

THE CARIBBEAN AND THE ATLANTIC WORLD

Tuesdays, 3:35-5:30 pm, 2005-06  
Matilde Zimmermann, Lynd  
Offices #4  
Westlands 104,  
SLC  
mzimmermann@slc.edu; tel. x 2321

FALL SEMESTER: 1492 TO 1898

"Do you know why people like me are shy about being capitalists? Well, it's because we, for as long as we have known you, were capital, like bales of cotton and sacks of sugar, and you were the commanding cruel capitalists, and the memory of this is so strong, the experience so recent, that we can't quite bring ourselves to embrace this idea that you think so much of."

--Jamaica Kinkaid, *A Small Place*

"I read 'bout all those who been making hist'ry, William the Conqueror an' Richard an all these, I read how they make hist'ry, an I say to myself 'tis time I make some too."

--George Lamming (*Barbados*)

Required books:

The following books are for sale at the bookstore and also on reserve at the library. Other assigned readings will be on reserve and/or passed out in class.

Kate McCafferty, *Testimony of an Irish Slave Girl*  
Marcus Rediker, *Villains of all Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age*  
John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1680*  
Franklin W. Knight, *The Caribbean: Genesis of a Fragmented Nationalism*  
C.L.R. James, *Black Jacobins*  
Louis A. Pérez Jr., *Winds of Change: Hurricanes & the Transformation of Nineteenth-Century Cuba*  
Emilia Viotti da Costa, *Crowns of Glory, Tears of Blood: The Demerara Slave Rebellion of 1823*

Class Schedule:

Week 1 [B Week]. Sept. 6: Introduction. Ivan and Katrina

Week 2 [A Week]. Sept. 13. Columbus: 500 Years of controversy  
Reading: Cristopher Columbus, "Letter to various persons," [February 1493], and extracts from "Digest of Columbus's Log-Book," from J.M. Cohen (ed), *The Four Voyages of Christopher Columbus*, pp. 115-123, 37-39, 51-73 [e-reserve]; Alfred W. Crosby, *The Columbian Voyages, the Columbian Exchange, and Their Historians* [e-reserve]; Franklin Knight, *The Caribbean*, chaps. 1 & 2 (3-65)

Short paper-due in class Sept. 13: Write a 2-3 page speech on the role of Christopher Columbus in history, for either an official Columbus Day

celebration or a counter-demonstration against the official celebration.

Week 3 [B Week]. Sept. 20. Hell is fair

Reading: Kate McCafferty, *Testimony of an Irish Slave Girl*, all

Week 4 [A Week]. Sept. 27. Africans and the slave trade

Reading: John Thornton, *Africa and Africans*, Part I, chapters 1-4 (1-125); Randy J. Sparks, *The Two Princes of Calabar*, 1-54 [e-reserve]

Week 5 [B Week]. Oct. 4. Pirates and international competition

Reading: Marcus Rediker, *Villains of all Nations*, all

Paper-due in class October 4. Write a 4-5 page paper addressing one of the following topics, with reference to at least two of the books we have read and to the first centuries of Caribbean history, particularly the 1600s and early 1700s. (1)The Myth of Race; (2)Outsiders: Migrants and Outlaws in Early Caribbean History

Week 6 [A Week]. Oct. 11. The world the slaves made

Reading: Knight, *The Caribbean*, chapters 3-7 (66-192); Thornton, *Africa and Africans*, Part II, chapters 5 & 6 (129-182)

Conference project: A one-paragraph conference proposal and short initial biography (minimum 2 books, 2 articles) due in class Oct. 11

Week 7 [B Week]. Oct. 18. Revolution in Haiti

Reading: C.L.R. James, *Black Jacobins*, all

Week 8. Oct. 25. [October Study Days - no class]

Week 9 [A Week]Nov. 1. Around the edges

Reading: ONE of the following [on 3-day reserve in library]:  
Aline Helg, *Liberty & Equality in Caribbean Colombia, 1770-1835*;  
Patrick J. Carroll, *Blacks in Colonial Veracruz: Race, Ethnicity and Regional Development*; Kimberly S. Hanger, *Bounded Lives, Bounded Places: Free Black Society in Colonial New Orleans, 1769-1803*

Conference project: Working bibliography due in class Nov 1

Paper - due in class Nov. 1. Write a 4-5 page paper looking at the Haitian Revolution and its impact as either a local, Caribbean-wide, or world event.

