

**CULTURES OF THE CARIBBEAN
ANTHROPOLOGY 2211G/650 - FIRST NATIONS 2211G/650
DISTANCE STUDIES ONLINE COURSE
WINTER 2017**



This course will provide an introduction to the Caribbean area. It will include a description of the geography, an account of the historical background, and a glimpse at the variety of cultural beliefs and values, social institutions, and political economies that make the Caribbean people unique.

Prerequisite: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 1.0 or 0.5 Essay course. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the prerequisite for this course. Unless you have either the requisite or special permission from your Dean, you may be removed from the course and it will be deleted from you record, without any adjustment to you fees.

Learning Outcomes: on successful completion of his course a student will be able to

- Understand the historical background to the formation of the states and colonies in the Caribbean area;
- Recognize the cultural diversity of the Caribbean;
- Identify and discuss some of the economic and political problems faced by Caribbean people in the 21st century.

INSTRUCTOR:

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BOOKS TO PURCHASE:

George Gmelch. 2012. *The Parish Behind God's Back*. (Second Edition)

Merle Hodge. 1981. *Crick, Crack, Monkey*.

B.W. Higman. 2011. *A Concise History of the Caribbean*.

Other required readings are posted on the website. Click on the author's name to access them.

MARKS WILL BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Forums Participation,	Weeks 1-6	20%
Response Essay	March 3	30%
Forums Participation,	Weeks 7-12	20%
Exam	TBA	30%

Course Structure:

This course has two components: the readings and assignment as outlined here; and an online component. Once you have purchased the required texts, you will have access to the readings. The online component will provide links to other students in the course, to additional information about the readings and assignment, and to current ideas as they develop out of our interaction on the forums.

Response Essay:

The purpose of the response essay is to encourage you to critically discuss and question the issues raised by the authors we have read. Key themes and learning notes are posted on the website before the beginning of each unit to help you approach the readings. Your Response Essay should be about 6 pages in length (double spaced) and is worth 30% of your course grade. You do not need to use any outside sources. You will find more detailed information about the Essay on the Web Site. Papers are to be submitted through the assignments tool in Owl no later than midnight of the due date. A penalty of 2% per week day may be deducted for late papers.

Note: This is an essay course; you must submit an essay and receive a mark of 50% or higher to pass this course.

Participation in the Forums:

The advantage of taking part in an online course is that it provides opportunities for all of us to interact on a regular basis through online discussions. You are required to make at least 2 substantial contributions to the Forums each week. The purpose of these online discussions is to make the learning process interactive and collaborative. Your discussion grade will be based on both the quantity and quality of your online participation. You will receive your first Forums evaluation at the end of Week 6 and your second one at the end of Week 12. Together, these two participation grades are worth 40% of your course grade.

Final Exam:

Your final exam will consist of a map test and some short essay questions. I will post possible questions two weeks prior to the exam to allow you time to think about how you want to construct your answers. The final exam is worth 30% of your course mark.

Contact Information:

Please feel free to email us anytime, with questions or comments. If you have not received a response within 24 hours of sending an email (Monday to Friday noon), you should assume it was not received and send it a second time.

General University Policies:

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at:

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

Outline of Topics and Readings**Week 1 What is the Caribbean?**

Antonio Gaztambide-Geigel, 2004, The Invention of the Caribbean in the 20th Century (The Definitions of the Caribbean as a Historical and Methodological Problem). *Social and Economic Studies* 53(3):127-157.

B.J. Higman, 2011, Chapter 1, "A History of Islands," in *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 1-8.

B.J. Higman, 2011, Chapter 2, "Ancient Archipelago, 7200 BP-AD 1492," in *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 9-51.

Sharon Gmelch and George Gmelch, 2012, Introduction and Chapter 1 "Island and Parish," In *The Parish Behind God's Back*. pp. 1-18.

Crick, Crack, Monkey, by Merle Hodge. (Read as much as you can each week. This delightful novel will give you some sense of day-to-day life in the British Caribbean. We will look at it closer in the second half of the course.)

Week 2 European Invasion

B.J. Higman, 2011, Chapter 3, "Columbian Cataclysm, 1492-1630," in *A Concise History of the Caribbean*. pp. 52-96.

Jerome S. Handler 2002. Survivors of the Middle Passage: Life Histories of Enslaved Africans in British America. *Slavery and Abolition* 23(1):25-56.

Week 3 Plantations, Sugar, and Slavery

B.J. Higman, 2011, Chapter 4 "Plantation Peoples, 1630-1770," in *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 97-140.

Sharon Gmelch and George Gmelch, 2012, Chapter 2, "Colonialism, Sugar and Slavery," in *The Parish Behind God's Back*, pp. 19-36.

Richard Dunn, 1972, Excerpt on Slave Laws. In *Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies, 1624-1713*. Pp. 238-246.

Orlando Patterson, 1967, Excerpt from "Annual and Daily Cycle of Work." In *The Sociology of Slavery*. pp. 65-69.

