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Introduction

The Caribbean has a fascinating, and often disconcerting, history, a dynamic and colorful culture, an uncertain economic and political future. It is an extraordinary multifaceted area with its many languages, population groups, and cultures. It is also a region that has long and close connections with the Netherlands - Aruba, Curacao, St. Maarten, what are called BES-islands, and Suriname in particular. Many people migrated to the metropole from these former colonies, so that more than ever the Caribbean is present in Dutch society.

In 2018 the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies organizes the 32nd Interuniversity Course Caribbean Studies. The course will be offered in English. The classes are taught by experts from different universities and organizations. Approximately every three weeks there will be a 30-minute wrap-up and discussion session (see schedule). Participation is open to students from all universities and a limited number of interested non-students.

In this course we will discuss history, politics, economics as well as social-cultural topics. Four key concepts will receive special attention - ethnicity, gender, migration, and creolization. Topics to be discussed include ecology, colonization, slave trade and slavery, indentured labor, small-holding and the post-plantation economy, migration and transnationalism, intellectual history, gender, kinship and sexuality, pluralism, languages, art, literature, music, decolonization, local politics, tourism, and international relations.
Practical Information

Information and registration
For all information and registration please contact:
KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies
PO Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, tel. 071-5272372, e-mail: sitinjak@kitlv.nl.
The reduced registration fee for students is € 35.00, which includes access to Leiden University Library. Participation of non-students is limited; the registration fee is € 145.00.
Please note that registration is complete only after submitting your registration form and the receipt of payment of your registration fee.
Registration is open until January 19, 2018 and is based on order of received payment.

Venue and time
The Caribbean Studies course will take place during the period January 31-April 25, 2018.
Classes are held on Wednesday afternoons from 1.00 p.m. to 5 p.m. (see schedule)
The classes will take place in the Leiden University (Cleveringaplaats 1) in the Witte Singel/Doelen Complex (see map). This is a 15-minute walk from Leiden Central Station.

Exams and ECTs
The course level is BA-2 with a total 10 ECTs. It is not possible to earn more ECTs.
The written exam, consisting of essay questions, covers the lectures, required literature, and one of the prescribed novels. The exam will be held on May 9, 2018 from 1.00 p.m. till 4.30 p.m.
Participants who chose not to take the exam may receive a certificate of participation, provided that they have attended all classes.
Literature

The reading lists are intended as preparation for classes and to give background information about the topics to be discussed. The reading lists for each class are listed at the end of each lecture abstract (see following pages).
For students wishing to take the exam these are books for the required reading:


In addition, there is a choice of three monographs:
Graziano, Frank, Dominican Migration (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2013)

Participants are also requested to read one of the following novels:
Alvarez, Julia, In the Time of the Butterflies (In Dutch: In de tijd van de vlinders)
Condé, Maryse, La vie scélérée (In Dutch: Het valse leven)
Danticat, Edwidge, The Farming of Bones (In Dutch: Land voor de levenden)
Díaz, Junot, The brief wondrous life of Oscar Wao (In Dutch: Het korte maar wonderbare leven van Oscar Wao)
Eire, Carlos, Waiting for Snow in Havana (In Dutch: Sneeuw in Havana)
Naipaul, V.S., A House for Mr. Biswas (In Dutch: Een huis voor meneer Biswas)
Mootoo, Shani, Cereus Blooms at Night (In Dutch: De cereus bloeit ‘s nachts)

* The Dutch version of Paradijs overzee: de ‘Nederlandse’ Caraïben en Nederland and De geboorte van de Afrikaans-Amerikaanse cultuur are for sale at KITLV (second floor). The English version you have to order via internet.

https://www.amazon.com/Paradise-Overseas-Colonialism-Transatlantic-University/dp/1405057130
Course coordinators

This course is coordinated by Rosemarijn Hoeft (hofte@kitlv.nl) and Ellen Sitinjak (sitinjak@kitlv.nl).

