

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
Department of History

History 70
Spring 2011
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1.15 – 2.40 pm
Trotter 203

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History of the Caribbean

Using contemporary documents and images, film, and recent scholarship, this course explores both common features and distinctive attributes of West Indian cultures and societies from the pre-Columbian era to the twentieth century. Among the topics to be examined are indigenous cultures, European colonization, the emergence of the plantation system, slavery and abolition, revolution and independence, decolonization and post-colonial societies, and changing representations of the Caribbean and its histories.

The requirements for the course include:

- 1) Regular, on-time attendance in class.
- 2) Informed and consistent participation in the class discussions.
- 3) An essay of about 1500 words (5 typed pages), due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, 15 February. A separate posting will give full details.
- 4) An essay of 1500-2000 words (5-7 typed pages), due at the beginning of class on Thursday, 24 March. Once again, complete information will be given in a separate posting.
- 5) An oral report of 10 minutes based on your final paper (see #6), given in class on either Tuesday, 26 April, or Thursday, 28 April.
- 6) A final essay, on a subject chosen in consultation with the instructor, of about 15 typed pages (4500 words), due at 5 p.m. on Saturday, 14 May.

The course will include some lectures to introduce topics, set readings in their historical context, and provide necessary general information. For the most part, however, it will consist of discussions. All students are expected to participate actively and in an informed manner. Final grades will be determined by the quality of both the written essays and class participation.

The history department has implemented the following policy on attendance: Students are required to attend all classes and fulfill on time all required work for the successful completion of the course. Unexcused absences and late submission of written work will result either in a lower grade or failure to pass the course.

Every student should buy the following paperbacks, available at the College bookstore:

Miguel Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*
 Trevor Burnard, *Mastery, Tyranny, & Desire. Thomas Thistlewood and His Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World*
 Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World. The Story of the Haitian Revolution*
 Richard Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves. The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies, 1624-1713*
 Sue Peabody and Keila Grinberg, eds., *Slavery, Freedom, and the Law in the Atlantic World*
 Louis A. Pérez, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*, 4th edition

Much of the readings will be in electronic reserves, accessed through Blackboard on the web; please let me know if you do not know how to use Blackboard

This course, like any other, is premised on mutual respect and honesty. Thus I expect that the work you submit is your own. Plagiarism will be severely penalized: any work containing plagiarized material will be granted the grade of no credit and may subject you to prosecution before the CJC. In order to clarify the issue of academic honesty, I will distribute copies of the History Department's guidelines. When in doubt, check with me.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND DISCUSSION

Tu. 18 Jan. Introduction: Singularity and Difference in the Caribbean

Th. 20 Jan. Caribbean Geographies and Histories

Tu. 25 Jan. Indigenous People Encounter Europeans

Reading (all Blackboard):

Christopher Columbus, "Letter," and "Journal"

Diego Álvarez Chanca, "Report"

Richard Hakluyt, *Principal Navigations*, selections

Th. 27 Jan. The Indigenous Caribbean Under Colonialism

Reading:

Philip Boucher, *Cannibal Encounters* (e-book via Tripod), chaps. 2-4

Tu. 1 Feb. The Rise of the Plantation System

Reading:

Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves*, preface and chaps. 1-3

Th. 3 Feb. The Triumph of Slavery

Reading:

Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves*, chaps. 4-7

Tu. 8 Feb. Plantation Life: the Enslaved

Reading:

Richard Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves*, chap. 7

Trevor Burnard. *Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire*, chaps. 3-7

Thomas Thistlewood's Diary, selections (Blackboard)

Father Jean-Baptiste Labat, *Nouveau voyage aux isles de l'Amerique*, selections (Blackboard)

Moreau de Saint-Mery, *Description topographique, physique, civile, politique et historique de la partie francaise de l'isle Saint-Domingue*, selections (Blackboard)

Th. 10 Feb. Plantation Life: the Free

Reading:

Richard Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves*, chaps. 8-10

Trevor Burnard. *Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire*, chaps. 1, 2, 8

Thomas Thistlewood's Diary, selections (Blackboard)

Moreau de Saint-Mery, *Description topographique, physique, civile, politique et historique de la partie francaise de l'isle Saint-Domingue*, selections (Blackboard)

Tu. 15 Feb. Plantation Society: Free People of Color

Reading:

John Garrigus, "Blue and Brown: Contraband Indigo and the Rise of a Free Colored Planter Class in French Saint-Domingue" (Blackboard)

"Petition from the Free Mulattos and Nègres in the Prisons of Fort Dauphin to the Superior Council of Cap Français (1765) (Blackboard)

Moreau de Saint-Mery, *Description topographique, physique, civile, politique et historique de la partie francaise de l'isle Saint-Domingue*, selections (Blackboard)

Paper due at the beginning of class (see #3, above)

Th. 17 Feb. Enslaved Women

Reading:

Barbara Bush, *Slave Women in Caribbean Society 1650-1838*, any two of chaps. 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 (ebook via Tripod)

Tu. 22 Feb. Negotiating with slavery: marronage and rebellion

Reading:

Michael Craton, "Proto-Peasant Revolts? The Late Slave Rebellions in the British West Indies 1816-1832" (Blackboard)

Barbara Bush, *Slave Women in Caribbean Society 1650-1838*, chap. 5 (ebook via Tripod)

Th. 24 Feb. Why Did a Revolution of the Enslaved Break Out in Saint-Domingue?

