English 6069: Minority Literatures and Cultures of the Caribbean

Academic Year: 2015/2016 Semester I: August 2015

Professor: Dannabang Kuwabong, PhD

B. Title: Minority Literatures and Cultures of the Caribbean

C. Code: Engl/Ingl. 6069

D. Credit Hours: 45 hours/3 credits

E. Prerequisites: Graduate Standing

F. Course Description: This course examines the literatures of ethnic minorities in Caribbean theory and literatures. The focus is on the unstudied literary representations of groups whose histories and cultures have been integral to the formation of Caribbean cultures, but which hitherto, have been neglected, erased, marginalized and silenced in the booming scholarship in Caribbean literary and cultural studies. This course will therefore explore the voices and representations of minority groups including the Chinese, Arabs, Jews, and Muslims in the Caribbean.

G. Course Objectives:

“Break a vase, and the love that reassembles the fragments is stronger than the love which took its symmetry for granted when it was whole. The glue that fits the pieces is the sealing of its original shape. It is such a love that reassembles our African and Asiatic fragments, the cracked heirloom whose restoration shows its white scars. This gathering of broken pieces is the care and pain of the Antilles. . . . Antillean art is this restoration of our shattered histories, our shards of vocabulary, our archipelago becoming a synonym for pieces broken off from the original continent.” (Walcott, Derek. “The Antilles: Fragments of an Epic Memory.” What the Twilight Says: Essays. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. 69)
By the end of the course students will:

a. gain an understanding of the vast historical and cultural roles played by minority groups in the evolution and development of Caribbean culture, especially the complexities of cultural, racial, spiritual, linguistic, and historical identities of the Caribbean

b. develop multi-cultural, trans-discipline, and comprehensive knowledge of Caribbean cultural and literary theories as well as gain an understanding of how they relate to the study of minority Caribbean histories, literatures, and cultures;

c. engage minority Caribbean literatures from plural/multiple theoretical perspectives than the dualistic or Trinitarian/tripartite models and sub-models of reading (Black—Afro-Caribbean, White—Euro-Caribbean, Asian—Indo-Caribbean);

d. understand and appreciate the migratory histories of minority Caribbean groups and their own peculiar diasporicities and exilic experiences, and gain a better understanding of these histories through the analyses of minoritarian literary theories and texts;

e. understand how multiple contexts: historical, linguistic, cultural values, and sites of difference (i.e., race, class, gender, sexuality, environment, spirituality, location, exile, family, etc.) intersect to influence perceptions and interpretations in these theoretical postulations;

f. develop a better understanding of Caribbean minorities cultural praxes and the history of ideas as well as the commentary on and contribution of Caribbean minorities literary texts including narratives, drama and performance, poetry, and other cultural products interpretations;

g. generate greater interest and awareness in students and open up areas of scholarly research and publications on intra-inter island settlement patterns and creativity by, and/or on minority ethnicities;

h. strengthen research methodologies, seminar and conference presentation, and scholarly paper writing skills in the field of study.

Total Number of Hours: 45hrs./3credit hours
I. Teaching Strategies: The pedagogical strategies to be used will primarily include: 20% lecture, 80% seminar presentations by students.

J. Required Resources: Access to all UPR library facilities, electronic search and on-line access, and internet access. When necessary, TV/VCR/DVD will be used for some class sessions.

K. Methods of Evaluation.

The following evaluation criteria will be used:

Weekly response papers of 2 pages, typed, double space to the required reading 30%

Term Paper I of not less than 15 pages (3750 words) 30%

Final Paper of not less than 15 pages (3750 words) 30%

Class participation 10%

Total: 100%

L. Grading System: A, B, C, D, F
M. Required Texts

Required Primary Texts: Students must try to acquire these texts by themselves. Some texts may be on electronic readers such as KINDLE.


Bibliography:


http://scholarlyrepository.miami.edu/anthurium/vol7/iss1/13


Afroz, Sultana. *Invisible Yet Invincible: Islamic Heritage Of The Maroons And The Enslaved Africans In Jamaica*.


---. Los chinos en las luchas por la liberación cubana, 1847-1930. La Habana, Instituto de Historia, 1963.

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Ordax Avecilla, F. *Los chinos fuera de China y el antagonismo de razas*. Habana, A. Miranda, 1893.

Pérez de la Riva, J. *Demografía de los culíes chinos en Cuba, 1853-74*. La Habana: [s.n.], 1967.


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Lind, Andrew W. “Adjustment Patterns Among the Jamaican Chinese.” Social and Economic Studies 7.2: 144 - 16