Week 10 [B Week]. Nov. 8. Culture, religion, and rebellion

Reading: Emilia Viotti da Costa, *Crowns of Glory, Tears of Blood: The Demerara Slave Rebellion of 1823*, all

Week 11 [A Week] Nov. 15. Nature's imperatives

Reading: Louis A. Pérez Jr., *Winds of Change: Hurricanes & the Transformation of Nineteenth-Century Cuba*, all

Week 12. Nov. 22. Slave rebellion [no class - film will be shown in Library on previous Sunday]

Film: "The Last Supper" (La Ultima Cena)

Week 13 [B Week]. Nov. 29. Slaves, peasants, and nation-building  
Reading: Eileen Finlay, *Imposing Decency*, Ch. 1 [e-reserve];  
Thomas Holt on ex-slaves in 19th-cent. Jamaica [chapter on e-reserve]

Conference projects: Rough draft of conference papers due in Matilde's  
office, 5pm, Friday, Dec. 2

Week. 14 [A Week]. Dec. 6. The War of 1898: Enter the United States  
Reading: Jose Marti: "Our America" and two letters of May 1895  
[e-reserve]  
Recommended: Louis A. Pérez, Jr., *Incurring a Debt of Gratitude: 1898  
and the Moral Sources of United States Hegemony in Cuba*, AHR, vol.  
104, #2 (1999), 356-397 [e-reserve]

Week. 15 [B Week]. Dec. 13. Conference Papers - Reports and discussion  
Conference projects: Final versions of conference papers due in  
Matilde's office 12 noon, Friday, Dec. 17

#### SPRING SEMESTER: THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

"I do not fear prison, as I do not fear the fury of the miserable  
tyrant who took the lives of 70 of my comrades. Condemn me. It does not  
matter. History will absolve me."

--Fidel Castro, 1953

"There is nothing with which poverty coincides so absolutely as with  
the colour blacksmall or large population, hot or cold climates, rich  
or poor in natural resourcespoverty cuts across all of these factors in  
order to find black people."

--Walter Rodney, 1969

"The national bourgeoisie organizes centers of rest and relaxation and  
pleasure resorts to meet the wishes of the Western bourgeoisie. Such  
activity is given the name of tourism. . . The casinos of Havana and of  
Mexico, the beaches of Rio, the little Brazilian and Mexican girls, the  
half-breed thirteen-year-olds, the ports of Acapulco and Copacabana  
all these are the stigma of this depravation of the national middle  
class. . .[which] will in practice set up its country as the brothel of  
Europe."

--Frantz Fanon, 1961

#### Required books:

The following books are for sale at the bookstore and also on reserve  
at the library. Other assigned readings will be on reserve and/or  
passed out in class.

Paul Farmer, *The Uses of Haiti*

Julia Alvarez, *In the Time of the Butterflies*

Ruth Glasser, *My Music is My Flag: Puerto Rican Musicians and Their New  
York Communities, 1917-1940.*

Ernesto Che Guevara, *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-1958*

Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moises Sio Wong, *Our History is Still*

Being Written.

Maurice Bishop, *Maurice Bishop Speaks. The Grenada Revolution and its Overthrow, 1979-83.*

Charles Hale, *Resistance and Contradiction: Miskitu Indians and the Nicaraguan State, 1894-1987*

Short papers

One of your two short papers will be a 5-6 page analysis of the most important contributions of one of the following individuals to Caribbean culture and ideology. These papers are due at different times, when you will also give a short presentation to the class on the person you have chosen to write about. Your first responsibility is to select a text of not more than 10 pages on your subject (interview, extract of writing, biographical essay) for the entire class to read before your presentation.