Christine Barrow, 1996, Chapter 5, "Slave Families." In *Family in the Caribbean: Themes and Perspectives*. pp. 241-261.

Week 4 Opposition and Resistance

B.J. Higman, 2011, Chapter 5 "Rebels and Revolutionaries, 1770-1870," in *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 141-195.

Richard Burton, 1997, Chapter 2 "Resistance and Opposition in Jamaica, 1800-1834." In *Afro-Creole: Power, Opposition, and Play in the Caribbean*. pp. 47-89.

Week 5 Emancipation: The Key Issues of Land and Labour

Woodville K. Marshall, 1993, "We be wise to many more tings': Black's Hopes and Expectations of Emancipation." In *Caribbean Freedom*. H. Beckles & V. Shepard, eds, pp. 12-20.

Nigel O. Bolland, 1981, Systems of Domination after Slavery: The Control of Land and Labour in the British West Indies after 1838. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 23:591-619.

Jean Besson, 1987, "A Paradox in Caribbean Attitudes to Land." In *Land and Development in the Caribbean*. J. Besson and J. Momsen, eds pp. 13-45.

Tony Weis, 2006, The Rise, Fall and Future of the Jamaican Peasantry. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 33(1):61-88.

Week 6 Political Economy

B.J. Higman, 2011, Chapter 6 "Democrats and Dictators, 1870-1945," in *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp.196-250.

Jay Mandle, 1989, "British Caribbean Economic History," in *The Modern Caribbean*. F. Knight & C. A. Palmer, eds, pp. 229-258.

Week 7 Political Economy, Continued

B.J. Higman, 2011, Chapter 7 "The Caribbean Since 1945," in *A Concise History of the Caribbean*, pp. 251-326.

Sharon Gmelch and George Gmelch, 2012, Chapter 3, "From Sugar to Tourism," in *The Parish Behind God's Back*. pp. 37-54.

Sharon Gmelch and George Gmelch, 2012, Chapter 4, "Farmer, Fisher, Baker, Maid," in *The Parish Behind God's Back*. pp. 55-80.

George Gmelch, 1992, "Patterns of West Indian Migration," in *Double Passage: The Lives of Caribbean Migrants Abroad and Back Home*. pp. 41-59.

Week 8 Societies and Families

Merle Hodge. 1981. *Crick, Crack, Monkey*. (You should have read the book by now and the story helps us think about the issues raised in the readings for this week)

Sharon Gmelch and George Gmelch, 2012, Chapter 5, "Gender and the Life Cycle," in *The Parish Behind God's Back*. pp. 81-98.

Sharon Gmelch and George Gmelch, 2012, Chapter 6, "Community: Past and Present," in *The Parish Behind God's Back*. pp. 99-112.

Jean Besson, 1993, "Reputation and Respectability Reconsidered: A New Perspective on Afro-Caribbean Peasant Women," in *Women and Change in the Caribbean: A Pan-Caribbean Perspective*. J. Momsen, ed, pp. 15-37.

Week 9 Religious Visions

Sharon Gmelch and George Gmelch, 2012, Chapter 7, "Religion," in *The Parish Behind God's Back*. pp. 143-160.

Dianne Austin- Broos, 1997, "A Certain Moral Inheritance," in *Jamaica Genesis: Religion and the Politics of Moral Orders*. pp. 34-50.

Charles Price, 2014, The Cultural Production of a Black Messiah: Ethiopianism and the Rastafari. *Journal of Africana Religion* 2(2):418-433.

J. Bent Crosson, 2015, What Obeah Does Do: Healing, Harm, and the Limits of Religion. *Journal of Africana Religion* 3(2):151-176.

Week 10 The Caribbean Spirit

Brian Stoddart, 1987, Cricket, Social Formation and Cultural Continuity in Barbados: A Preliminary Ethnohistory. *Journal of Sport History* 14(3):317-340.

Janelle Joseph, 2014, Culture, Community, Consciousness: The Caribbean Sporting Diaspora. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* 49(6):669-687.

Week 11 The Caribbean Spirit Continued

Anna Kasafi Perkins, 2011, Carne Vale (Goodby to Flesh?): Caribbean Carnival, Notions of the Flesh and Christian Ambivalence about the Body. *Sexuality and culture* 15:361-374.

Ashley Dawson, 2011, Calypso Circuits: Trans-Atlantic Populr Culture and the Gendering of Black Nationalism. *Popular Music and Society* 34(3):277-291.

Week 12 The Caribbean In The Global Economy

Sharon Gmelch and George Gmelch, 2012, Chapter 8 "The Global Village," plus "Final Thoughts," and "Appendix A: Students and Barbadians," in *The Parish Behind God's Back*. pp. 125-161.

Mark Moberg, 2014, Certification and Neoliberal Governance: Moral Economies of Fair Trade in the Eastern Caribbean. *American Anthropologist* 116(1):8-22.

Ransford Palmer, 2009, "The Caribbean Tourist Industry," in *The Caribbean Economy in the Age of Globalization*, pp. 41-50.