain a deeper awareness of the richness of Caribbean history and to fashion coherent, well-supported arguments about the significance of various events and historical trends; and
- (4) To offer students practical training in methods of researching and writing a scholarly paper, engage them in critical thinking, and mentor them as they hone their writing in the discipline of history and in the humanities more broadly.

**Grading**

Grading in this course is based on the following:

Attendance/Participation	20%
Map Quiz of the Caribbean	5%
Short Papers (Two)	30% total (15% each)
Final Paper Prospectus	15%
Final Paper Consultation	5%
Final Paper	25%

There are no grade curves in this class. Course grades are determined based on the above criteria and are determined according to the following point system:

92.5 points and above	A	72.5 to 76.4 points	C
89.5 to 92.4 points	A-	69.5 to 72.4 points	C-
86.5 to 89.4 points	B+	66.5 to 69.4 points	D+
82.5 to 86.4 points	B	59.5 to 66.4 points	D
79.5 to 82.4 points	B-	59.4 points and below	F
76.5 to 79.4 points	C+		

**Required Texts**

Texts for purchase (available at the UWSP University Store)

- Laurent Dubois. *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2004.
- Edwidge Danticat. *The Farming of Bones*. New York: Soho Press, 1998.
- Marc Frank. *Cuban Revelations: Behind the Scenes in Havana*. Reprint ed. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2015.

Textbook for rental (available at the UWSP University Store)

- Stephan Palmié and Francisco Scarano, eds. *The Caribbean: A History of the Region and Its Peoples*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

### Articles/Book Chapters (Available on D2L)

- John Coatsworth, "Liberalism and Big Sticks: The Politics of U.S. Interventions in Latin America, 1898-2004." Unpublished paper, no date.
- Additional readings on Puerto Rico and on climate change in the Caribbean will be posted one week prior to the relevant classes, as noted in the syllabus.

### Required Films

- *Égalité for All: Touissant Louverture and the Haitian Revolution*. Directed by Norman Walker. 2009. 60 min.
- *Black in Latin America: Haiti & the Dominican Republic: An Island Divided*. Directed by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. 2011. 51 min.

(The instructor may schedule additional film screenings as circumstances permit.)

### Course Requirements (Attendance, Map Quiz, and Short Papers)

**Attendance/Participation.** Active class discussion is an integral part of this course, as well as an important factor in your final course grade. Should you need to arrive late or leave early, please inform me ahead of time. Documented absences due to serious medical or personal reasons will be excused. Attendance/participation comprises 20% of your course grade.

**Map Quiz.** The map quiz tests students' knowledge of the insular Caribbean region. Two study maps and a list of topics are on D2L. Students have 10 minutes to match 10 given geographical names to letters on a blank map. The map quiz is worth 5% of your course grade.

**Short Papers.** Students will complete two short interpretive papers (each 1,000 to 1,250 words, or 4-to-5 double-spaced pages excluding citations) based on assigned readings. Prompts will be distributed two weeks before the paper deadlines. With the first prompt, students will receive a set of paper guidelines and a grading rubric as well as direction on how to do Chicago Manual of Style citations. While asking you to focus on a specific book (Short Paper 1 on Dubois's *Avengers of the New World* and Short Paper 2 on Frank's *Cuban Revelations*), the prompts also reflect material discussed in class, other assigned readings, and films. Each is worth 15% of your course grade.

### Course Requirements (Final Paper)

The culmination of the course is an original final research paper that you will write in close consultation with the professor. There are several steps in the process:

**Final Paper Topic.** Your final paper is on a topic of your choice related to the Caribbean (the region as a whole, or one or two specific countries) from the pre-Columbian era to the present. By March 19, you may consult a list of potential topics (including suggested sources) on D2L, but you are encouraged to develop your own topic if you choose. You are strongly advised to submit a one-paragraph description of your topic by April 2 to obtain my feedback and make

suggested changes before writing your prospectus. (Paper topics will be accepted until April 9.) This assignment is not graded.

**Final Paper Prospectus.** Students will submit a final paper prospectus of 1-2 pages of narrative with attached bibliography by April 16. This assignment is worth 15% of your course grade.

**Final Paper Consultation.** You are required to have one 10-minute in-person consultation with Prof. Reejsinghani on your progress toward completing your final paper. These will be held during our class period on April 30 in lieu of formal class. Your participation in this consultation is worth 5% of your course grade.

