



Professor Hyacinth Miller  
[htmiller@lcs.rutgers.edu](mailto:htmiller@lcs.rutgers.edu)  
Office: Lucy Stone Hall – A253  
Virtual office hours: By appointment

## **INTRO TO CARIBBEAN STUDIES**

*Spring Session ~ January 19 through May 14 ~01:595:100*

### **About This Course**

The Caribbean – Crossroads of the World – is more than a tropical region filled with palm trees, exotic people and resorts. In this discussion-based interactive course, you will explore the history of the Caribbean, its geography, literary and cultural productions (music/film/food/religion), and its intellectual tradition. Together, we will reflect on major issues including: colonialism; economic intra and interdependence; culture and language; regional, national and ethnic identity; and independence. We will also connect the events of the past to current events to help explain the political, social and economic status of the countries of the Caribbean and their relationship to and with the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Emphasis will be given to understanding contributions of Caribbean Studies to the exploration of contemporary issues in our interconnected world and serve as a foundation for future coursework in the Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies.

### **Course Outcome Goals**

This course satisfies the following SAS Core Learning Goal in Contemporary Challenges, Our Common Future [CCO]: [B] Analyze a contemporary global issue from a multidisciplinary perspective.

1. Explain the relevance of major actors, events and ideas that have shaped Caribbean history
2. Identify Caribbean nations on a map and differentiate according to colonial heritage, language and ethnicity
3. Describe the impact of colonialism, globalization and neocolonialism on the Caribbean's socio-economic and political status
4. Explain the strategies employed by indigenous, formerly enslaved and indentured laborers to undermine social, economic and political oppression
5. Improve critical thinking and writing skills, as applied to Caribbean Studies, through engagement with interdisciplinary scholarship and analysis of primary sources

For LCS Department Learning Goals, see [LatCar Learning Goals](#)

**Prerequisites:** A willingness to engage in with new materials and an openness to different ideas

**Required Texts** All books are available at the campus bookstore

1. Camille Hernandez-Ramdwar. 2014. ***Introduction to the Caribbean, Diversity Challenges, Resiliency, Second Edition***. (Kendall Hunt) ISBN: 978-1-4652-9983-3  
You can also use the attached link to purchase the e-book. [Course Book](#)
2. Jamaica Kincaid, ***A Small Place*** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000)  
ISBN: 978-0374527075
3. Frantz Fanon. ***Black Skin, White Masks***. Grove Press. ISBN: 978-0802143006

## Videos and Web sites

Any required films and videos will be available on Sakai. There is no charge to view any films contained in the Rutgers Libraries. You can borrow full versions of the course films from the Rutgers Media Library.

## Grading

1. Article Submissions.....30%  
Three article analyses that focus on a contemporary issue in the Caribbean.
2. Class Participation.....5%  
Self-introduction video, six contributions to threaded discussions, with no late submissions and appropriate responses to classmate videos.
3. Country Presentation.....10%  
A seven-to-ten minute country presentation video responding to question prompts (10% individual & 10% group)
4. Quizzes.....20%  
Four 10-question quizzes
5. Final Exam.....35%  
The final exam will consist of twenty-five questions from the full semester

