

Universidad de Puerto Rico
Recinto de Río Piedras
Facultad de Humanidades
Departamento de Inglés

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. María del Carmen Quintero Aguiló

COURSE TITLE: Special Topics in Caribbean Literature and Culture:
Magic Realism in Caribbean Literature

COURSE NUMBER: INGL 4049

COURSE CREDITS: 3 credits/ 45 hours

CONTACT INFORMATION: maria.quintero@upr.edu
Office hours: Fridays from 9:00-9:55, or by
appointment
Pedreira basement #12

COURSE PREREQUISITES:
None. Course approved for General Education literature requirement.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
A specialized topics course on Caribbean society and literary expression, featuring analysis of literature and other areas such as film, history, music, politics, performance, religion, or popular culture. Topics vary per semester. Course can be taken up to three times when different themes are covered.

This semester's course will focus on the role of the beach within Caribbean literature. Special attention will be given to the ways in which the beach is portrayed and thus re-presented in the text(s) as a means of re-writing the nation-making narrative of the region in order to question, contest, re-write, re-shape, re-view and thus, re-present the Caribbean, its cultures, its peoples and ultimately, its identity[ies].

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of the origins of the Caribbean in connection to its history of violence, fragmentation, and erasure in conjunction with its alternative histories.
2. Read critically and utilize research resources relevant to the study of the trope of the beach in the Caribbean.
3. Gain understanding of the historical or cultural contexts significant to the study of Caribbean literature.
4. Gain knowledge of the various manifestations, purposes, and symbolisms of the beach as well as contributing new scholarship to the field.

5. Write weekly critically informed responses to the readings, write/present literary critical essays/presentations that interpret the selected texts with a focus on the topic of the beach in the Caribbean.
6. Gain understanding of the essential role of language in both literary and non-literary contexts in connection to the topic under study.

COURSE OUTLINE (CONTENT AND TIMEFRAME): *Subject to change

Date	Text(s)	Details
Aug. 24	TBA in class	Introduction to course: meet and greet; discussion of syllabus; presentation dates assignment and instructions; critical activity
Aug. 31	Theory- <i>From</i> Greg Dening's <i>Islands and Beaches</i>	Response paper #1 , supplementary material to be discussed in class
Sept. 7	Theory- <i>From</i> John Mack's <i>The Sea: A Cultural History</i>	Response paper #2 , supplementary material to be discussed in class
Sept. 14	Theory- <i>From</i> Anthony Carrigan's <i>Postcolonial Tourism</i>	Response paper #3 , supplementary material to be discussed in class
Sept. 21	Derek Walcott's "The Sea at Dauphin"	Response paper #4 ; Group I
Sept. 26	<i>From</i> Dione Brand's <i>At the Full and Change of the Moon</i>	Response paper #5 ; Group II; Midterm instructions
Sept. 28	N/A-Midterm paper workshop	Midterm paper workshop (counts as RP #6)
Oct. 5	<i>At the Full and Change</i> , cont.	Response paper #7 ; Group III
Oct. 12	NO CLASS	
Oct. 19	Film- ZAMA	Midterm paper due
Oct. 26	Tiphonie Yanique's <i>Land of Love and Drowning</i>	Response paper #8 ; Group IV
Nov. 2	<i>Land of Love</i> , cont.	Response paper #9 ; Group V
Nov. 9	TBA	Response paper #10 ; Group VI; Instructions for final paper
Nov. 16	N/A- Final paper workshop	Final paper workshop (counts as bonus RP #11)
Nov. 23	NO CLASS	

Nov. 30	N/A	Pending*
Dec. 7	N/A	Final paper due

TEACHING STRATEGIES: Lecture (20%), critical discussion (50%) of literary texts, (10%) workshop, and (20%) seminar.

Ley 51

Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el (la) professor(a) al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con impedimento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipos de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el (la) professor(a).

REQUIRED RESOURCES: English Department Seminar Room; UPR Library's databases; assigned books; Screening Room

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Response papers (10 in total)
10 @ 10 pts. each= 100 points
Midterm paper (1)= 100 points
Presentation (1)= 100 points
Final paper (1)= 100 points
Total: 400 points

GRADING SYSTEM: Quantifiable scale; A, B, C, D, F

Rules of the Game:

Students are required to complete a series of weekly response papers that count for 100 points of the course grade (10 points each). These will take the form of an MLA-style, one page, double-spaced, size 12 font Times New Roman word-processed document to be handed in during class. There will be no make-ups for this course requirement. However, a one-time make-up opportunity will arise during the semester. Therefore, students' presence in class is a determining factor for the course grade. Since the response papers will be handed-in on a weekly basis, completing the assigned readings prior to class is of the utmost importance. Not complying with this minimum requirement will result in course failure and/or cancellation.

There will be three main assignments during the semester. 1). Students are expected to divide in groups (depending on class size) and present on one of the texts pertaining to the course reading load (100 points of course grade); 2). Prepare one short (6-8 page) midterm paper (100 points of course grade); 3). Write one substantial (8-10 page) final paper (100 points of course grade).

All written assignments must follow MLA format and must be handed in at the allotted time at the beginning of class or as otherwise specified. For the latest MLA Eighth edition, go to: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl> or <http://mla.org/style>. Papers must be printed out; I will not accept papers sent via email.

Required texts:

"The Sea at Dauphin" (provided by professor)
Land of Love and Drowning (student's responsibility)
At the Full and Change of the Moon (student's responsibility)
Postcolonial Tourism (provided by professor)
The Sea: A Cultural History (provided by professor)
Islands and Beaches (provided by professor)

*The other supplementary texts will also be sent as links via email and require no reading in advance. Some of these texts, if not all, are available in the English Department's Richardson Seminar Room.

Since courses are based on contact time, class attendance is compulsory at this university. All professors throughout the course of the semester submit attendance reports. If a student is often absent, he or she is liable to not receiving the Federal Aid check. In addition, attendance will be numerically surveyed through the response papers. If absent (without the formal documentation) more than once, the student is liable to course failure. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. If you are more than twenty minutes late, please refrain from entering the classroom. Otherwise, please remind me at the end of class to remove your presumed absence.

According to the *Reglamento General de Estudiantes* (9 de septiembre de 2009) it is the institutional policy of the Río Piedras Campus to observe the highest standards of intellectual and scientific integrity and to pursue the prosecution of all violations (Circular Núm.17 de la Oficina del Rector, Año 1989-90). Violations include plagiarism (using the work, processes, ideas, and results of others without proper credit). Moreover, Article 6.2 (B) of the UPR General Regulations for Students identifies cheating as a punishable conduct.

As such, a professor *may* present a formal complaint to the Campus Disciplinary Board if she or he believes a student has committed plagiarism. If the professor pursues this line of action, Article 6.2 of the UPR General Regulations for Students stipulates that the repercussions may be the following:

- ☐ A written warning which will be included in the student's official record
- ☐ Probation for a determined period of time
- ☐ Suspension for a determined period of time
- ☐ Administrative permanent withdrawal from the UPR system
- ☐ Other sanctions provided by special regulation

PLAGIARISM – “The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work. Something appropriated and presented in this manner.”

PLAGIARIZE – “To appropriate by plagiarism. To appropriate ideas, passages, etc. from (a work) by plagiarism. To commit plagiarism.”

~Webster’s New Universal Unabridged Dictionary

I, _____, fully understand the meaning of
(Print name)

plagiarism, and therefore if I am found to have plagiarized, I realize I may receive a

“0” for that grade and that I *may* be reported to the Campus Disciplinary Board and/or *may* fail for the semester.

Signature

Date