

**University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras Campus
Faculty of Humanities
English Department**

INGL 4049 Special Topics in Caribbean Literature and Culture: *Caribbean Cinema*

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Level 4 or 5 on the Humanities English Placement Test (HEPT) or Advanced Placement in English

Professor: Norma L. Rodríguez

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 a.m-12:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

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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.

This semester's course will focus on the study of Caribbean cinema. An analysis of cinema from different areas of the Caribbean and its diaspora will be made from a social, political, and cultural context.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the semester students will:

1. Have basic knowledge of cinema made in the Caribbean and its diaspora
2. Apply critical thinking to analyze film while using basic cinematic terms
3. Conceive and write a film review using the social, cultural and political context of the film.
4. Use theory related to sexuality, representation, identity, and kinship to analyze and understand the different themes and topics addressed by Caribbean filmmakers.
5. Broaden research methods in film history and theory in the Caribbean and global context, gaining knowledge and understanding of a different wave of cinema, aside of Hollywood filmmaking.
6. Understand how new technologies, such as digital, film festivals, and online streaming, amongst other distribution strategies have influenced the current rise of Caribbean film production

Content and Time Distribution (45 hours):

Week 1-2: Introduction to the class and Caribbean Cinema Classics (4.5 hours):

Discussion of syllabus and basic concepts.

Screening: *Black Shack Alley*

Reading: West, Joan M., and Dennis West. "Euzhan Palcy and Her Creative Anger: A Conversation with the Filmmaker." *The French Review*, vol. 77, no. 6, 2004, pp. 1193–1203.

Suggested Reading: Blasini, Gilberto M. "Caribbean Cinematic Creolité." *Black Camera* 1.1 (2009): 70-90. Web.

Paddington, Bruce, and Keith Q. Warner. "The Emergence of Caribbean Feature Films." *Black Camera*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2009, pp. 91–108. *JSTOR*, JSTOR.

Week 2-3 (4.5 hours) Caribbean classics: *A foundation* (continuation)

Screenings: *The Harder They Come*

Readings: TBD

Visiting Lecturer: September 4th.

Week 3-5 (6 hours) Cinema of resistance: Documentary and fiction

Screenings: *Forward Ever: The Killing of a Revolution*, *Strawberry and Chocolate*

Readings: Santí, Enrico Mario. "'Fresa y Chocolate': The Rhetoric of Cuban Reconciliation." *MLN*, vol. 113, no. 2, 1998, pp. 407–425. *JSTOR*, JSTOR.

Week 6-8 (4.5 hours) Cinema of the diaspora: The Sankofa Collective and video art

Screenings: *Dreaming Rivers*, *Territories*

Readings: Diawara, Manthia. "The Nature of Mother in Dreaming Rivers." *Black American Literature Forum*, vol. 25, no. 2, 1991, pp. 283–298.

Mercer, Kobena. "Diaspora Culture and the Dialogical Imagination." *Welcome to the Jungle*. London: Routledge, 1994. Pp. 53-66. Print.

Week 8 (1.5 hours) Film Review Workshop

Week 9 (3 hours) Puerto Rican Cinema

Screenings: *Talento de Barrio*

Week 10-13 (7 hours) Female filmmakers and the family drama

FILM REVIEW DUE

Screenings: *What My Mother Told Me*, *Rain*, *Play the Devil**

Week 13-15 (6 hours) Gender and Sexuality

Screenings: *Sand Dollars*, *Children of God*

Week 16-18 (6 hours) Haiti: *Fiction*

Screenings: *Stones in the Sun*

NO CLASS: November 15

Week 19 (3 hours) The Colombian Caribbean

Screening: *Bad Luck y Goat*

Week 20 (1.5) Review of outlines for final paper

Week 21 (1.5 hours) Final Class Meeting

Teaching Strategies:

This course will include film analysis, group discussion, and writing exercises. It will also include readings to supplement and contextualize class screenings.

- “Los estudiantes que requieren acomodo razonable o reciben servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el profesor al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo y equipo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la oficina que atiende los asuntos para personas con impedimentos en la unidad.”

Methods of Evaluation:

- Class attendance and punctuality: 25 points
- Class participation: 25 points
- Short writing assignments and in-class presentation: 130 points
- Midterm Film Review: 100 points
- Final Paper: 100 points
- Total: 380 points

*Note that four absences will drop your grade by one. If you have four excused absences, then one more unexcused absence will affect your grade similarly. Seven absences will drop two grades. Twelve absences or more will not pass the course.

Grading System: A, B, C, D, F.

Plagiarism Statement:

—The University of Puerto Rico promotes the highest standards of academic and scientific integrity. Article 6.2 of the UPR Students General Bylaws (Board of Trustees Certification 13, 2009-2010) states that academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: fraudulent actions; obtaining grades or academic degrees by false or fraudulent simulations; copying the whole or part of the academic work of another person; plagiarizing totally or partially the work of another person; copying all or part of another person answers to the questions of an oral or written exam by taking or getting someone else to take the exam on his/her behalf; as well as enabling and facilitating another person to perform the aforementioned behavior. Any of these behaviors will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the disciplinary procedure laid down in the UPR Students General Bylaws.—

--La Universidad de Puerto Rico promueve los más altos estándares de integridad académica y científica. El Artículo 6.2 del Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR (Certificación Núm. 13, 2009-2010, de la Junta de Síndicos) establece que “la deshonestidad académica incluye, pero no se limita a: acciones fraudulentas, la obtención de notas o grados académicos valiéndose de falsas o fraudulentas simulaciones, copiar total o parcialmente la labor

académica de otra persona, plagiar total o parcialmente el trabajo de otra persona, copiar total o parcialmente las respuestas de otra persona a las preguntas de un examen, haciendo o consiguiendo que otro tome en su nombre cualquier prueba o examen oral o escrito, así como la ayuda o facilitación para que otra persona incurra en la referida conducta". Cualquiera de estas acciones estará sujeta a sanciones disciplinarias en conformidad con el procedimiento disciplinario establecido en el Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR vigente.--

Films:

Bad Lucky Goat. Dir. Samir Oliveros. 2017. Feature Film. DVD.

Black Shack Alley. Dir. Euzhan Palcy. Carlotta Films, 1983. Feature Film. DVD.

Children of God, Dir. [Kareem Mortimer](#). 2011. Feature Film.

Dreaming Rivers. Dirs. Martine Attille. Sankofa. Documentary.

Forward Ever: The Killing of a Revolution. Dir. Bruce Paddington. Grenada Market, 2013.

Murder in Pacot. Dir. Raoul Peck. Figuier Production, 2015. Feature Film. DVD.

Play the Devil. Dir. Maria Govan. Breaking Glass Pictures, 2016. Feature Film. DVD.

Rain. Dir. Maria Govan. Rain Films, 2008. Feature Film. DVD.

Sand Dollars. Dirs. Laura Amelia Guzmán & Israel Cárdenas. Aurora Dominicana, 2015. Feature Film. DVD.

Strawberry and Chocolate. Dirs. Juan Carlos Tabío and Tomás Gutiérrez Alea. Miramax, 1997. Feature Film. DVD.

Stones in the Sun. Dir. Patricia Benoit. Perf. Edwidge Danticat. Forward Entertainment. Feature Film, 2012.

Talento de Barrio. Dir. José Iván Santiago. Maya Entertainment, 2008. Feature Film. DVD.

Territories. Dir. Isaac Julien, Sankofa, 1984. Documentary. VHS.

What My Mother Told Me. Dir. Frances Ann-Solomon. Women Make Pictures, 1996. DVD.