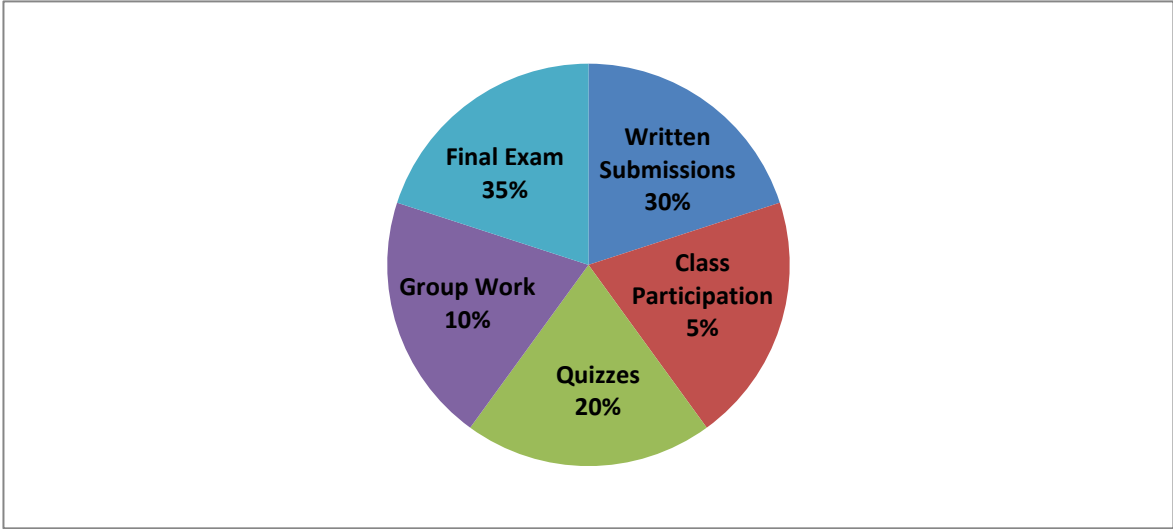
Grading Scale

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| 93 - 100 | A  |
| 89 - 92  | B+ |
| 81 - 88  | B  |
| 77 - 80  | C+ |
| 70 - 76  | C  |
| 65 - 69  | D  |
| 0 - 64   | F  |



The image to the left is of five children, varying ages, cutting sugar cane in a tropical climate wearing tattered clothing. It appears they are all young boys. This piece was painted by William Aiken Walker, entitled Sugar Cane Cutting. You can read more information at this link [Works by the artist](#)

Course Grading Breakdown



## Communication Policy

You are responsible for reading all of my posted announcements. You should log into our course site daily to check for new announcements. Please contact me via email at [htmiller@lcs.rutgers.edu](mailto:htmiller@lcs.rutgers.edu). I will usually respond to email messages within 24 to 48 hours (except for weekends).

When posting to our discussion board or communicating with others:

- Be courteous and respectful of other points of view
- Avoid using slang, colloquial language and abbreviations, which can be misinterpreted
- Do not capitalize all letters because this suggests shouting
- Think and proofread before you submit

When sending me an email, please be sure to address the email as Dear Professor Miller, Dear Ms. Miller or Dear Professor. **I WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAIL MESSAGES THAT BEGIN WITH “Hey”, “Yo”, or NO GREETING AT ALL.**

Always include the subject and course name in the subject line because I teach more than one class per semester.

RU Web mail is the official email address used by the course software. University policy is **to only communicate with students using a Rutgers email address.**

## Academic Integrity

This course follows Rutgers University policies relating to Academic Integrity. Rutgers University expects students to maintain the highest ethical standards. The consequences of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, are very serious. Rutgers' academic integrity policy is here [Academic Integrity for Students](#)

When you submit an exam or assignment, you need to abide by the honor pledge of “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).” Plagiarism means copying another person’s written work and presenting it as your own. This covers all submitted work in this course. The University takes plagiarism very seriously as do I.

## Participation Policy

**This is a fully online, asynchronous course** with online activities, assignments, and lectures. This means that we do not meet at a scheduled time or on a scheduled day.

Your engagement with the course is critical as I monitor your activities on the course Webpage as Sakai creates an electronic record of each student's participation.

## Time Commitment

This course includes considerable time spent doing readings, assignments and other work toward course mastery. To be successful in this course, guidelines estimate that you will need to spend at least six to nine hours of coursework per week. Depending on your individual background and/or schedule, some Units may require more time, some less.

|                                                            |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| ✚ Watching Instructor Video Lectures and other Multimedia: | up to 2 hours |
| ✚ Reading Assignments:                                     | up to 3 hours |
| ✚ Various Weekly Assignments:                              | up to 2 hours |
| ✚ Composition of Discussion Post and Reply to Peers:       | up to 1 hour  |

This course has a schedule with deadlines. **This course is NOT self-paced.** Do not try to 'save-up' all course work to the last day of each unit. Doing work every day works best.

## Dropping or Withdrawing from the Course

To drop or withdraw from this course, it is not sufficient to stop posting assignments or contributing to discussion. **You must do so formally through the Registrar's office.** It is your responsibility to complete all forms, and if you do not do so, I must assign a grade of F at the end of the semester. Please see the attached Registrar link for applicable deadlines [Academic Calendar](#)

**Required technological skills** Ability to use Sakai

## Technical Problems

**Direct technical questions to the Student Help Desk at: 833-OIT-HELP (4357) or send an e-mail to [help@oit.rutgers.edu](mailto:help@oit.rutgers.edu).**

If there is a technical glitch on Sakai, e-mail your assignment to me at [htmiller@lcs.rutgers.edu](mailto:htmiller@lcs.rutgers.edu), **BEFORE** the deadline.