Education committee

The committee members are Prof. Dr. Michiel Baud (CEDLA/UvA), Prof. Dr. Rosemarijn Hoeft (KITLV/UvA), Prof. Dr. Rivke Jaffe (UvA), Prof. Dr. Gert Oostindie (KITLV/UL) en Prof. Dr. Alex van Stipriaan (EUR).
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<td>Introduction (Rosemarijn Hoefte)</td>
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<td>Political ecologies in the Caribbean (Malcom Ferdinand)</td>
<td>15.00-16.30</td>
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<td>Slavery and Resistance (Karwan Fatah-Black)</td>
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<td>Asian Diaspora (Rosemarijn Hoefte)</td>
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<td>21 February</td>
<td>Radical Thinkers (Wayne Modest)</td>
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<td>Ethnicity and Ideology (Michiel Baud)</td>
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<td>28 February</td>
<td>Languages in the Caribbean (Margot van den Berg)</td>
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<td>Gender, Kinship and Sexuality (Gloria Wekker)</td>
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<td>Cuba (Gert Oostindie)</td>
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<td>21 March</td>
<td>Migration (Guiselle Starink-Martha)</td>
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<td>Music in the Caribbean (Ronald Snijders)</td>
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<td>28 March</td>
<td>The Popular Culture of Illegality in Jamaica (Tracian Meikle)</td>
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<td>Art in the Caribbean (Alex van Stipriaan)</td>
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<td>Urban Problems (Rivke Jaffe)</td>
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<td>25 April</td>
<td>Americanization, Globalization and the Future of the Caribbean</td>
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<td>(Rosemarijn Hoefte)</td>
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Abstracts and course reading

31 January
Introduction (Rosemarijn Hoefte) **13.00-14.30**
Political ecologies in the Caribbean (Malcom Ferdinand) **15.00-16.30**

_Hillman & D’Agostino, Contemporary Caribbean, Chapter 1, 2 and 7._
7 February
Slavery and Resistance (Karwan Fatah-Black)  13.00-14.30
Marronage and Abolitionism (Jessica Roitman)  15.00-16.30

Karwan Fatah-Black, Leiden University

Slavery has been defined as the most absolute form of social domination. In the early modern period slavery became the most prevalent social relationship in the Caribbean. The first half of this class will focus on the introduction of slavery into the Caribbean and its consequences for social and economic development. We will also pay attention to resistance to slavery. In the second half we will discuss the debates about the variations of slave societies in terms of race, religion, manumission, and emancipation that were found in the Caribbean.

Jessica Roitman, KITLV / Leiden University

Resistance to slavery took various forms, one of the most important of which was marronage – escaping and going elsewhere where to live in freedom. The first half of the class will discuss the different forms of marronage, its frequency, and how it was viewed and experienced by Caribbean people - the enslaved, free people of color, and whites. The second part of the class will focus on abolitionism in the Caribbean. This was an asymmetrical process, lasting over half a century, between 1834 (Britain) to 1886 (Cuba). What did this mean for Caribbean peoples, and how was it linked to marronage?

February
Emancipation and Transition (Michiel Baud) 13.00-14.30
Asian Diaspora (Rosemarijn Hoefte) 15.00-16.30

Michiel Baud, CEDLA / University of Amsterdam

Since the end of the 18th century slavery as a system of labor recruitment was no longer taken for granted. The system was increasingly criticized for a myriad of reasons and in the 19th century slavery was abolished in the Caribbean. This led to new forms of social organization. The former enslaved built a new life based on social and cultural elements from the time of their bondage. The planters experimented with new forms of labor recruitment, including the immigration of new groups of workers. In this class we will discuss the different ways in which slave emancipation can be interpreted. Next we will look at different models of transition.

Rosemarijn Hoefte, KITLV/University of Amsterdam

After the abolition of slavery many plantations seemed moribund, but many planters and colonial authorities were not ready to give up on the plantation economy just yet. Tens of thousands of contract laborers were imported from Asia to replace the enslaved and save the plantations: but what was contract labor? How did these newcomers adjust to a strange, and often hostile, environment? This mass immigration solved the labor problem (at least temporarily), but at the same time created new problems, as the majority of the Asians did not return to their homelands and settled in the Caribbean. The creation of so-called plural societies led to economic, social, cultural, and political tensions.