Reading:

Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, Prologue, chaps. 1-5

David Geggus. "The Enigma of Jamaica in the 1790s: New Light on the Causes of Slave Rebellions"

Tu. 1 Mar. Why Did a Revolution of the Enslaved Succeed in Saint-Domingue?

Reading:

Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, chaps. 6-13, Epilogue

Th. 4 Mar. Caribbean Slavery and Fears of Revolution

Viewing: "The Last Supper" (streamed on Blackboard; also McCabe, General Reserve)

SPRING VACATION

Tu. 15 Mar. Slavery, Freedom, and the Law: Conditions in French and British Colonies

Reading:

Peabody and Grinberg, *Slavery, Freedom, and the Law*, pp. 1-15, 31-68 (docs. 1-10), 178-184 (Chronology and Questions)

Th. 17 Mar. Slavery, Freedom, and the Law: Conditions in Spanish Colonies

Reading:

Grinberg, *Slavery, Freedom, and the Law*, pp. 15-21, 24-28, 102-103 (doc. 22), 106-112 (doc. 24), 124-133 (docs. 29-33), 167-177 (Epilogue)

Evening Lecture by Sue Peabody: attendance required

Tu. 22 Mar. Understanding Emancipation:

Reading: two of the following:

Sue Peabody, "Negresse, Mulatresse, Citoyenne: gender and emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1650-1848," in Pamela Scully and Diana Paton, eds., *Gender and slave emancipation in the Atlantic world* (ebook via Tripod), pp. 56-78

Michael Zeuske, "Two stories of gender and slave emancipation in Cienfuegos and Santa Clara, Central Cuba," in Pamela Scully and Diana Paton, eds., *Gender and slave emancipation in the Atlantic world* (ebook via Tripod), pp. 181-98

Rebecca J. Scott, "Gradual Abolition and the Dynamics of Slave Emancipation in Cuba, 1868-86" (Blackboard)

Rebecca J. Scott, "Explaining Abolition: Contradiction, Adaptation, and Challenge in Cuban Slave Society, 1860-1886" (Blackboard)

Th. 24 Mar. After Emancipation

Reading: two of the following:

Mimi Sheller, "Acting as free men: subaltern masculinities and citizenship in postslavery Jamaica," in Pamela Scully and Diana Paton, eds., *Gender and slave emancipation in the Atlantic world* (ebook via Tripod), pp. 79-99

Ileana Rodriguez-Silva, "Libertos and Libertas in the construction of the free worker in postemancipation Puerto Rico," in Pamela Scully and Diana Paton, eds., *Gender and slave emancipation in the Atlantic world* (ebook via Tripod), pp. 199-224

O. Nigel Bolland, "Politics of Freedom in the British Caribbean," in Frank McGlynn and Seymour Drescher, eds., *The meaning of freedom: economics, politics, and culture after slavery* (ebook via Tripod), pp. 113-46

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, "The Inconvenience of Freedom: Free People of Color and the Political Aftermath of Slavery in Dominica and Saint-Domingue/Haiti," in Frank

McGlynn and Seymour Drescher, eds., *The meaning of freedom: economics, politics, and culture after slavery* (ebook via Tripod), pp. 147-82

Jean Besson, "Freedom and Community: The British West Indies," in Frank McGlynn and Seymour Drescher, eds., *The meaning of freedom: economics, politics, and culture after slavery* (ebook via Tripod), pp. 183-219

Diane J. Austin-Broos, "Redefining the Moral Order: Interpretations of Christianity in Postemancipation Jamaica," in Frank McGlynn and Seymour Drescher, eds., *The meaning of freedom: economics, politics, and culture after slavery* (ebook via Tripod), pp. 221-43

Diana Paton, "The flight from the fields reconsidered: gender ideologies and women's labor after slavery in Jamaica," in Gilbert M. Joseph, ed., *Reclaiming the political in Latin American history* (ebook via Tripod), pp. 175-204

Paper due at the beginning of class (see #4, above)

Tu. 29 Mar. The Rise of Cuba

Reading:

Peréz, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*, 4th ed., chaps. 1-4

Th. 31 Mar. Slave Life in 19th-century Cuba

Reading:

Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, pp. 11-57

Tu. 5 Apr. Emancipation and Rebellion in 19th-century Cuba

Reading:

Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, pp. 61-156

Peréz, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*, 4th ed., chaps. 5-6

Th. 7 Apr. 19th-century Cuba: Life Between Emancipation and Revolution

Reading:

Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, pp. 159-208

Peréz, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*, 4th ed., chaps. 7-8

Tu. 12 Apr. 20th-century Cuba: independence, republic, revolution, innovation

Reading:

Peréz, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*, 4th ed., chaps. 9-11

Th. 14 Apr. 20th-century Cuba: socialism and ?

Reading:

Peréz, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*, 4th ed., chaps. 12-13

Tu. 19 Apr. Nature and Caribbean History

Reading:

Stuart Schwartz, "The Hurricane of San Ciriaco: Disaster, Politics, and Society in Puerto Rico, 1899-1901" (Blackboard)

Louis A. Peréz, *Winds of Change: Hurricanes and the Transformation of Nineteenth Century Cuba* (ebook via Tripod), Introduction and one of chaps. 1-6

Th. 21 Apr. Human Disaster and Caribbean History

Reading: Bonham Richardson, *Igniting the Caribbean's Past: Fire in British West Indian History* (ebook via Tripod), chaps. 1 and 2 and one of chaps. 3-7

Tu. 26 Apr. Reports

Th. 28 Apr. Reports

14 May. FINAL PAPERS DUE at 5 p.m. See #6, above.