

HIST 3240  
Spring 2009  
LeConte Hall #323  
TR 11:00 – 12:15

Dr. Reinaldo L. Román  
LeConte Hall #304  
Office Hours: TR 2:15 – 3:15  
rroman@uga.edu

## THE CARIBBEAN AREA

To many casual observers in the United States, the contemporary Caribbean appears to rest peaceably beyond the main currents of the hemisphere's history. Whether "the islands" are described as tropical paradises or as outposts of backwardness, it is often asserted that the Caribbean is as it is because modernity passed it by. If its beaches appear pristine, it is because poverty has protected the region from development. If its cities and countryside appear mired in misery, it is again because the Caribbean "fell behind."

This survey makes a case that puts the Caribbean at the center of the world that European expansion (and the African Diaspora that followed) helped to fashion. Europe's overseas empires were first established there. Industrial agriculture, the commoditization of time, and the trade in laborers all had deep roots in the Caribbean's sugar, coffee and tobacco plantations. Indeed, some argue that globalization had its first run in this region. (There are other contenders for that dubious honor). The Caribbean, however, has long been more than an extraction site. Caribbean peoples gave birth to new social and cultural formations, including the first African-American societies. Caribbean people of all colors embraced and revitalized the values that underpin the modern order, at times re-exporting them to the West. Such is the story of Haiti's revolutionaries who extended the rights of man to former slaves and altered Western notions of democracy and citizenship in the process.

The course is organized thematically, but it proceeds chronologically, underscoring the last two hundred years. The readings alternate between those that explore the origins of extractive machines from plantations to tourist resorts and those that highlight production. Among the latter, we will consider the impact of sugar manufacturing on Europeans and the consequences of the region's revolutionary upheavals for metropolitan centers.

### Course Requirements

1. Reading is essential for the satisfactory completion of the course. Please note that a number of required readings are available only at the Main Library or the WebCT site for the course. If you enroll in this class, you must be willing to go to the Library, and you must access digital sources in a timely fashion. The password for all items in electronic reserves at the Main Library is: <Caribs>.

The following required books are available for purchase at the UGA Bookstore: Laurent Dubois and John D. Garrigus, *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1789-1804* (Bedford 2006); Sidney W. Mintz, *Worker in the Cane* (W. W. Norton 1974); Piri Thomas, *Down These Mean Streets* (Vintage [1967] 1997); and Alejandra Bronfman, *On the Move: The Caribbean Since 1989* (Zed Books, 2007).

2. Course assignments and exams emphasize writing. Students are expected to craft their essays with care and to submit them on time. Students are encouraged to bring their outlines and drafts to office hours for one-on-one guidance.

3. Several films will be screened throughout the semester. Students who are unable to attend afternoon screenings must make arrangements to watch the films on their own at the Main Library prior to the class deadline.

### **Grades and Policies**

1. Grades: Grades will be calculated as follows: two (2) essays, 15% each; one (1) research paper; 20%; a mid-term exam, 20%; and a final exam, 25%. Participation will account for 5%.

2. Attendance: Regular attendance is required. Students who miss four (4) meetings without valid excuse will be withdrawn with a “WF.”

3. Course Withdrawals: Permission to withdraw will be granted as a matter of course only during the first two weeks of the term.

14. Tests: Exams will be administered only once; no make-up assignments will be offered unless an emergency has occurred.

5. Deadlines: Late assignments will be penalized one full letter grade for each day past the deadline. Late papers must be submitted via email as MS Word attachments. Hard-copies should also be delivered to LeConte Hall #304.

6. Changes to the schedule: Please, keep in mind that it may be necessary to make changes to the syllabus. Any alternations will be announced in class and through WebCT.

7. Academic Honesty: Students are responsible for knowing the University’s policy on academic honesty. All academic work submitted in this course must be your own unless you have received my permission to collaborate and have properly acknowledged receiving assistance. It is my responsibility to uphold the University’s academic honesty policy and report apparent dishonesty to the Office of the Vice President for Instruction. The penalties for academic dishonesty can be severe; ignorance of the rules is not a defense. Please, consult “A Culture of Honesty” at <[http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm)>.

### **Schedule**

Thursday      1/8      Overview

#### ***Snapshots***

Tuesday      1/13      through a camera lens

Assignment: Watch *Life and Debt* (Jamaica, 2001; 80 minutes); the film is available at the Media Desk on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Main Library and at <http://video.google.com>; read Bronfman, *On the Move*, introduction and chapter 3.

Thursday 1/15 Through historians' spectacles  
Reading: Sidney W. Mintz, "The Caribbean as a Socio-Cultural Area," *Cahiers d'Histoire Mondiale* 9: 912-937 (WebCT).

### ***Europe and the Re-making of the Caribbean***

Tuesday 1/20 Life and afterlife of the Taínos  
Reading: (1) Bartolomé Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*, 3-30 (WebCT); and (2) Jorge Duany, "Making Indians Out of Blacks," in Gabriel Haslip-Viera, ed., *Taino Revival* (New York: Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, 1999), pp. 31-55 (WebCT); and sources on WebCT.