Oostindie, Paradise Overseas /Paradijs overzee, Chapter 3(UK) 4(NL); Hillman & D’Agostino, Contemporary Caribbean, Chapter 3 till page 70.
21 February
Radical Thinkers (Wayne Modest) 13.00-14.30
Ethnicity and Ideology (Michiel Baud) 14.45-16.15
Discussion led by Michiel Baud 16.30-17.00

Wayne Modest, Research Center for Material Culture
No abstract

Michiel Baud, CEDLA / University of Amsterdam
Ethnic heterogeneity characterizes the Caribbean. Population groups with roots in different continents and with different cultural backgrounds live side by side. This ethnic diversity often translates into differences in prosperity and social position. This has sometimes led to tensions and conflicts, but often is also seen as the defining characteristic of Caribbean societies and the core of Caribbean nations. In this class we will discuss different expressions and the consequences of ethnic diversity in the Caribbean. Attention will be paid to interpretations of this diversity by Caribbean intellectuals and the ways in which diversity has been used in politics.

Hillman & D’Agostino, Contemporary Caribbean, Chapter 8.
Margot van den Berg, Utrecht University

Humankind can survive because of its flexibility and its ability to adapt to changes. Language is an essential tool for adaptation as it provides both the model and the principal means for its users to sustain functional and meaningful relationships between themselves and their environment. In this session we will explore the creative and adaptive use of language in relation to power, representations and control in the Caribbean. We will discuss creole formation, codeswitching and other instances of multilingual language use on the basis of linguistic research on various islands as well as Suriname in the past and the present.

Sugar Cane Alley (French title: La Rue Cases-Nègres) is set in Martinique in the 1930s. José, the protagonist, is an 11-year-old orphan who lives in the countryside. Through José the structure of colonial society is shown. A major theme is how José, with the help of his grandmother, uses education as a means to escape the desperate conditions of plantation laborers on the island.
Isabel Hoving, Leiden University

We will show how diverse works of Caribbean literature can be read in connection with each other—as different solutions for a more or less general problem. After all, every author struggles with the difficulty of articulating the torn, multiple Caribbean identity, or the experiences of migration and (neo)colonialism, and is faced with the choice between a multitude of languages and registers. Using seven novels (by Alvarez, Condé, Danticat, Díaz, Eyre, Mootoo, Naipaul) we will show not only the differences and similarities between the approach of novels from different linguistic and cultural contexts, but also begin to understand the historical changes that have occurred in the literary exploration of Caribbean turbulence.

Wouter Veenendaal, Leiden University

Caribbean decolonization started early, with the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804), but the process is still unfinished— at least if one assumes that full sovereignty is the only possible outcome of the decolonization process. In spite of this commonly held position, some 15 percent of all 40 million people living in the Caribbean reside in non-sovereign places with little interest in full independence. In the first part of this lecture we discuss this counterintuitive reality. In the second part we focus on the diversity of political systems and cultures of the Caribbean. This discussion will include the functioning of democracy and governance, the impact of small-scale and clientelism, and the influence of colonial traditions and postcolonial orientations.

Hillman & D’Agostino, Contemporary Caribbean, Chapter 11 and one of the seven novels.
14 March
Gender, Kinship and Sexuality (Gloria Wekker) 13.00-14.30
Cuba (Gert Oostindie) 14.45-16.15
Discussion led by Gert Oostindie 16.30-17.00

Gloria Wekker, Utrecht University

In this class, Gloria Wekker will introduce the fields of gender, kinship, and sexuality in the Afro-Surinamese working-class from a feminist and intersectional perspective. We will zoom in on a widespread sexual phenomenon in the female working class, the mati work, in which women have male and female partners (not to be equated with bisexuality, however) and typically have children. I hypothesize that this phenomenon is part of the cultural heritage that the enslaved brought with them from West Africa and it is present in the entire Black Diaspora, but especially strongly in Suriname.

Gert Oostindie, KITLV/Leiden University

Once a beacon of hope to many in the Caribbean and Latin America in general, revolutionary Cuba is now usually depicted as something of an anachronism: American old-timers on the streets, decrepit housing, scarcity of about everything, political and cultural isolation and militant repression. But does this new cliché really present Cuba as it is? This lecture offers first a succinct history of the country from early colonization through its development as a plantation colony, the 19th-century wars of independence, and the ensuing period as a client state to the USA to the 1950s revolution. The second part offers a discussion of the dynamics of the Cuban Revolution and its significance for Cubans on the island (politics, economy, ethnicity, gender, culture); in the diaspora; and to the wider world (in particular the Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa).

