

HISTORY 697Q: CARIBBEAN HISTORY: NEW APPROACHES: OLD DEBATES

History 697Q is an advanced reading and discussion course in the historiography of the Caribbean from pre-Columbian times to the present. Since the 1960s Latin Americanists have adopted a variety of methodologies, theories and techniques to examine old and new topics concerning this complex region. Although we will consider the region as a whole, our focus will be on Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico. We will be emphasizing recent, representative texts, monographs and essays but placing them in the context of earlier research. Our purpose is to survey this extensive bibliography, to learn about current directions in methodology, and to identify areas of potential future study.

Course Organization

This course is organized to highlight common themes/debates in the history of our four countries in a quasi-chronological order. Assigned reading for each week will usually include a monograph and some short essays pertinent to the topic. We will take turns reading the discussions. Two short essays will be due throughout the semester comparing theme and or historical approaches of the required reading. In addition each student will choose one topic to explore in depth. He/she will review several key works on this topic and write either a ten-page historiographical essay or a research proposal for a potential seminar topic.

Evaluation:

Course grades will be determined as follows: 30% class discussion; 30% short papers; 40% historiographic essay/research proposal.

Books

The following books can be purchased at the Textbook Annex. U-Mass copies have been placed on reserve. Copies are also available from the other Five College libraries.

Franklin W. Knight, The Caribbean. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford, 1990.

Frank Moya Pons. The Dominican Republic: A National History. Princeton: Markus Wiener, 1995.

David Nicholls. From Dessalines to Duvalier: Race, Colour and National Independence in Haiti.
New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers, 1996.

Louis A. Pérez Jr. Winds of Change: Hurricanes and the Transformation of Nineteenth-Century Cuba.
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.

_____. The War of 1898: The United States and Cuba in History and Historiography. Chapel Hill:
University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

William D. Phillips, Jr. and Carla Rahn Phillips. The Worlds of Christopher Columbus. New York:
Cambridge University Press, 1992.

César J. Ayala. American Sugar Kingdom: The Plantation Economy of the Spanish Caribbean,
1898-1934. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999.

C.L.R. James. The Black Jacobins. 2nd ed. New York, 1963.

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. Women in San Juan 1820-1868. Princeton: Markus Wiener, 2001.

Mary. A. Renda. Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940.
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.

Catherine Moses. Real Life in Castro's Cuba. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 2000.

Tentative Syllabus

- 1st Week** **Feb. 1** **Introduction and Organizational Meeting: Is the Caribbean a “Region”?**
Franklin Knight, The Caribbean 2nd ed (New York, 1990), pp. xii-xvi.
Stephen Randall, and Graeme S. Mount, The Caribbean Basin: an International History (London, 1998), 1-10.
Parry, Sherlock and Maingot, A Short History of the West Indies.
4th ed. (New York, 1987), ix-xiv.
Aaron Segal, “The Caribbean: Small is Scary,” Current History 90:554
(March, 1991), 105-138.
- 2nd Week** **Feb. 8** **Pre-Columbian Peoples of the Caribbean**
Knight, 3-26; Moya Pons 1-27
David Henige, “On the Contact Population of Hispaniola: History as
Higher Mathematics,” HAHR 58:2 (May 1978)217-237.
R.A. Zambardino, “Critique of David Henige’s “On the Contact Population”
HAHR 58:4 (Nov. 1978) 709-712.
Mucaro Borrero, “Rethinking Taino: A Taíno Perspective,” in
Haslip-Viera, ed. Taino Revival: Critical Perspectives on
Puerto Rican Identity and Cultural Politics ,139-160.
Sauer, The Early Spanish Main, 196-217
- 3rd Week** **Feb. 15** **Columbus and the Spanish Conquest**
William D. Phillips and Carla Rahn Phillips, The Worlds of Christopher
Columbus, 1992
Knight, 27-65.
Moya Pons, “The Early Spanish Rule (1492-1606),” 29-50.

Other: John Noble Wilford, The Mysterious History of Columbus
Lewis Hanke: The Spanish Struggle for Justice
Alfred W. Crosby, Jr. The Colombian Exchange: Biological and Cultural
Consequences of 1492. Westport, CT, 1972.
- Feb. 21 First Paper Due: Review of Phillips, The Worlds of Christopher Columbus
- 4th Week** **Feb. 22** **What has been the impact of the environment on Caribbean History?**
Louis Perez, Winds of Change: Hurricanes and the Transformation of
Nineteenth-Century Cuba (Chapel Hill, 2001.)
Stuart B. Schwartz, “The Hurricane of San Ciriaco: Disaster, Politics,
and Society in Puerto Rico, 1899-1901,” HAHR 72:3 (August 1992):
303-334.
Fernando Ortiz, Cuban Counterpoint: Tobacco and Sugar (New York, 1947),
excerpts. Reprint.
- 5th Week** **March 1** **The Sugar Revolution and Slavery**
César J. Ayala, American Sugar Kingdom: The Plantation Economy of the
Caribbean. 1898-1934
Knight, pp. 88-158.
Nicholls, pp. 1-27

6th Week **March 8** **Wars of Independence**
 C.L.R. James, The Black Jacobins
 Knight, 119-221; Moya Pons, 91-116; Nicholls, 1-66

Other: George Tyson, Toussaint L'Ouverture
 Thomas O. Ott, The Haitian Revolution 1789-1804

Second Paper due March 11: Comparison of Pérez and Ayala

Spring Vacation

7th Week **March 22** **Race, Gender and Nationalism in the Nineteenth Century**
 Matos Rodriguez, Women in San Juan
 Moya Pons, 143-164
 Nicholls, 67-141

8th Week **March 29** **The Cuban-Spanish-American War**
 Perez, The War of 1898
 Duvan C. Corbitt, "Cuban Revisionist Interpretations of Cuba's Struggle for Independence," HAHA 32*Aug. 1963): 395-404.
 Other: John M. Kirk. Martí, Mentor of the Cuban Nation. Tampa, 1983.

9th Week **April 5** **Assessing the Era of U.S. Intervention:**
 Renda, Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940
 Moya Pons, 321-339
 Nicholls, 142-164
 Other: John J. Johnson. Latin America in Caricature. Austin, 1980.

Choose Paper Topics.
10th Week **April 12** **Dictators vs Democratic Rule**
 Nicholls, 165-238
 Moya Pons, 357-380
 Other: Richard Lee Turits. The Foundations of Despotism: Peasants, The Trujillo Region, and Modernity in Dominican History. Sanford, 2003.
 James Ferguson. Papa Doc, Baby Doc: Haiti and the Duvaliers. New York, 1987.
 Jonathan Hartlyn, The Struggle for Democratic Politics in the Dominican Republic. Chapel Hill, 1998.

11th Week **April 19** **Assessing the Cuban Revolution**
 Moses, Real Life in Castro's Cuba
 Knight, 227-256
 Other: Marifeli Pérez-Stable. The Cuban Revolution: Origins, Course and Legacy. New York, 1993.
 Lois M. Smith and Alfred Padula. Sex and Revolution: Women in Socialist Cuba. New York, 1996.

12th Week **April 26** **Aristide and Lavalas in Haiti**
 Nicholls, 239-255; xi-xxxix

13th Week **May 3** **Presentation of Papers**

14th Week **May 10** **Presentation of Papers**
 Summary and conclusions

