

**History of the Modern Caribbean**  
**HIST 348/548 • Spring 2016**  
**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**  
**Tuesdays, 5:00 to 7:30 pm, 231 CCC**

Instructor:	Dr. Anju Reejhsinghani	Office Hours:	Mon., 5-7 p.m., Tu., 3:30-4:30
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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 geographic and cultural characteristics of Caribbean societies; the consequences of the Columbian Encounter on indigenous peoples; the introduction of African slaves and Asian indentured workers; the Age of Revolutions in the Caribbean; the influx of European, Asian, and other immigrants; U.S. military intervention and political, economic, and cultural hegemony; decolonization, political and economic integration, and nation-state formation; the formation of diasporas and rise of transnational citizenries; and environmental issues. 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 onto the British West Indies, notably Trinidad. The last major area of concentration is the Hispanic Caribbean, with an emphasis on Puerto Rico and Cuba. 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 stretching from 1898 to the present;
- (2) To explore pre-Columbian and colonial histories of the Spanish, British, French, Dutch, and Danish/U.S. Caribbean in comparative and individual perspective;
- (3) 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;

- (4) To interpret primary and secondary sources from a variety of disciplines, including history, literature, economics, anthropology, and political science, in order to gain a deeper awareness of the trajectory of Caribbean history and to fashion coherent, well-supported arguments about the historical significance of various events and historical trends; and
- (5) 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	10%
Final Paper Consultation	5%
Final Paper Presentation	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. *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2012.
- Nelson A. Dennis. *War against All Puerto Ricans: Revolution and Terror in America's Colony*. New York: Nation Books, 2015.
- V.S. Naipaul. *Miguel Street*. New York: Vintage International, 2002.

Textbook for rental (available at the UWSP University Store)

- Richard S. Hillman and Thomas J. D'Agostino, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*. 2nd edition. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2009. [**Hereafter abbreviated "HD."**]

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

- Louis A. Pérez, Jr., “Change through Impoverishment: A Half-Century of Cuba-U.S. Relations,” *NACLA*, 14 December 2015.
- Louis A. Pérez, Jr., “Change through Empowerment: A Half-Century of Cuba-U.S. Relations,” *NACLA*, 17 December 2015.

Additional readings for April 19 are TBD in consultation with Dr. Ernesto Domínguez López.

### In-Class Film Screenings

- *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. With the first short paper prompt, you will also receive a set of paper guidelines and a grading rubric that apply to both short papers. While focusing on a specific book (Paper #1 on Dubois’s *Haiti* and Paper #2 on Denis’s *War against All Puerto Ricans*), the prompts also reflect material discussed in class, other assigned readings, and films. Each short paper 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 1, 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 March 29 to obtain my immediate feedback and make suggested changes before writing your prospectus. (Paper topics will be accepted until April 5.) 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 12. This assignment is worth 10% of your course grade.

**Final Paper Consultation.** You are required to have one 10-minute in-person consultation with Prof. Reejhsinghani on your progress toward completing your final paper. These will be held during our class periods on April 26 and May 3 (we will not have regular classes on those dates). Your participation in this consultation is worth 5% of your course grade.

**Final Paper Presentation.** During our last class on May 10, each student will give a brief in-class presentation (no more than 5 minutes) on the topic, thesis, argumentation, and methodology of his/her final paper. Paper presentations count for 5% of the final 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, or bereavement for the loss of a close human friend or family member) 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 are NOT acceptable excuses to obtain a make-up or extension.

**Extra Credit.** Extra-credit opportunities bolster students' attendance/participation grades and are limited to four per student per semester. Each makes up for one-half of one unexcused absence; those with perfect attendance may earn attendance/participation grades in excess of 100 points (105 points maximum). Should more opportunities arise during the semester, I will post them to D2L and announce them in class. These are specific to your attendance/participation grade and are not applicable to any other coursework in this class.