Marcus Garvey, 2/14

Lolita Lebron, 2/14

Walter Rodney, 3/7

Frantz Fanon, 3/7

Aimé Césaire, 3/7

Eric Williams, 3/28

Michael Manley, 3/28

Edwidge Danticat, 4/11

Class schedule:

Week 1 [B Week]. Jan. 17. Introduction: The War of 1898

Reading: Louis A. Pérez, Jr., "Incurring a Debt of Gratitude: 1898 and the Moral Sources of United States Hegemony in Cuba," *American Historical Review*, vol. 104, #2 (1999), 356-397 [e-reserve];

Jose Marti, Letter of May 2, 1895 [e-reserve];

Jose Marti, Letter of May 18, 1895 [e-reserve]

Week 2 [A Week]. Jan. 24. Haiti: Uses and Abuses

Reading: Paul Farmer, *The Uses of Haiti*, pp. 41-120

(introductions also recommended); Mary A. Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940*, Chapters 1 and 4, pp. 10-36, 131-181 [e-reserve]

Week 3 [B Week]. Jan. 31. The Dominican Republic Under Trujillo

Reading: Julia Alvarez, *In the Time of the Butterflies*;

Catherine C. Legrand, "Informal Resistance on a Dominican Sugar Plantation during the Trujillo Dictatorship," *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, vol. 75, No. 4 (Nov. 1995), 555-596 [e-reserve]

Recommended: Statements by President Lyndon B. Johnson and U.N.

Representative Adlai Stevenson on U.S. military intervention in Dominican Republic, Department of State Bulletin, May, 1965, pp. 738-748, 877-884 [e-reserve]

Week 4 [A Week]. Feb. 7. Guest lecture by Dean Hubbard

Film: *Sugar Cane Alley*

Week 5 [B Week]. Feb. 14. Immigration and Culture

Reading: Ruth Glasser, *My Music is My Flag: Puerto Rican Musicians and Their New York Communities, 1917-1940*

Short bios: Lolita Lebron, Marcus Garvey

Week 6 [A Week]. Feb. 21. Cuban Revolution

Reading: Ernesto Che Guevara, Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-1958

Conference project: A one-paragraph conference proposal and short initial biography (minimum 2 books, 2 articles) due in class Feb. 21

Week 7 [B Week]. Feb. 28. Cuba and the U.S.

Reading: Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moises Sio Wong, Our History is Still Being Written. Fidel Castro, Second Declaration of Havana [e-reserve]

Historiography paper due in class Feb. 28 - 5-6 pages looking at the assigned readings so far this semester in terms of their various analytical approaches to history and the different types of historical sources they represent (including historical monographs and journal articles, primary accounts, novels, films).

Week 8. [A Week] March 7. Anti-Colonialism, the Caribbean, and Africa

Reading: Walter Rodney, A History of the Guyanese Working People, 1881-1905, Forward & Chapter 7 ("Race as a Contradiction among the Working People), 174-189 [e-reserve]; C.L.R. James, "From Columbus to Fidel Castro" [e-reserve]

Short Bios: Franz Fanon, Aime Cesaire, Walter Rodney

Conference project: Working bibliography due in class March 7

Spring break - no class March 14 and 21

Week 9 [B Week] March 28. Grenada: Forward Ever?

Reading: Maurice Bishop, Maurice Bishop Speaks. The Grenada Revolution and its Overthrow, 1979-83

Short bios: Eric Williams, Michael Manley

Week 10 [A Week]. April 4. The Atlantic Coast and the Nicaraguan Revolution

Reading: Charles Hale, Resistance and Contradiction: Miskitu Indians and the Nicaraguan State, 1894-1987

Week 11 [B Week] April 11. Haiti Today

Reading: Farmer, Uses of Haiti, 120-end

Short Bio: Edwidge Danticat

Week 12. [A Week] April 18. Tourism: The New Sugar?

Reading: Kamala Kempadoo, Sun, Sex, and Gold: Tourism and Sex Work in the Caribbean, selected chapters

Week 13 [B Week]. April 25. Havana and Miami: Cubanidad and International Politics

Film: Honey For Oshún/Miel Para Oshún [3-hour library reserve]

Short Bio: Christina Garcia

Rough draft of conference paper (optional) due in Matilde's office by noon Monday, April 24. It will be returned to you with comments by the end of the day Thursday, April 27.

Week. 14 [A Week]. May 2. Venezuela and the Caribbean  
Film: "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised"

Final conference papers due in Matilde's office (or by email) by Monday, May 1, 12 noon. They will be copied and distributed to all students in class Tuesday, May 2.

Week. 15 [B Week]. May 9. Discussion of Conference Papers