Hillman & D’Agostino, Contemporary Caribbean, Chapter 4 and 9; Mintz & Price, The birth of African-American culture/De geboorte van de Afrikaans-Amerikaanse cultuur, entire volume; Oostindie, Paradise Overseas/Paradijs overzee, Chapter 4 and 5 (UK), 5 and 6 (NL).
21 March
Migration (Guiselle Starink-Martha)  13.00-14.30
Music in the Caribbean (Ronald Snijders)  15.00-16.30

Guiselle Starink-Martha, University of Amsterdam

The Caribbean is characterized by its history of displacement and migration. In this globalized day and age transmigrants’ physical, as well as virtual, movement has become even more extensive. In this session we will discuss the phenomenon of Caribbean migration from a Cultural Studies point of view. We will contemplate Caribbean transnationalism and issues of collective identity construction through the discussion of several performative and everyday-life cases.

Ronald Snijders, ethnomusicologist and musician

In this class we will discuss numerous aspects of and influences on the music culture in the Caribbean. The teacher is an ethnomusicologist and experienced musician who will emphasize Afro-American styles. Examples of these different types of music will be played in class.

Oostindie, Paradise Overseas/Paradijs overzee, Chapter 6 and 7 (UK), 8 and 10 (NL); Hillman & D’Agostino, Contemporary Caribbean, Chapter 4.
Tracian Meikle, University of Amsterdam

For over forty years criminal leaders known as “dons” have been the de facto rulers of many inner-city communities in Jamaica. This lecture will focus on the impact of popular culture on their legitimacy, focusing on the power of street art in developing and sustaining communities' loyalty to the dons. In doing so, we will explore the role that the aesthetic plays in the maintenance of leadership structures that may be considered illegal by the state, and more broadly on the way in which community identity is mediated by popular culture in the urban Caribbean context.

Alex van Stipriaan, Erasmus University Rotterdam

It is often stated that art is a mirror of society. If so, is there such a thing as Caribbean art and what can be seen in that mirror? The focus in this class on visual art in Caribbean history will be on Cuba, Haiti, Suriname, the Dutch Caribbean, and Jamaica and their art worlds then and now. A few categorizations will help to get a grip on this enormous field of cultural production, among which a differentiation in classical, academic, and popular art will be applied. Talking about art is unthinkable without seeing it, so a large number of works of art will pass (on screen) during this lecture. And why not have your own critical preview by taking a digital peek at a large exhibition on two centuries of Caribbean art as well as a review [http://www.pamm.org/exhibitions/caribbean-crossroads-world and https://srananart.wordpress.com/tag/caribbean-crossroads-of-the-world/].
4 April
Cultural Heritage (Valika Smeulders) 13.00-14.30
Doing Research in the Caribbean (Sanne Rotmeier & Stacey MacDonald) 15.00-16.30

Valika Smeulders (Pasado Presente), Rijksmuseum/KITLV

When traveling to different locations in the Caribbean, tourists can see many remnants of the colonial past. Much of that material and immaterial heritage, directly or indirectly, is related to slavery. What can be considered the heritage of slavery and how is this heritage presented to tourists? How are the different expectations of audiences, varying from entertainment to very personal pilgrimages into the suffering, or, on the contrary, the resilience of the enslaved, managed? This lecture focuses on the presentation and consumption of the heritage of slavery for and by different audiences, taking into account economic aspects and matters of identity.

Stacey Macdonald, KITLV
Sanne Rotmeijer, KITLV

We are PhD candidates within the research project Confronting Caribbean Challenges. This multi-disciplinary project analyzes governance and identity in small-scale polities, with a specific focus on non-sovereignty and migration. Sanne examines the role of news media on discourses of national identities in Curaçao and St. Maarten. Stacey investigates the role of a person’s social position in protecting the natural and cultural heritage of Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius. In this seminar, we will discuss their experiences on the islands and, more generally, the challenges and opportunities of doing research in the Caribbean.
Gert Oostindie, KITLV/ Leiden University

The Caribbean was developed as a collection of individual plantation economies, but alongside, and even within, these large-scale companies subsistence agriculture thrived. In the 20th century, agriculture declined and its place was taken, to some extent, by mining and industrialization, and after World War II, the services industry. Scarcely anywhere did the growth of the labor market keep up with population growth - hence the high levels of emigration. External dependency has remained endemic; opportunities for successful economic integration are limited. Nevertheless, there are stark contrasts in levels of prosperity within the region. In this lecture we will analyze long-term economic developments and address this puzzle.

