

Caribbean Societies
Anthropology 326
CRN: 36805
302 Gerlinger Hall
Tues & Thurs: 12:00-1:20 pm

Prof. Philip W. Scher
319 Condon Hall
346-5104
pscher@uoregon.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4pm

Reader: Ivan Sandoval Cervantes

Readings:

Books available at the University of Oregon Bookstore.

Scher, PW: Perspectives on the Caribbean. 2010. Wiley/Blackwell Publishers

Hillman et al: Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean. 2009. Rienner Publishers

There will also be readings available on Blackboard.

Course Description:

No course can possibly hope to cover all of the "Societies of the Caribbean" in one semester. The aim of this class is, therefore, to deal with a selection of important topics in the study of the Caribbean and Caribbean culture. Towards that end, we will be looking at the ways in which Caribbean culture was formed through migration, slavery and trade, and the legacy of that process in religious, popular and scholarly contexts. We will also explore areas of Caribbean culture that have been received relatively little attention in the past such as tourism, migration and the arts. Several themes will run through the course, among them being issues of race, ethnicity and ethnic conflict, social organization and power, political economy and the image of the West Indies in the wider world.

Students will be required to complete the following assignments:

Map Quiz: 15%

Short Paper (8 pp): 35%

Attendance : 10%

Final Exam: 40 %

Readings will amount to approximately 100 pages per week, sometimes more.

Rules of the Game (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!!)

1. Attendance. Regular attendance is essential for your success in this course. Each element on the schedule, whether a lecture, discussion, or video is vital to the success and depth of your learning experience. You are expected to attend classes regularly. Poor attendance will inhibit your ability to do well in the course. I determine what is excusable. Please make every effort to inform me before class if you will be unable to

attend. **If you miss 4 or more classes without legitimate excuse you will receive an F for the class.**

2. Changes in Assignments. Assignments, due dates, videos, and readings may be altered at the discretion of the Instructor. If there are any changes in the dates for assignments or other assignments are distributed in your absence, you are responsible for finding out what those assignments are and meeting the deadlines.

3. Preparation. The quality of your learning experience and the course depends upon your being prepared for each class by reading CAREFULLY all of the assignments for each class session. Learning is achieved through thoughtful debate and discussion, which is only possible after thorough preparation. The class will be more engaging if you are prepared to participate in a lively, frank, and open discussion with your classmates. **I reserve the right to quiz the class if I feel readings are not being kept up.**

4. Collegiality. It is expected that students will be attentive and respectful of their fellow students and of their instructor and, perhaps more importantly, respectful of cultures and traditions which are not their own.

5. Academic Integrity. Students are to know and adhere to all regulations concerning Academic Honesty as detailed in the latest edition of the University of Oregon Bulletin. Do not submit material from the Internet or other sources as your own. A student will receive a grade of 0 (zero) on any assignment discovered to be in violation of the academic integrity regulations.

6. No work will be accepted late. There are only two exceptions: 1) a documented medical emergency; and 2) major religious observances that necessitate absence from class. In the case of the latter, the student must present notice in writing to the instructor by the second class meeting. **Furthermore there will be no alternative times for the Final Exam. Please plan any vacations etc., accordingly.**

7. Extra Credit. There are no opportunities for extra credit.

8. Lecture Protocol. Due to the size of this course and the amount of material covered, it is imperative that students refrain from asking questions that are not immediately on point or that do not distract from the discussion at hand. If you are not sure of a question, write it down and ask me after class. Thanks for your understanding in this regard.

Week 1: Introductory Remarks, Amerindian Caribbean

Tues:

Introduction, overview, review of the syllabus etc.

Thurs:

Thomas D. Boswell. *The Caribbean: A Geographic Preface.* In Hillman, Chpt. 2
Film: *Iron in the Soul* VIDEOTAPE 03835

Week 2: The European Arrival/Slave Trade (pt. 1)

Tues:

Stephen J. Randall. *The Historical Context.* in Hillman. Chpt. 3
Film: *Out of Africa* VIDEOTAPE 03835

Thurs:

Richard Dunn. "Sugar." (Online, Blackboard)

Week 3: The African Slave Trade/ Caribbean Social Structures

Tues:

Barry Higman. "Rural Regimes." (Online, Blackboard)

Map Quiz

Thurs:

Dennis A. Pantin. The Economies of the Caribbean. *in* Hillman, chpt. 5
Sidney Mintz: Houses and Yards Among Caribbean Peasantries *in* Scher.

Week 4: Living and Livelihood/ Gender in the Caribbean

Tues:

Faye V. Harrison "Women in Jamaica's Informal Economy." *in* Scher
Mona Rosendahl "To Give and To Take: Redistribution and Reciprocity in the Household Economy." *in* Scher

Thurs:

A. Lynn Bolles. Women and Development. In Hillman, chpt. 9.

Week 5: Ethnicity and Class and Nationality in the Caribbean

Tues:

Baronov & Yelvington. Ethnicity, Race, Class, and Nationality. *In* Hillman, chpt. 8
Aisha Khan "What is a Spanish?" *in* Scher

Thurs:

David Murray "Homosexuality, Society and the State:" *in* Scher
Jorge Duany "Ethnicity, Identity, Music Dominican Merengue" *in* Scher

Week 6: Religion in the Caribbean: Historical Background

Tues:

Leslie G. Desmangles et al. Religion in the Caribbean. In Hillman, chpt. 10
Leslie Desmangles. The Faces of the Cosmic Gods. *in* Scher
Film: Legacy of the Spirits VIDEOTAPE 03863

Thurs:

Barry Chevannes. Selection from *Rastafari and Other...* *in* Scher
Steven Vertovec. Official and Popular Hinduism in the Caribbean. *in* Scher

Week 7: Caribbean Politics and International Relations

Tues:

Thomas J. D'Agostino. Caribbean Politics. In Hillman, chpt. 4

Thurs:

H. Michael Erisman. International Relations. In Hillman, chpt. 6
Paper Due (see paper guidelines)

Week 8: Caribbean Migration and Diaspora

Tue:

Dennis Conway. The Caribbean Diaspora. In Hillman, chpt. 12

Elizabeth Thomas-Hope. Globalization and the Development of a Caribbean Migrant Culture. *In* Scher.

Thurs:

Nina Glick-Schiller "The Blood Remains Haitian:" Race, Nation and Belonging in the Transmigrant Experience.

Philip W. Scher. Becoming a Tile in the Gorgeous Mosaic. (Online at Blackboard).

Week 9: Culture and Performance

Tues

Roger Abrahams, "Joking: The Training of the Man-of-Words in *Talking Broad*," Elizabeth McAlister, "Rara as Popular Army: Hierarchy, Militarism, and Warfare."

(All available in Scher volume).

Thurs:

Frank E. Manning, "Celebrating Cricket: The Symbolic Construction of Caribbean Politics"

Film: Pan in A Minor (VIDEOTAPE 05608)

Week 10: Globalization and the Caribbean: Neoliberalism, Tourism and Beyond.

Tues

Thomas Klak and Dennis Conway. From Neoliberalism to Sustainable Development? (Online at Blackboard).

Carla Freeman "Designing Women." *In* Scher.

Film: Life and Debt VIDEO DVD 03024

Thurs

Beverly Mullings, "Globalization, Tourism, and the International Sex Trade (online)

Philip W. Scher. "Copyright Heritage: Preservation, Carnival and the State in Trinidad.