The History, Culture and Politics of the Caribbean: Jamaica

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course will cover a comparative history of British and Spanish colonialism: the political-economy of slavery onto which those former colonists thrived; the cultural imperatives imposed on the populations; and the political institutions created to maintain their hegemony. Throughout these systems of dominance, African and Indigenous cultures survived through a series of assimilation and ingenuity. These remarkable histories have resulted in complex, diverse societies that represent an amalgamation of challenging; yet, positive attributes of circumstances. Students will be able to contrast the methods used by each of the individual European powers in the maintenance and proliferation of slavery and those efforts for abolishment of the slave trade, slavery and much later decolonization. In addition to the historical and political legacies the cultural attributes of Jamaican society will be examined.

1. COMPETENCIES:

Students should have a demonstrated understanding of the basic concepts and ideas in political science:

Competency 1: Comparative study the governance of nations in the developed and less-developed regions of the world

Competency 2: The processes by which political systems are shaped through historical forces, political cultures, the international environment, economic conditions, ideologies, and the decisions of leaders and public participants in politics

Competency 3: The cultures of African descendants, Creoles and other ethnic, minorities within the Caribbean community.

2. COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Early History of the Caribbean
   a. Eric Williams, From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean, “White Capital and Colored Labour”

II. The Political Economy of Slavery
   b. Eric Williams, From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean, “King Sugar” and “Capitalism and Slavery”
c. Hilary McD. Beckles, Britain’s Black Debt: Reparations for Caribbean Slavery and Native Genocide, “The Zong Massacre: Jamaica-Bound Africans Murdered” and “Prostituting Enslaved Caribbean Women”

III. Colonialism

b. “Spanish Colonialism”; “Colonial Nationalism”; and “The Cockpit of Europe” in From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean 1492-1969 by


IV. Manumission Efforts

a. Chapter One in The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution by C.L.R. James,

V. Freedom and Decolonization


VI. Cultural Diaspora

a. “Introduction” of Contemporary Caribbean Cultures and Societies in a Global Context by Teresita Martínez-Vergné, Franklin W. Knight
b. Erna Brodber, Louisiana
d. Michelle Cliff, If I could write this in fire, I would write this in fire
e. Kwame Dawes, Bob Marley
f. Films “The Harder They Come” and ”Home Again”
VII. **Impact of Globalization**

a. “Challenges to Caribbean Economies in the Era of Globalization” by Helen McBan and “Globalization, the World Bank and the Haitian Economy” by Alex Duprey in *Contemporary Caribbean Cultures and Societies in a Global Context*


**Course Assessment:**

Course will be constructed as a Hybrid and begin at the start of the summer session. Students will have access to all reading materials and will be afforded the entire session to complete all assignments online.


2. During the island stay, students will interview one person on the status of the political economic system and its personal impact. Attention will be particularly paid to Structural Adjustment and the accompanying government policies. Paraphrase interview and expand in a three to five page summary citing one text from each section.

3. Students will be familiar with the following terms:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Berlin Conference</th>
<th>Colonialism</th>
<th>IMF</th>
<th>Underdevelopment</th>
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<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Structural Adjustment</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Development</td>
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<td>Decolonization</td>
<td>Pan Africanism</td>
<td>Imperialism</td>
<td>NGO</td>
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<td>Monoculture</td>
<td>Feminism</td>
<td>Nationalism</td>
<td>Ecotourism</td>
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