Interuniversity Course
Caribbean Studies 2020
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INTRODUCTION

The Caribbean has a turbulent, and often disconcerting history, a dynamic culture, and challenging economic and political futures. It is an extraordinarily multifaceted area with its many languages, population groups, and nations. It is also a region that has long and close connections with the Netherlands - Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten, the so-called BES- islands, and Suriname in particular. Past and present migration patterns continue to nurture intimate connections between Caribbean and Dutch societies.

In 2020 the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies will organize the 34th Interuniversity Course Caribbean Studies. In this course we will discuss history, politics, economics and socio-cultural topics. Topics to be discussed include ecology, colonialism, slave trade and slavery, indentured labour, small-holding and the post-plantation economy, migration and trans-nationalism, intellectual history, gender, kinship and sexuality, art, literature, music, decolonization, local politics, tourism, and international relations.

The course will be offered in English. Participation is open to students from all universities and to a limited number of interested non-students.
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.

Fees
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 23, 2020 and is based on order of received payment.

Venue and time
The Caribbean Studies course will take place during the period January 29-April 22, 2020.
Classes are held on Wednesday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4.30 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 possible to earn more ECTs (max 2).
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 13, 2020 from 1 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.

Course coordinators
This course is coordinated by Rosemarijn Hoefte (hofte@kitlv.nl), Alana Osbourne (osbourne@kitlv.nl) and Ellen Sitinjak (sitinjak@kitlv.nl).

Education committee
The committee members are Prof. Dr. Michiel Baud (CEDLA/UvA), Prof. Dr. Rosemarijn Hoefte (KITLV/UvA), Prof. Dr. Rivke Jaffe (UvA), Prof. Dr. Gert Oostindie (KITLV/UL) and Dr. Alana Osbourne (KITLV).
COURSE STRUCTURE AND LITERATURE

The course is divided into seven thematic blocs. Each bloc is taught over a two-week period and is comprised of a series of 3 lectures and 1 round table discussion. Lecturers come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and broach a series of topics.

Each thematic bloc is accompanied by a set of required readings; by one or several questions for students to bear in mind while reading; and by one or several propositions. The readings are meant to complement the lectures and are compulsory. The questions and propositions serve to stimulate debate during the round table discussions, and do not necessarily represent the lecturers’ views.

The required readings for the course are divided into 3 types:

1. For each roundtable discussion, students are expected to have read the related chapter of Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean, as well as the articles listed for that week in the course schedule. These are intended as preparation for classes. The articles are accessible online via the Leiden University Catalogue. Students should secure a copy of Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean. The book is available via the library or for sale online and in second hand book stores.


2. In addition to the chapters from Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean and the articles students are required to read for each thematic bloc, students are required to choose one novel from the following list:

   - Alvarez, Julia, In the Time of the Butterflies (In Dutch: In de tijd van de vlinders)
   - Condé, Maryse, La vie scélérate (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)

3. In addition, students are required to read one of the following monographs:

   - Hall, Stuart, Familiar Stranger: A Life Between Two Islands (Duke University Press, 2017)
   - Graziano, Frank, Undocumented Dominican Migration (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2013)
COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Geographies - WEEKS 1 & 2 [29.01 and 05.02]

* Lecture 1. Introduction (Alana Osbourne) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Lecture 2. Decolonization and Independence (Wouter Veenendaal) 3 pm to 4.30 pm
* Lecture 3. Migration / Diaspora (Esther Captain) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Discussion & Welcome drinks 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Preparation
- Hillman & D’Agostino, Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean, Chapter 2 A Geographic Preface

Question(s)
- Where is the Caribbean?

Proposition(s)
- The Caribbean cannot be located ‘out’ there, in opposition to ‘here’. It troubles geographical frontiers.