In an online environment, there is always a possibility of a technical glitch (e.g., lost connection, hardware or software failure). Many of these can be resolved relatively quickly, but if you wait until the last minute to do/submit an assignment, the chances of these glitches affecting your success increase. Please plan appropriately. If a problem occurs, it is essential you take immediate action to resolve the problem.

## Required equipment

Computer, internet access, webcam with microphone OR headphones with microphone; software that can save a document in Microsoft Word.

**Course Content: View Course Content for an expanded view of the course schedule in Sakai for each unit.**

Section 1. Indigenous Peoples, Colonization and Slavery

Section 2. Emancipation, Decolonization and Independence

Section 3. Caribbean Political Movements

Section 4. Migration and Globalization

The photo below is of Citadelle Laferrière, a mountaintop fortress, located on the northern coast of Haiti. This structure has become the symbol of Haiti's power and independence. Haiti's rich history includes the most successful slave revolt in the New World, which led directly to the establishment of the independent nation of Haiti in 1804. Jean-Jacques Dessalines, the leader of the revolt, was named emperor of the new nation and ordered the making of this fort. For more information, click the link [Citadelle Laferrière](#)



### Course Assignment Due Dates

| Assignment                  | Due Date              |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Self-Introduction           | January 30            |
| Syllabus Quiz               | May 1                 |
| Article 1                   | February 10           |
| Quiz 1                      | February 5 – 12       |
| *Extra Credit 1             | February 24           |
| Article 2                   | March 17              |
| Quiz 2                      | February 26 – March 5 |
| *Extra Credit 2             | March 24              |
| SPRING BREAK                | March 12 – March 21   |
| Quiz 3                      | March 26 – April 2    |
| Article 3                   | April 21              |
| *Extra Credit 3             | April 21              |
| Group Country Presentations | April 19 – April 30   |
| Quiz 4                      | April 23 – May 3      |

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| FINAL EXAM | TBD |
|------------|-----|

## Weekly Readings

| Course Themes                                                  | Topics Covered                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Section/Week 1<br/>Colonization and<br/>Emancipation</b>    | Introduction & the Indigenous         |
|                                                                | The Maroons                           |
|                                                                | Revolution and Independence           |
| <b>Section/ Week 2<br/>Decolonization and<br/>Independence</b> | Caribbean Racial Formations           |
|                                                                | Post-Emancipation and Indentureship   |
|                                                                | The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico       |
|                                                                | United States Virgin Islands          |
|                                                                | The Dutch Atlantic                    |
| <b>Section/Week 3<br/>Caribbean Political<br/>Movements</b>    | Caribbean Economies                   |
|                                                                | Cuba                                  |
|                                                                | Grenada, Carriacou, Petite Martinique |

| Course Themes                           | Topics Covered                  |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                         | Panama                          |
|                                         | Trinidad and Tobago             |
| <b>Section/Week 4<br/>Globalization</b> | Caribbean Tourism               |
|                                         | Cultural Productions - Music    |
|                                         | Cultural Productions - Heritage |
|                                         | Migration and the Diaspora      |

## **THE DEPARTMENT OF LATINO AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES**

### **Departmental Certificate in Multicultural Competence**

The job market and professional and graduate schools have become more competitive. Students and former students pursuing careers in Law, Health, Social Welfare, Planning and Public Policy, and Business, as well as students interested in securing graduate degrees in Anthropology, English, History, and Literature (among others) speak of the benefit of completing majors and minors in interdisciplinary areas such as Latino and Caribbean Studies (LCS).

While a major or a double major is ideal, now students can also aspire to obtain due recognition for their training and knowledge on multicultural matters by taking at least nine credits offered with the designation 01:595, which is the number that identifies the Department of LCS. Up to one course cross-listed in LCS, but taken through a different department, will count towards this departmental certificate.

Application is easy: the form asks for your name, student ID, major, minor, and nine [9] credits that you have taken in LCS. More information about the certification and the application are available on the department Web site using this link, [Multicultural Competence Certificate](#)