**Final Paper.** Your final paper should be between 2,250-2,500 words (approximately 9 to 10 double-spaced pages), not including title, bibliography, and citations. The final paper is due during our scheduled final exam meeting time and will count for 25% of your course grade.

### **Reading, Make-Ups and Extensions, Extra Credit, and Accommodations**

**Reading.** You are expected to finish all reading assignments by the start of the class for which they have been assigned, unless otherwise indicated.

**Make-Ups and Extensions.** Should there be significant reasons outside your control (major personal or family issues, major illness or injury, bereavement) that prevent you from completing an assignment in a timely manner, please contact me immediately to discuss your situation. I require documentation for absences prior to scheduling a make-up or extension. Oversleeping, forgetting a quiz or assignment deadline, vacation plans, or the loss of a pet other than a service animal are not acceptable excuses to obtain an excused absence or extension.

**Extra Credit.** Extra-credit opportunities bolster students' attendance/participation grades and are limited to two per student per semester. Each makes up for one-half of one unexcused absence. Those with perfect or near-perfect attendance and strong participation may earn attendance/participation grades in excess of 100 points (maxing out at 105 points). Extra-credit opportunities are not applicable to any other missed coursework and must be completed by the end of our last class day (May 7).

**Accommodations.** UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the sixth floor of Albertson Hall (the library) as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu.

### **Policy on Electronic Devices and Copyright Notice**

You are not permitted to use laptops, tablet computers, smart phones or other cellular phones, MP3 players, smart watches, video and/or audio recorders, cameras, headphones, or any other electronic devices and accessories during our class meetings, whether for personal reasons or as an aid to your note taking. (Such devices may be brought to the classroom but must be stored among your personal items for the duration of the class period. You may use electronic devices during our break periods, which are usually scheduled for the halfway point of each class except on abbreviated class

days, but you must store them once class resumes.)

As an enrolled student in this class, you may download and/or utilize the instructor's course materials for your own personal academic purposes outside of class time, although doing so does not in any way infringe upon the instructor's copyright protections. You are not permitted to videotape, audiotape, photograph, digitize, upload to another web site, or otherwise reproduce or distribute any images, data, and other course materials – including syllabus, lecture outlines, reading lists, timelines, short paper prompts, quiz prompts, and handouts – produced by the instructor.

This electronic device and copyright policy will be strictly enforced. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave class. Violators may also be subject to Academic Misconduct charges (see below). Exceptions may be made for students with prior written documentation of a disability from UWSP Disability Services and with the instructor's written consent.

### **Student Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of student academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this class. They are a mark of disrespect to your peers, your instructor, your university, and yourself. Students who violate University policy on this matter will be subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) the possibility of failing this course. Please consult Chapter 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" (<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>), for more information on what types of activities are considered "academic misconduct" and what the disciplinary sanctions are for students who engage in them.

### **Course Drops and Withdrawals**

Students wishing to "clear drop" this course may do so via myPoint until the end of the business day on Wednesday, January 31. After that, students withdrawing from this course no later than Friday, April 6, will receive a "W" on their transcripts. After Friday, April 6, drops are generally not permitted. See <http://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/AddDropSchedule.aspx> for information.

### **Use of Email for Official Correspondence to Students**

Email is an official mode of university correspondence; you are therefore responsible for reading your email for university- and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible for keeping the university informed about changes to your email address. Please check your email regularly to stay current with course-related communications, some of which may be time-critical.

### **Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change (though major change is unlikely). Should there be a modification of lecture topic, guest lecturer, reading assignment, deadline, or other item, I shall strive to give you adequate notice.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1: Introduction

**M 1/22**      **Introduction/General Themes**

Reading:      None

### Week 2: Geography and Ecology

**M 1/29**      **What Is the Caribbean?**

Reading:      *The Caribbean*, Part I (Essays 1-4)

### Week 3: Conquest, Settlement, and Slavery

**M 2/5**      **Remaking the New World**

Reading:      *The Caribbean*, Part II (Essays 5-9)

### Week 4: The Age of Revolutions

**M 2/12**      **The Haitian Revolution**

Reading:      *Avengers of the New World*, Prologue and Chapters 1-6

Screening:     *Egalité for All: Touissant Louverture and the Haitian Revolution*

Assignments:

- The map quiz will be held at the start of today's class.