2. Histories - WEEKS 3 & 4 [12.02 and 19.02]

* Lecture 1. Resistance, Maroonage and Abolition (Karwan Fatah-Black) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Lecture 2. Systems of slavery (Damian Pargas) 3 pm to 4.30 pm
* Lecture 3. Asian Diaspora and Indentured Labour (Rosemarijn Hoeftje) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Discussion 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Preparation
- Hillman & D’Agostino, Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean, Chapter 3 The Historical Context, to p.74

Question(s)
- Slavery and indentured labour were horribly efficient economic systems. How are they linked to capitalism and the birth of modernity?
- What are unique traits of Caribbean history?

Proposition(s)
- The history of the Caribbean is the history of modernity; and it is tied with the making of contemporary Europe.
3. Identities - WEEKS 5 & 6 & 7 [26.02, 04.03 and 11.03]

* Lecture 1. Black Archives (Jessica de Abreu) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Lecture 2. Radical Thinkers (Alana Osbourne) 3 pm to 4.30 pm
* Lecture 3. Race and Ethnicity (Francio Guadeloupe) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Lecture 4. Sexual Citizenship (Julian Isenia) 3 pm to 4.30 pm
* Lecture 5. Gender, Kinship and Sexuality (Gloria Wekker) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Discussion 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Preparation
- Hillman & D’Agostino, *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*, Chapter 8 Ethnicity, Race, Class, and Nationality

Question(s)
- What is Caribbean identity?
- What common questions guide many Caribbean thinkers and authors?

Proposition(s)
- Thinking with and from the Caribbean troubles normative ideas of identity whether in relation to skin colour, roots, belonging or gender.

4. Cultures - WEEKS 7 & 8 [18.03 and 25.03]

* Lecture 1. Cultural Heritage (Valika Smeulders) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Lecture 2. Music in the Caribbean (Ronald Snijders) 3 pm to 4.30 pm
* Lecture 3. Caribbean Literature (Isabel Hoving) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Discussion 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Preparation
- Hillman & D’Agostino, *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*, Chapter 11 Literature and Popular Culture

Question(s)
- How to recognise Caribbean music?

Proposition(s)
- Caribbean culture has distinctive traits.
5. Developments in Political Economies – WEEKS 09 & 10 [01.04 and 08.04]

* Lecture 1. Emancipation and Transition (Michiel Baud) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Lecture 2. Caribbean Economy and Integration (Gert Oostindie) 3 pm to 4.30 pm
* Lecture 3. Americanization, Globalization and the Future of the Caribbean (Rosemarijn Hoefte) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Discussion 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Preparation
- Hillman & D’Agostino, *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*, Chapter 5 The Economies of the Caribbean

Question(s)
- What are the Caribbean’s main economic resources and challenges?
- How is the Caribbean’s contemporary economic situation tied to the history of the plantation economy?

Proposition(s)
- The only way forward for the Caribbean is tourism.


* Lecture 1. Political ecologies (Rivke Jaffe) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Lecture 2. Environmental management and activism (Stacey McDonald) 3 pm to 4.30 pm
* Lecture 3. Tourism (Alana Osbourne) 1 pm to 2.30 pm
* Wrap up & Drinks 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Preparation

Question(s)
- How is the Caribbean’s landscape and ecology represented in Western imaginings?

Proposition(s)
- The Caribbean is a paradise, a tropical gem. It remains untouched, unpolluted and eternal.

EXAM – 13th May 2020
FURTHER READING

Please also check latest publications on the Duke University Press, UWI Press and Florida University Press’s Caribbean catalogues available online.


FURTHER 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.


Santiago, Esmeralda, Mango en milkshakes: een jeugd in Puerto Rico. Amsterdam: Arena, 1995. (Vert. van, When I was Puerto Rican.)

Schwarz-Bart, André, Mulattin Solitude. Amsterdam: Meulenhoff, 2002. (Vert. van, La Mûlatresse Solitude, 1972.)


(Vert. van, Black Rock, 2010.)


Walcott, Derek, Omeros. Amsterdam: De Arbeiderspers, 1993. (Vert. van, Omeros, 1990.)

Warner, Marina, Indigo, of de wateren in kaart gebracht. Amsterdam:Contact,1993.(Vert. van, Indigo or, Mapping the Waters, 1993.)


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.

The KITLV is 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.