**Accommodations.** Students with learning and/or physical disabilities requiring special accommodations must provide appropriate documentation to UWSP Disability Services (609 Learning Resource Center, tel. (715) 346-3365, TTY (715) 346-3362, <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/students/studentinformation.aspx>) at the start of the semester. Disability Services staff will work directly with the instructor to provide suitable learning accommodations.

### **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, February 3. After that, students withdrawing from this course no later than Friday, April 8, will receive a "W" on their transcripts. After Friday, April 8, 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

Tu 1/26      **What is the Caribbean?**

Reading:      None

### Week 2: Geography, Conquest, and Settlement

Tu 2/2      **The Caribbean in the Age of Revolutions**

Reading:      Dubois, *Haiti*, Introduction and Chapter 1  
HD, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3, pp. 51-60

### Week 3: Abolition, Indenture, and Regional Power Shifts

Tu 2/9      **Impacts of the Haitian Revolution**

Reading:      Dubois, *Haiti*, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3, pp. 89-104  
HD, Chapter 3, pp. 60-83

Assignments:

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

### Week 4: Race, Class, and Ethnicity

Tu 2/16      **Race and the Modern Caribbean**

Reading:      Dubois, *Haiti*, Chapter 3, pp. 105-134 and Chapter 4  
HD, Chapter 8

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

### Week 5: Occupation, Neocolonialism, and Hegemony

Tu 2/23      **The U.S. in the Caribbean**

Reading:      Dubois, *Haiti*, Chapters 5-6

### Week 6: Haiti

Tu 3/1      **Haiti since the U.S. Occupation**

Reading:      Dubois, *Haiti*, Chapters 7-8 and Epilogue

Assignments:

- The reading list of suggested final paper topics and sources is now 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.

Note: There is not a scheduled break today. Class will conclude by 6:30 p.m. so that you may attend the first of three films in the Latin American/Caribbean Speaker Series Latino film festival as an extra-credit event. “The New Latinos (1946-1965)” begins at 7 p.m. in the DUC Theater. Prof. Reejhsinghani is moderating.

**Week 7: Trinidad**

**Tu 3/8            Carnival, Calypso, and Callaloo: Trinidadian Culture**

Reading:        Naipaul, *Miguel Street*, Chapters 1-9

Assignments:

- The short paper guidelines and grading rubric, which will apply to both short papers in this class, will be distributed along with the short paper #1 prompt.

**Week 8: Trinidad**

**Tu 3/15           Decolonization and Ethnic Tensions in Modern Trinidad**

Reading:        Naipaul, *Miguel Street*, Chapters 10-17

Assignments:

- Short paper #1 is due by the start of today’s class.
- We will discuss guidelines for choosing your final paper topic.

Note: We will have an abbreviated break today. Class will conclude by 6:45 p.m. so that you may attend the second of three films in the Latino film festival as an extra-credit event. “Prejudice and Pride (1965-1980)” begins at 7 p.m. in the DUC Theater. Prof. Reejhsinghani is attending.

**\*\*\* ENJOY YOUR SPRING BREAK! (Week of March 21-25) \*\*\***

**Week 9: Puerto Rico**

**Tu 3/29           The Roots of Puerto Rican Nationalism**

Reading:        Denis, *War against All Puerto Ricans*, Preface and “Facts”  
HD, Chapter 4, pp. 87-106

Assignments:

- Today is the first day you can submit final paper topics.
- A final paper consultation preference list will be distributed. Please fill yours out and bring it to our next class.
- Short paper #1 comments and grades will be available on D2L by today.

Note: We will have an abbreviated break today. Class will conclude by 6:45 p.m. so that you may attend the last of three films in the Latino American film festival as an extra-credit event. "Peril and Promise (1980-2000)" begins at 7 p.m. in the DUC Theater. Prof. Reejhsinghani is attending.

You are encouraged to attend a very special public lecture organized by the  
UWSP Latin American/Caribbean Speaker Series:

"The Roots of the Central American Child Migrant Crisis"  
Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *Enrique's Journey*

Monday, April 4, 2016  
DUC Laird Room  
7:00 p.m.  
Free and open to the public

Ms. Nazario will do a book signing at 8:30 p.m., at the conclusion of the lecture.

