AS100:239 Chronicling the Caribbean

(Writing Intensive Course)
W 12:00 Noon -1:15PM via Zoom

Dr. Sasha Turner
Office Hours: WF 1:30-2:30 By Appointment

Section 1: F12:00 Noon -1:15PM Halle-Mackenzie Ashby
Section 2: F1:30PM-2:45PM Ellie Palazzolo
Section 3: F12:00 Noon -1:15PM Elliot Root
Section 4: F1:30PM-2:45PM Joao Gabriel

TAs Office Hours: By Appointment

From myth riddled ethnographies to racist diatribes, Europeans wrote chronicles of the Caribbean and the populations they subjugated in service of conquest and colonization, enslavement and empire. This course is a critical inquiry into European knowledge production and the writing of the region’s history as mere appendage to imperial history justifying European domination and exploitation of the region. It explores how innovations in Caribbean Archaeology, Caribbean History, and the Digital Humanities challenge Eurocentric knowledge claims extending the decolonization struggle beyond politics and economy to include the academy. As a critical inquiry into power in the production of historical knowledge the course also explores what such alternative approaches to history as Archaeology and the Digital (re)produce in their own moments of creation.

Required Books
Basil Reid, *Myths and Realities of Caribbean History*, Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2 v009 (available for bookstore purchase)

Evaluation and Assessment

Class Participation
Class participation grade will be based on your contributions to breakout sessions AND seminar meetings with TAs. Please note from the weekly schedule when your TA section will be the discussant for the breakout sessions. Breakout sessions, divided by TA section, (there are four TA sections of this course with up to 20 students enrolled in each) provide students ample opportunity to share their ideas and thoughts in the larger group (up to 60 students in the course as a whole). All students, regardless of whether your TA section leads the break-out section must complete weekly readings. Your ability to follow the breakout sessions and successfully complete the WTLs depend on your close reading of the assigned text. You are welcome to join in the breakout conversation and may be called upon even if your TA section is not up as discussant. Participation grade will be determined based on the quality of your comments, demonstrating your critical reading of the text. At first glance some of the readings will overlap. Your critical engagement with the texts requires teasing out nuances and subtle differences across scholars.

Keyword
This assignment will be submitted in three drafts. In your first draft, due at the end of your first seminar with TAs, you will provide your understanding of a list of keywords. Your second draft will revise historical definitions of the key terms we have covered up to that point in the semester, shifts in your understanding of the keyword, and revisions based on feedback given on your first draft. Your third draft functions the same way as your second draft.

As best as possible, keywords reflections consider (where possible) when, where and by whom the word originated. How has the keyword’s meaning changed in different historical times? How are these words understood in general discussions? Do they have specialized meanings in different disciplines? What are those meanings and points of overlap and departure? From the first through the third draft, reflect on how your own understanding of the keywords change and what accounts for revisions in your definitions. How have the readings shaped your changing understanding? How have the meanings of the keywords themselves changed? How have their uses/misuses shaped how we understand the Caribbean and its peoples?

This is not meant to be a glossary or mini dictionary of meaning. The goal of this assignment is to inquire into words as more than a question of definition: keywords, like the discipline of history, produce knowledge and reveals and obscures, silences and amplifies, changes and continues. MAX 500 words per keyword.
Writing To Learn (WTL’s)
WTLs are critical, creative pieces designed to extend classroom discussions and extend learning. They are impromptu, in that they emerge organically from conversations in the class. Your critical engagement with the weekly readings and close attention will be critical for working through these writing assignments.

Pay close attention to blackboard announcements to know when new WTLs are posted.