Thursday 1/22 The plantation system  
Reading: (1) William D. Phillips, "The Old World Background of Slavery in the Americas" in *Slavery and the Rise of the Atlantic System*, Barbara L. Solow, (ed.), pp. 43-61; (2) Marietta Morrissey, "Women's Work, Family Formation, and Reproduction Among Caribbean Slaves," in CSAW, pp. 670-682; and Robert L. Paquette, *Sugar is Made with Blood*, (Middletown, CN: Wesleyan UP, 1988), pp. 51-80 (all on WebCT).

### ***Consuming Sugar***

Tuesday 1/27 *The Last Supper* (Cuba, 1976)  
Assignment: **Research proposal due**

Thursday 1/29 The production of desire  
Reading: Sidney W. Mintz, *Sweetness and Power*, chap. 3 (RES).

### ***Counter-Plantations and Ethnogenesis***

Tuesday 2/3 Pirates, maroons, and jíbaros  
Reading: (1) Marcus Redicker, "Under the Banner of King Death," *William and Mary Quarterly* 38, pp. 203-227 (RES); and (2) Esteban Montejo, "The Autobiography of a Runaway Slave," in Verene Shepherd and Hilary McD. Beckles, eds., *Caribbean Slavery in the Atlantic World*, pp. 829-842 (RES); and sources on WebCT.

Thursday 2/5 Creolization and ethnogenesis  
Reading: Richard Price, "The Miracle of Creolization: A Retrospective," *New West Indian Guide / Nieuwe West-Indische Gids* 75 (1 & 2) (2001): pp. 35-64 (RES); and sources on WebCT.

Tuesday 2/10 **Midterm exam – Please, bring a blue book.**

Thursday 2/12 Research workshop

### ***The Haitian Revolution***

Tuesday 2/17 From rebellion to revolution  
Reading: Dubois and Geggus, *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean*, introduction.

Thursday 2/19 Impact and consequences  
Reading: Selected documents from *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean*.

### ***Emancipation Struggles***

Tuesday 2/24 Abolition and emancipation

Reading: (1) Franklin W. Knight, "The Disintegration of the Caribbean Slave Systems, 1772-1886," in Franklin W. Knight, ed. *General History of the Caribbean*, v. 3, London: UNESCO Publishing, 1997, pp. 322-345 (RES); (2) Hilary M. Beckles, "Caribbean Anti-Slavery: The Self-Liberation Ethos of Enslaved Blacks," and (3) sources on WebCT.

Thursday 2/26 *Sugar Cane Alley* (Martiquine, 1984; 107 minutes)

**Paper #1 due;** no reading assignment.

### ***1898***

Tuesday 3/3 The Spanish American War

Assignment: *Crucible of Empire: The Spanish American War* (US, 1999; 120 minutes), on reserve at the Media Desk, 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Main Library.

Thursday 3/5 Details TBA.

### **Spring Break 3/9 – 3/13**

### ***The Resurrection of the Plantation***

Tuesday 3/17 Cuba and Puerto Rico under US rule

Reading: Lillian Guerra, "The Promise and Disillusion of Americanization," *Centro Journal Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños* 11 (3-4) (December 1999), pp. 1-42 (RES).

Thursday 3/19 The civilizing mission of the United States

Reading: Eileen J. Findlay, "Love in the Tropics," in Gilbert M. Joseph, Catherine C. LeGrand, and Ricardo D. Salvatore, eds. *Close Encounters of Empire*, pp. 139-172 (RES).

Tuesday 3/24 From haciendas to sugar trusts

Reading: Sidney W. Mintz, *Worker in the Cane*, chaps. 1-3

### ***Industrialization and Development***

Thursday 3/26 *Manos a la obra* (Puerto Rico, 1997; 59 minutes)

Reading: Sidney W. Mintz, *Worker in the Cane*, chap. 5-8.

Tuesday 3/31 Discussion of *Worker in the Cane*

**Paper #2 due;** no reading assignment.

### ***Socialist Development, a Cuban Counter-Point***

Thursday 4/2 The Cuban Revolution

Reading: Louis A. Pérez, *Cuba*, 337-381 (RES); and sources on WebCT.

Tuesday 4/7 A "third" path to development?

Reading: Bronfman, *On the Move*, chap. 2.

***Migration***

Thursday 4/9 Caribbean Diasporas since the 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Reading: Thomas, *Down These Mean Streets*.

Tuesday 4/14 Shifting racial hierarchies  
Reading: *Down These Mean Streets*.

Thursday 4/16 Discussion  
Reading: Thomas, *Down These Mean Streets*.

Tuesday 4/21 **Research paper due**

***Transnationalism***

Thursday 4/23 New peoples for a new dispensation  
Reading: Bronfman, *On the Move*, chap. 1.

Tuesday 4/28 Conclusions

**FINAL EXAM**  
*PLEASE, BRING A BLUE BOOK.*  
LECONTE HALL #323  
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009  
12:00 - 3:00 PM