The Caribbean was the first region of the New World to feel the full force of European colonial development, and, although the Antilles produced the first black republic and second independent nation of the Americas, colonialism has lasted longer in the Caribbean than in most parts of the world. Thus, no other part of the world has been molded so completely by the two institutions of European colonialism and plantation slavery. The Caribbean was the key focal point of overseas European expansion in the early modern world. This course, which covers the development of colonization in the Caribbean until the mid-nineteenth century, is designed to give students an understanding of the making of the Caribbean region. It begins with the Amerindian societies that welcomed Columbus and ends with the emancipation movement, symbolized most dramatically by the creation of Haiti.

Discussions: Students are expected to do the weekly assigned reading in advance and come to the meeting prepared to discuss it. Participation is required, and will contribute 25% of the course grade. One notable feature of the course is its mix of primary and secondary source reading. Students will be grappling not just with historians’ views of the region, but with contemporary documents.

Students must bring to class a one-page, typed discussion sheet, with 2-3 major points drawn from the reading. What are the most important issues to discuss? Let that question frame your thoughts. You can email it to me as well ahead of class.

Papers: Two papers (10-12 pages, 12 point font) are required:

1) is historiographical. A separate handout, circulated separately, suggests various topics (by no means, inclusive) and offers additional readings. I want you to choose your topic, in consultation with me, by FEB 27 and the paper will be due MAR 27.

2) is a research paper. I want you to focus on one or more of the primary documents (E.G. the diary of Pierre Dessalles, or Thomas Thistlewood, or the Columbus material, or the material about Native Americans in Hulme and Whitehead, or the world of pirates, or the literature in Krise, or the material in Dubois and Geggus, or anything else you care to find, with my assistance) and do an analysis of it. I want you to choose your topic by APR 10, and it will be due MAY 8. Each paper will count 25% of the grade. You should choose your papers so that there is little overlap.

Exams: There will be just one exam in this course, a mid-term, and it will take place on MAR 13 and will cover the readings and lectures to that point. It will count 25% of the grade. As noted, the research paper due MAY 8 is in lieu of a final exam.
Readings: The following paperbacks will be available for purchase at the university bookstore:


Hall, Douglas. *In Miserable Slavery: Thomas Thistlewood in Jamaica, 1750-1786* (Kingston: The University of the West Indies Press, 1999)


Reserves at the Library
The readings have also been posted to Reserves’ course site.

Schedule of Discussion Topics:

**Jan 30** Why study the Caribbean?  
Kincaid, *A Small Place* (New York, 1988), 81 pp
Feb 6  **Environment and Exploration**  
Shepherd and Beckles, *Caribbean Slavery*, 136-152, 365-389  

Feb 13  **Amerindians**  
Hulme and Whitehead, *Wild Majesty*, 9-168  
Shepherd and Beckles, *Caribbean Slavery*, 75-126  

Feb 20  **The World of Piracy and Privateering**  
Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*, 11-130  
Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves*, 149-165, 177-187  

Feb 27  **Early Colonization**  
Krise, *Caribbeana*, 17-92  
Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves*, 3-148  
Shepherd and Beckles, *Caribbean Slavery*, 166-193  

**FIRST PAPER TOPIC DETERMINED**  

Mar 6  **Sugar Revolution**  
Krise, *Caribbeana*, 166-260  
Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves*, 188-223  
Mintz, *Sweetness and Power*, 19-186  

Mar 13  **MID-TERM EXAM**  

Mar 19-25  **SPRING VACATION**  

Mar 27  **Slavery**  
Krise, *Caribbeana*, 93-146  
Hall, *In Miserable Slavery*, 1-114  
Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves*, 224-262  

Apr 3  **Society**  
Hall, *In Miserable Slavery*, 115-314  
Shepherd and Beckles, *Caribbean Slavery*, 544-579, 597-612  
Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves*, 263-341  

**HISTORIOGRAPHICAL PAPER DUE**  

Apr 10  **Culture**  
Krise, *Caribbeana*, 147-165, 261-339
O’Shaughnessy, *An Empire Divided*, 3-80

SECOND PAPER TOPIC DETERMINED

**Apr 17**  
**American Revolutionary Era**  
Hulme and Whitehead, eds., *Wild Majesty*, 180-229  
O’Shaughnessy, *An Empire Divided*, 81-248

**Apr 24**  
**The Haitian Revolution**  
Shepherd and Beckles, *Caribbean Slavery*, 858-867, 933-982  

**May 1**  
**The World of Planters, Slaves, and Free Coloreds post-Haiti**  
Forster and Forster, eds., *Sugar and Slavery*, 1-204.

**May 8**  
SECOND PAPER BASED ON PRIMARY SOURCES DUE