Assessment Weights and Deadline

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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keyword First Draft</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Jan. 29 by end of class time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keyword Second Draft</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>March 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keyword Final draft</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>WTL 1</td>
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<td>Feb, 26</td>
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<td>WTL 2</td>
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<td>April 21</td>
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<td>WTL 4</td>
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Weekly Schedule*
(*subject to change)

Unit I: Inventions and Discoveries

Week 1
W Jan. 27 Welcome

F Jan. 29 Seminar with TAs
Williams, *Keywords*, civilization, culture, imperialism, native, nature, positivist racial, sex Sheridan Library e-book [https://catalyst.library.jhu.edu/catalog/bib_1363265](https://catalyst.library.jhu.edu/catalog/bib_1363265)
First Draft of Keywords due at the end of class time

Week 2
W Feb. 3 Lecture & breakout session with Halle-Mackenzie Ashby Section
A Keyword: TBA

F Feb. 5 Seminar with TAs
David Scott; On the Question of Caribbean Studies. *Small Axe* 1 July 2013; 17 (2 (41)): 1–7. doi: [https://doi-org.proxy1.library.jhu.edu/10.1215/07990537-2323283](https://doi-org.proxy1.library.jhu.edu/10.1215/07990537-2323283)


Week 3
W. Feb. 10 Lecture & breakout session with Joao Gabriel Section
A Keyword: TBA
F Feb. 12    Seminar with TAs
http://web.b.ebscohost.com.proxy1.library.jhu.edu/ehost/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=1c16b019-fc60-4997-a14e-df7ccce1fccd%40pdc-v-sessmgr02&bdata=JkF1dGhUeXBIPWlwLHNoaWlmcm2lZT1iaG9zdC1saXZlJnJnjb3B1PXNpdGU%3d#db=asn&AN=3940106

**Week 4**

W. Feb. 17    Lecture & breakout session with Ellie Palazzolo Section
A Keyword: TBA
https://read-dukeupress-edu.proxy1.library.jhu.edu/small-axe/article/17/2/1089828/Returns-to-a-Native-Land-Indigeneity-and

F Feb. 19    Seminar with TAs

**Week 5**

W. Feb. 2    Lecture & breakout session with Elliot Root Section
A Keyword: TBA

F Feb. 26    Seminar with TAs
WTL1 Due
Unit II: Archaeology

Week 6
W. March 3  Lecture & breakout session Halle-Mackenzie Ashby Section
A Keyword: TBA

F. March 5  Seminar with TAs
Second draft of Keyword due

Week 7
W. March 10 Lecture & breakout session with Joao Gabriel Section
Reid, Myths & Realities, Introduction & Myths 1-3

F. March 12 Seminar with TAs

Week 8
W. March 17 Lecture & breakout session with Ellie Palazzolo Section
Reid, Myths and Realities, Myths 4-7

F. March 19 Seminar with TAs
Week 9
W. March 24 Lecture & breakout session with Elliot Root Section
   Reid, *Myths and Realities* Myths 8-11 & conclusion

F. March 26 Seminar with TAs
   Kris Lane, “Punishing the Sea Wolf: Corsairs and Cannibals in the Early Modern
   org.proxy1.library.jhu.edu/stable/41850261?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents
   WTL 2 Due

Unit III: Archive

Week 10
W. March 31 Lecture & breakout session with Halle-Mackenzie Ashby & Elliot
   Root Sections
   Ann Laura Stoler, “Colonial Archives and the Arts of Governance: On the Content
   in the Form,” in *Refiguring the Archive*, edited by Carolyn Hamilton, Verne Harris,
   Jane Taylor, Michele Picover, Graeme Reid and Razia Saleh, Berlin: Kluwer
   A Keyword: TBA

F. April 2 Seminar with TAs
   Hulme & Whitehead, *Wild Majesty*, Part I Documents 1-3

Week 11
W. April 7 Lecture & breakout session with Joao Gabriel Section
   Hulme & Whitehead, *Wild Majesty*, Part I Documents 4-6

F. April 9 Seminar with TAs
   Hulme & Whitehead, *Wild Majesty*, Part II Documents 7-10

Week 12
W. April 14 & F. April 16 Break No Class

Week 13a
W. April 21 Lecture & breakout session with Ellie Palazzolo Section
   WTL 3 Due
Unit IV: Digitization

Week 13b
F. April 23  Seminar with TA’s
   A Keyword: TBA

Week 14
W. April 28  Seminar with TAs
   Keywords of Caribbean Studies https://caribbeandigitalnyc.net/keywords/page2/
   Final Draft of keywords due

Week 15  Exam Week
W. May 5  WTL 4 Due

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