Course Rationale:
This course provides an historical overview of the Caribbean history since the Haitian revolution. It will focus on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and our readings pay particular attention to the ways in which race, gender, and ethnicity shape the histories of the peoples of the region. The course uses a pan-Caribbean approach by focusing largely on three islands - Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba - that belonged to competing empires. Although the imperial powers that held these nations shaped their histories in distinctive ways these nations share certain common features. Therefore, we examine the differences and similarities of their histories as they evolved from plantation based colonies to independent nations.

Course Aims and Objectives:
By the end of this course, students will be familiar with the social and economic history of the Caribbean; major themes and debates in the study of slavery and resistance, imperialism and nationalism. In addition, students will leave with an understanding of how Caribbean history refines the study of race and ethnicity, migration and globalization.

Format and Procedures:
This class will meet twice each week for seventy-five minutes. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, attend each class session, actively listen and participate. Active participation includes taking notes, asking questions, contributing insights and ideas. Discussion is an important part of the learning process and we will have eight discussions over the course of the semester.

Finally, learning is a collaborative process therefore individually and collectively we share the responsibility for creating a respectful atmosphere where knowledge and critical insights are exchanged, disagreements inspire and learning occurs. To help foster this learning environment, please turn off cell phones during class and only use a computer for taking notes (no e-mail or web-surfing).

Course Requirements:
Attendance: I take attendance at the beginning of each class. Students are allowed two unexplained absences. Each subsequent absence will result in the loss of one third of a letter grade (i.e. B+ to B, etc.) on the final grade.
Assignments:
• complete readings corresponding with each lecture.
• Five short essays of 1,000 words (four pages) each. Two short essays must be completed by October 6th, and three essays by Dec. 4th.
• Final exam – Draft a research proposal (750 words) and preliminary bibliography (1 page) on a topic related to Caribbean history. Proposal must draw on readings from the course. Final exam is due by 6:00 pm December 12th.

Discussions: Participation is central to successful discussions and will be a factor in your final grade. You are expected to both attend and participate in discussion in meaningful ways, therefore you must come to discussions prepared. **If you are unprepared for discussion you will be considered absent.**

The class will be divided into discussion groups and each group must provide one question and a brief statement (max. 100 words) explaining why the question is important for general consideration and discussion. I strongly encourage each group to meet in person in order to develop the questions and statement. Questions must be posted to the class discussion board by 8:00 pm the evening **before** our discussion.

Use of sources: Reference citations must be clear and correct, and the use of information from other sources must be clear and responsible. A consistent style for citations must be used (e.g., MLA or Chicago) throughout the paper.

Grades: Your performance on the quizzes, exams, commentaries and participation during discussion will be factored into your final grade. The grades will be calculated along the following guidelines: short essays (75%), final exam (15%) and participation (10%).

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**Academic Integrity**
Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities**
In compliance with the Cornell University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

**Religious observance**
Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that fall during this academic term. Should you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please speak with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

**Commercial Internet Sites for Course Materials**
Materials prepared for this course, *Modern Caribbean History*, whether in hard copy or in digital formats and posted on Blackboard are intellectual property belonging to the author (the professor or instructor). Materials include, but are not limited to: syllabi, exams, lecture notes, course assignments. Students are not permitted to buy or sell any course materials without the express permission of the author. Such unauthorized behavior constitutes academic misconduct.

**Required Books:**
The required books may be purchased from the Cornell book store. In addition, all readings and films will be on reserve in the John Henrik Clarke Africana Library.


Week I

Aug. 25: Overview of course

Aug. 27: Encounters and Consequences

Readings:


Week II

Sept. 1: Labor and the Organization of Plantation Production

Reading:


Sept. 3: Creating a Slave Society


Week III

Sept. 8: Guest Speaker: Assemblymember, Michael Blake
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10:</td>
<td><strong>Discussion #1</strong></td>
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<td><em>Topic:</em> How had Caribbean society and economy changed between 1492</td>
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<td>and 1791?</td>
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<td><strong>Week IV</strong></td>
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<td>Sept. 15:</td>
<td><strong>Revolution in the Age of Slavery</strong></td>
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<td>Laurent Dubois.</td>
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<td><em>Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution</em></td>
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<td>Sept. 17:</td>
<td><strong>Rewriting Revolution</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Laurent Dubois.</td>
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<td><em>Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution</em></td>
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<td><strong>Week V</strong></td>
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<td>Sept. 22:</td>
<td><strong>Discussion #2</strong></td>
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<td><em>Topic:</em> Why does the Haitian revolution remain such a landmark event</td>
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<td>in the intellectual and social histories of the “New World”?</td>
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<td>Sept. 24:</td>
<td><strong>No Class</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week VI</strong></td>
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<td>Sept. 29:</td>
<td><strong>Agency and Abolition in the Anglophone Caribbean</strong></td>
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<td><em>Readings:</em></td>
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<td>Philip D. Morgan,</td>
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<td>“Ending the Slave Trade: A Caribbean and Atlantic Context” in Derek</td>
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<td>Peterson (ed.) *Abolitionism and Imperialism in Britain, Africa, and</td>
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<td>the Atlantic* (Ohio University Press, 2010), 101 – 128.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hilary Beckles.</td>
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<td>“Persistent Rebels: Women and Anti-Slavery Activity” in V. Shepherd</td>
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<td>Charles Forsdick.</td>
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<td>“Interpreting 2004: Politics, Memory, Scholarship” <em>Small Axe</em>,</td>
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<td>Barry Higman,</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>A Concise History of THE CARIBBEAN</em>, Chap. 5.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Oct. 1: Race and Ethnicity in Post-Emancipation Society
Readings:


Week VII

Oct. 6: Discussion #3
Topic: How did the end of slavery transform Caribbean society and economy?

Oct. 8: Race, Abolition and Sovereignty in Cuba
Readings:

Week VIII

Oct. 13: ****Fall Break****

Oct. 15: Race, Abolition and Sovereignty in Cuba
Readings:
Week IX

Oct. 20: Discussion #4
Topic: Why did the Haitian revolution play such a prominent role in the Cuban wars of independence?

Oct. 22 Wrestling with Freedom
Barry Higman
*A Concise History of THE CARIBBEAN*, Chap. 6 & 7


Week X

Oct. 27: Revolution and Social Change in Cuba
Readings:

Oct. 29: Revolution and Social Change in Cuba
Readings:
A. de la Fuente. *A Nation For All: Race, Inequality, and Politics in Twentieth-Century Cuba*, Chaps. 5 – Epilogue.

Week XI

Nov. 3: Discussion #5
Topic: How did race and inequality shape state-society relations in the societies discussed in the readings from Oct. 22 to 27th?

Nov. 5: Haiti’s Struggle for Democracy
Readings:
Week XII

Nov. 10: Haiti, Democracy and the International Community
Readings:
Alex Dupuy. The Prophet and Power: Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the International Community, and Haiti (Roman & Littlefield, 2007) Preface, Chap 1 - 3.

Nov. 12: Haiti’s Endless Revolution
Film: “Aristide and the endless revolution”

Week XIII

Nov. 17 Discussion #6
Topic: What factors made Aristide’s tenure similar to and yet different from earlier Haitian presidents? Draw examples from the readings as well as the film.

Nov. 19 Defining the Nation - Jamaica
Film: “Life and Debt” – Stephanie Black

Week XIV

Nov. 23: No Class

Nov. 25 NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Recess

Week XV

Dec. 1: Defining the Nation - Jamaica
Readings:

8
Dec. 3: Discussion #7

Topic: What distinguishes this era of globalization and what are its consequences on Jamaican society?
Change and Continuity in the Caribbean

Readings:


Shirley Campbell, “Come to Jamaica and Feel all right”: Tourism and the sex trade” in Kamala Kempadoo (ed.) *Sun, Sex, and Gold: Tourism and Sex Work in the Caribbean* (Rowman & Littlefield, 1999).


FILMS:

Calypso Dreams – Major and Minor Productions (DVD 1037)

Portrait of the Caribbean – BBC (F 2169. P67 v.1)

Caribbean Eye – Banyan (2078 Tape 1- 4)

Black in Latin America (DVD 567)

Life and Debt (DVD 1002)