### Week 5: Legacies of Slavery

**M 2/19**      **The Caribbean after Abolition**

Reading:      *Avengers of the New World*, Chapters 7-13 and Epilogue

Assignments:

- The short paper guidelines and grading rubric, which will apply to both short papers in this class, will be distributed and discussed, along with the Short Paper 1 prompt.
- We will discuss Chicago Manual of Style citations in class today.
- Students unfamiliar with the conventions of historical writing are strongly advised to make an appointment with the Writing Lab (part of the Tutoring-Learning Center) as soon as possible.

### Week 6: Occupation, Neocolonialism, and Hegemony

**M 2/26      The U.S. in the Caribbean**

Reading:      *The Caribbean*, Part 7 (Essays 28-30)  
                  “Liberalism and Big Sticks” (on D2L)

### Week 7: The British West Indies

**M 3/5      The Long Goodbye: The Road to Decolonization**

Reading:      *The Caribbean*, Part 8 (Essays 31-33) and Part 9 (Essay 35)

Assignments:

- Short Paper 1 is due by the start of today’s class.

### Week 8: A Divided Hispaniola

**M 3/12      The Trujillo Regime**

Reading:      *The Farming of Bones*, Chapters 1-26

### Week 9: A United Hispaniola?

**M 3/19      Haitian-Dominican Relations since Trujillo**

Reading:      *The Farming of Bones*, Chapters 27-41  
                  *The Caribbean*, Part 7 (Essay 37)

Screening:      *Black in Latin America: Haiti & the Dominican Republic: An Island Divided*

Assignments:

- Short Paper 1 grades and instructor comments will be available on D2L.
- The list of suggested final paper topics and sources will be available on D2L. We will briefly discuss it, but you are expected to look it over on your own time before deciding on a final paper topic.
- We will also discuss guidelines for choosing your final paper topic.

**SPRING BREAK (MARCH 26-30)**

### Week 10: The Long Cuban Revolution

**M 4/2      Understanding the Cuban Revolution**

Reading:      *The Caribbean*, Part 5 (Essay 22), Part 6 (Essay 29), and Part 7 (Essay 34)

Assignments:

- Today is the first day to submit final paper topics. Students submitting topics by today's class will receive feedback by April 6.
- The guidelines and grading rubrics for writing the final paper prospectus and the final paper will be distributed and discussed.

**Week 11: The Long U.S.-Cuba Cold War**

**M 4/9      The Revolution Institutionalized**

Reading: *Cuban Revelations*, Introduction and Parts I and II

Assignments:

- Today is the last day to submit final paper topics. Students submitting topics by today's class will receive feedback by April 13.
- The Short Paper 2 prompt will be distributed and discussed.

**Week 12: Cuba from Fidel to Raúl, Obama to Trump**

**M 4/16      Change and Continuity in Revolutionary Cuba**

Reading: *Cuban Revelations*, Parts III and IV

Assignments:

- The final paper prospectus/bibliography is due by the start of today's class.

**Week 13: Puerto Rico**

**M 4/23      Puerto Rico and the Push for Statehood**

Reading: *The Caribbean*, Part 7 (Essay 36)  
Additional readings will be posted to D2L one week prior to class

Assignments:

- Short Paper 2 is due by the start of today's class.
- Final paper prospectus/bibliography grades and instructor comments will be available on D2L.
- The guidelines for final paper consultations will be distributed and discussed. Consultation preferences will be collected in class and the consultation schedule posted by the end of the day today.



### Week 14: Final Paper Consultations

M 4/30      **No regular class or office hours today**

Reading:      None; read for your final paper

Assignments:

- Final paper consultations with Prof. Reejhsinghani will be held at her office, 457 CCC, in scheduled 10-minute intervals.
- Arrive 5 minutes early, bring a hard copy of your paper prospectus and something non-electronic to write with, and be ready with your questions as well as ready to answer the professor's questions.

### Week 15: Climate Change and the Caribbean

M 5/7      **Reasons for Hope, Reasons for Fear**

Reading:      Readings will be posted to D2L one week before class

Assignments:

- Today is the last day to complete extra-credit opportunities toward your attendance/participation grade, which is being posted to D2L tomorrow.
- Final paper consultation grades and instructor comments will be available on D2L.
- Short Paper 2 grades and instructor comments will be available on D2L.

**FINAL PAPERS** are due by the end of our regularly scheduled final exam meeting time, which is Thursday, May 17, 2018, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST. To avoid late penalties, you will need to upload your final paper to the relevant D2L drop box by 7:00 p.m. that day.

