

# **INGL 6489: Caribbean Narrative**

Dr. Loretta Collins Klobah

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of Caribbean fiction in English with emphasis on the development of distinctively Caribbean themes, techniques, and language.

## **OBJECTIVES**

**Students will be able to:**

1. Comprehend fundamental aspects and aesthetic techniques of a variety of fiction that addresses, from varying perspectives, the experiences, concerns and imaginings of those who have Caribbean connections.
2. Understand the cultural-historical relationship between Caribbean society, communal and individual imperatives and literary fiction.
3. Apply knowledge of literary studies to the appreciation and interpretation of both major established, foundational fiction writers and emerging writers of the Caribbean and its Diasporas
4. Develop knowledge of the use of the diction of the continuum of Caribbean Standard and Creole languages in Caribbean literary traditions.
5. Examine various themes, literary techniques and innovations, using literary terminology in classroom discussions and in written book review assignments, and academic research paper assignments
6. Identify significant secondary criticism in the field and apply relevant theory to the analysis of fiction
7. Acquire an inquisitive and thoughtful and appreciate attitude regarding the value of fiction the Caribbean, CircumCaribbean and Diasporic contexts.

## **TIME AND CONTENT DISTRIBUTION**

### **THEMES**

Course Intro (3 hours)

Francophone Caribbean/ slavery and migration: Chamoiseau and Gay (6 hours)

Diaspora teen fiction/mental illness: Allen-Agostini (3 hours)

Short Stories of Grenada and Britain: Ross (3 hours)

70th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Empire Windrush in Britain: Levy, Selvon, Joseph and the films (18 hours)

Masculinity and healing: Powell (3 hours)

Trinidadian politics: Rahim (3 hours)

Projects (6 hours)

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

**\*\*Other assigned readings will be placed on reserve; Films will be screened in class. Some of the texts are available on Kindle for lower prices (which may be more convenient for you):**

Patrick Chamoiseau. *Slave Old Man*. Trans. Linda Coverdale. The New Press, 2018 (hardcover and Kindle)

Roxane Gay. *Ayiti*. Grove Press, 2018. (print and Kindle)

Lisa Allen-Agostini. *Home Home*. Papillote Press, 2018. (print and Kindle)

Jacob Ross. *Tell No-One About This*. Peepal Tree Press, 2018 (print and in Kindle)

Andrea Levy. *Small Island*. Picador, 2004; 2010. (print and Kindle)

Samuel Selvon. *The Lonely Londoners*. Longman, 1989.

Anthony Joseph. *Kitch: A Fiction Biography of a Calypso Icon*. Peepal Tree Press, 2018. (print)

Patricia Powell. *The Fullness of Everything*. Peepal Tree Press, 2009. (print)

Jennifer Rahim. *Curfew Chronicles*. Peepal Tree Press, 2018. (print)

**Assignment #1: Each student will write a 1,500-word literary review of one of the following titles (we will divide up the class so that each of these texts is reviewed by one or two students):**

Lisa Allen-Agostini. *Home Home*.

Jennifer Rahim. *Curfew Chronicles*.

Anthony Joseph. *Kitch: A Fiction Biography of a Calypso Icon*.

Jacob Ross. *Tell No-One About This*.

Roxane Gay. *Ayiti*.

**Assignment #2: The class will collaborate on writing interview questions for two of the assigned authors.**

**Assignment #3: Conference length research essay (10 pages) due at end of term.**

#### TEACHING STRATEGIES

Class discussion, lecture, the creation of a PB Wiki Site, research, writing, use of print and internet sources.

#### RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY

Students must have access to the internet, as all work will be submitted to a PB wiki site, and bibliographic sources and some readings will also be available on the site.

#### METHODS OF EVALUATION

Up to 11.25 hours of the course can be offered through alternative means if necessary.

Students will 1) come to class prepared and participation in class discussions (5%); 2) write a brief book review of one of the specified books (20%); 3) collaboratively draft interview questions for two of the authors studied (25 pts each interview, for a total of 50 pts); 4) write a final 10-page paper of literary analysis of Caribbean fiction (25%). Total+100 pts.

#### GRADING SYSTEM

A, B, C, D, F

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 tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el (la) professor(a).

Academic Integrity:

"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's 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."

### ***Tentative syllabus:***

*Look up the assigned authors to know their biographies. Also look up any cultural reference or vocabulary that you don't know. Please read the texts, taking notes on the thematic and aesthetic issues that you think we should discuss in class.*

### **August 21: Course Introduction**

**August 28:** No class because Monday classes meet on this day, according to the UPRRP academic calendar

### **September 4:**

Dionne Brand, "San Souci" ***Sans Souci.pdf***

Patrick Chamoiseau. *Slave Old Man*. Trans. Linda Coverdale. The New Press, 2018 (hardcover and Kindle)

### **September 11:**

Roxane Gay. *Ayiti*. Grove Press, 2018. (print and Kindle)

### **September 18:**

Lisa Allen-Agostini. *Home Home*. Papillote Press, 2018. (print and Kindle)

### **September 25:**

Jacob Ross. *Tell No-One About This*. Peepal Tree Press, 2018 (print and in Kindle)

### **October 2:**

Screening: BBC "Windrush"

### **October 9:**

Andrea Levy. *Small Island*. Picador, 2004; 2010. (print and Kindle)

**October 16:**

Samuel Selvon. *The Lonely Londoners*. Longman, 1989.

**October 23:**

Screening: Documentary on calypsonians Lord Kitchener and Calypso Rose

**October 30:**

Anthony Joseph. *Kitch: A Fiction Biography of a Calypso Icon*. Peepal Tree Press, 2018.

**November 6:**

Pauline Melville, "Mrs. Da Silva's Carnival" [Mrs da silva carnival pauline melville pt 1.pdf](#) [Mrs da silva carnival pauline melville pt 2.pdf](#) [mrs da silva carnival pt 3.pdf](#)

Screening: *Territories*

**November 13:**

Patricia Powell. *The Fullness of Everything*. Peepal Tree Press, 2009. (print)

**November 20:**

Jennifer Rahim. *Curfew Chronicles*. Peepal Tree Press, 2018. (print)

**November 27:** projects

**December 4:** projects