Attendance at the lecture will count as one extra credit toward your Hist 348 attendance/participation grade. (You do not need to stay for the book signing.)

Prof. Reejhsinghani will be in attendance.

**Week 10: Puerto Rico**

**Tu 4/5 Colony, Commonwealth, Country, State? Puerto Rico's Status**

Reading: Denis, *War against All Puerto Ricans*, "People"

Assignments:

- Today is the last day to submit your final paper topics. If you submitted a topic last Tuesday, you will have received feedback by today. Topics submitted today will receive feedback by the end of this week.
- Final paper consultation time slot preference forms will be collected today. If you've forgotten yours, blank copies will be available in class. If you do not submit consultation preferences by the end of the day, it will be assumed that you are available for any of the slots during either week.
- The guidelines and grading rubrics for writing the final paper prospectus and the final paper will be distributed.



### Week 11: Puerto Rico

**Tu 4/12      The New Majority: Mainland Puerto Ricans**

Reading: Denis, *War against All Puerto Ricans*, “Events” and Epilogue  
HD, Chapter 12

Assignments:

- The paper prospectus and bibliography is due by the start of today’s class.
- The short paper #2 prompt will be distributed.
- The guidelines for and schedule of consultations will be distributed.

### Week 12: Cuba

**Tu 4/19      U.S.-Cuban Relations: The Past, Present, and Future**

Special Guest: Dr. Ernesto Domínguez López, University of Havana, Cuba

Reading: Two Louis Pérez NACLA articles (on D2L)  
Additional readings will be made available at least one week prior to this class

Assignments:

- Short paper #2 is due by the start of today’s class.
- Prospectus comments and grades will be available on D2L by today.
- The final paper presentation guidelines and schedule will be distributed.

### Week 13: Paper Consultations, Week 1

Note: I will not have regular office hours this week. If you are not doing a consultation this week but still wish to see me, please email me for an appointment.

**Tu 4/26      No regular class today; paper consultations begin**

Reading: None; read for your final paper

Assignments:

- Consultations with Prof. Reejsinghani will be held at her office, 457 CCC, in scheduled 10-minute intervals from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:20-7:30 p.m.
- If your consultation is today, arrive 5 minutes early, bring a hard copy of your paper prospectus and something non-electronic to write with, and be ready with your own questions as well as ready to answer the professor’s questions.
- If not, use this time to read and prepare for your consultation next week.

### **Week 14: Paper Consultations, Week 2**

Note: I will not have regular office hours this week. If you are not doing a consultation this week but still wish to see me, please email me for an appointment.

**Tu 5/3            No regular class today; paper consultations continue**

Reading:        None; read for your final paper

Assignments:

- Consultations with Prof. Reejhsinghani will be held at her office, 457 CCC, in scheduled 10-minute intervals from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:20-7:30 p.m.
- If your consultation is today, 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.
- If not, use this time to read and prepare for your final paper presentation.
- Short paper #2 comments and grades will be available on D2L by today.
- Consultation grades for 4/26 and 5/3 will be posted by the end of this week.

### **Week 15: New Research on the Caribbean**

**Tu 5/10            Class Presentations**

Reading:        None; read for your final paper

Assignments:

- Students grouped into small panels will each give a brief presentation (up to 5 minutes long) on their final papers.
- The last 15 minutes of today's class will be saved for student evaluations.
- Today is the last day to complete extra-credit opportunities toward your attendance/participation grade, which is being posted to D2L tomorrow.
- Final paper presentation grades will be available by the end of this week.

**FINAL PAPERS** are due by the end of our regularly scheduled final exam meeting time, which is Tuesday, May 17, 2016, from 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. To avoid late penalties, you will need to upload your final paper to the relevant D2L drop box by 9:15 p.m. CST on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.