Alana Osbourne, University of Amsterdam

Tourism entails producing spaces as sites for consumption and crafting narratives that entice people into visiting a given area. The Caribbean’s tropical landscapes have long been a major tourism pull, but there is an increasing interest in visiting the region’s cities. Using Trench Town, an infamous Kingston ‘ghetto’ as a case study, this lecture will analyze how different aspirations to create a tourism economy in low income urban areas are tied to - and interact with – tourist reveries of poverty and crime, ultimately assessing how Caribbean cityscapes and marginalized communities are reshaped and shifted in the face of tourism.

Hillman & D’Agostino, Contemporary Caribbean, Chapter 5, 6, and 13.
Building on our exploration of Caribbean history, in this lecture I want to look to one recent Caribbean disaster - the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 - in order to explore the notion of disasters as ‘processes that unfold through time’ (Oliver-Smith). These ‘natural’ events are deeply rooted in and shaped by the longer socio-economic and environmental histories of the Caribbean. We will first examine the region’s exposure to various natural hazards due to its geographic position and geological features, and then consider the scale of the 2010 earthquake and its aftermath. Finally, we will discuss practices and politics of post-earthquake aid and reconstruction.

Caribbean cities have a number of specific characteristics. This specificity relates to the history of the region, and specifically the absence of an indigenous urban system; colonial governance in combination with slavery and indentured labor; and centuries of "proto-globalization." Following a general discussion of Caribbean urbanism, including the region's historical urban development, rural-urban relations, socio-spatial fragmentation and the global character of these cities, this lecture introduces the case of Kingston, Jamaica. Drawing on reggae and dancehall music, Rivke Jaffe discusses the ways in which Kingston has been imagined across different historical periods.
25 April
Americanization, Globalization and the Future of the Caribbean
(Rosemarijn Hoefte) 13.00-14.30
TBA 15.00-16.30

Rosemarijn Hoefte, KITLV/ University of Amsterdam

Americanization, globalization, and the future of the Caribbean
In this lecture we will discuss the ‘American Century’, which started in the Caribbean with the U.S. involvement in the American-Spanish-Cuban War of 1898. The role of Europe steadily diminished, while the position of the USA became stronger each year. We will look at the continuities and changes in U.S. policy in the Caribbean and its political, economic, and cultural effects in the region. Finally, we will discuss the current situation and the role of new powers such as China, Venezuela, and Brazil.

Hillman & D’Agostino, Contemporary Caribbean, Chapter 2 from page 67, 4 and 13
Recommended reading

**Non-Fiction**


Paessie, Rudolf, *Lorrendrayen op Africa: de illegale goederen- en slavenhandel op West-Afrika*
Recommended reading

Fiction
Cabrera Infante, Gabriel, Drie trieste tijgers. Amsterdam: Anthos, 1997. (Vert. van, Tres tristes tigres, 1994.)
Césaire, Aimé, Logboek van een terugkeer naar mijn geboorteland. Haarlem: In de Knipscheer, 1985. (Vert. van, Cahier d’un retour au pays natal, 1939.)
Kolk, Geert van der, De waterverkoper. Amsterdam: Nieuw Amsterdam, 2012.
Marugg, Tip, *De morgen loeit weer aan*. Amsterdam: De Bezige Bij, 1991.(1e dr.: 1988.)
Ramdas, Anil, *De beroepsherinneraar en andere verhalen*. Amsterdam: De Bezige Bij, 1996.
(Vert. van, *Black Rock*, 2010.)
KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies

The KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies was founded in 1851 with the aim of promoting the study of social sciences and linguistics, including history, of Southeast Asia, the Pacific, and the Caribbean. Special attention was given to the Dutch colonies of Indonesia, Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles.

The KITLV aims to be a world-class research institute for the study of Southeast Asia and the Caribbean, with a focus on Indonesia and the ‘Dutch’ Caribbean, in an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective. Benefitting from the unrivalled collections offered on campus by Leiden University, KITLV researchers explore (dis)continuities between the (pre)colonial and postcolonial period, and articulate their research agendas empirically and theoretically in order to advance wider debates on the meandering paths of globalization. KITLV engages with the academic community across the world, as well as with (inter)national governmental organizations, NGOs, the media, and the interested general public. KITLV is an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

The KITLV publishes the oldest journal on the Caribbean - the New West Indian Guide/Nieuwe West-Indische Gids (1919).

Map of Leiden and the KITLV/Witte Singel Doelen complex.