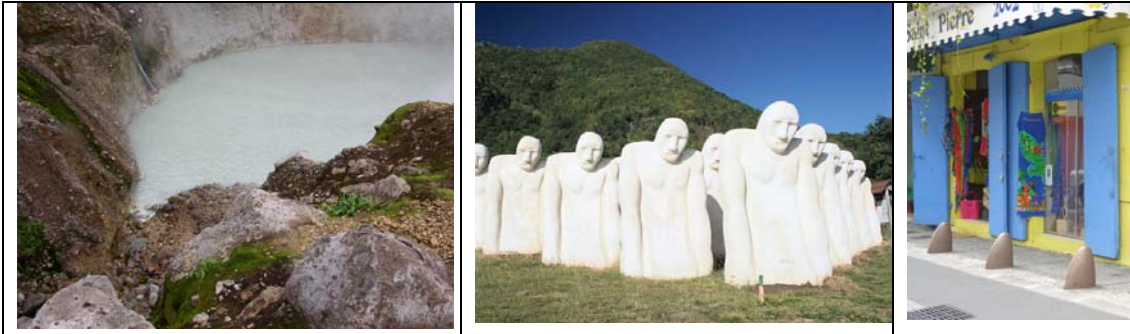


INTL 110: THE LESSER ANTILLES



Instructors:

Ismail Rashid
Swift Hall 33
Ext. 5674
israshid@vassar.edu

Stuart Belli
Mudd Chemistry 204
Ext. 5741
belli@vassar.edu

Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert
Chicago Hall 144
Ext. 5611
liparavisini@vassar.edu

Office Hours:
Mondays: 3:00-5:00
in New England 309

Office Hours:
Thursdays: 1:00-3:00

Office Hours:
By appointment only

Course Description:

The proposed trip seeks to bring key areas of circumatlantic studies—colonialism, post-colonialism, the sugar plantation, slavery and emancipation, tourism and eco-tourism, environmental challenges, Creole societies and languages—into greater focus by exploring the specificities of local responses to global movements. Through the study of the complexities of these three Caribbean societies, students would have the opportunity to question seemingly fixed categories such as “colonialism” or “the plantation” or still ambivalent categories like “eco-tourism” through the prism of specific cultures and histories. The underlying purpose of the trip is to demonstrate how the colonization of the Caribbean islands, spaces where self-containment has often led to varied and idiosyncratic cultures, has produced myriad forms of colonialism and of post-colonial societies that can hardly be subsumed by one singular term.

Class Dynamics:

Classes will be based on dialogue, open discussion and specific student questions. Lectures will be provided occasionally to guide and inform discussion of particular concepts or texts but will not substitute for student participation. Therefore students are responsible for coming to class prepared, having read and/or viewed assigned materials, and ready to comment on them. Students are responsible for bringing to our attention any problems they may encounter during the semester. This includes issues of comprehension, individual assignments or other concerns that may affect student performance.

Required Work:

Students are required to submit two papers and make two presentations as follows:

1. A five-page/proposal that discusses the topic/theme you are planning to research while on the trip.
2. A 4-minute presentation on your project before the trip.
3. A ten-page final paper on the topic/theme selected, due on May 1st.

If, in the course of writing any of the required work you should make use of the ideas or wording of a consulted source, you must provide documentation to that effect following the guidelines established in the *MLA Handbook* or *Chicago Manual of Style*. If you are unclear as to what requires documentation, consult the *Manual*, the pamphlet on *Originality and Attribution: A Guide for Student Writers at Vassar College*, or myself. Failure to acknowledge sources constitutes a breach of academic integrity and will be referred to the College's Academic Panel. This applies equally to material taken from the worldwide web.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance to class meetings is **obligatory**. Absence from class will not constitute a valid excuse for lack of preparation or late work. Students can keep abreast of course assignments through Blackboard or through contact with fellow students or the instructor. After the third unexcused absence from class, subsequent absences will result in a corresponding reduction of the final grade (see below).

Students with Disabilities

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities who are registered with the Office of Disability and Support Services. Please schedule an appointment with the instructor early in the semester to discuss any accommodations for this course which have been approved by the Director of Disability and Support Services as indicated in your DSS accommodation letter.

Required Texts (Available at Bookstore):

PLEASE READ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Polly Pattullo's *Last Resorts*

Mimi Sheller's *Consuming the Caribbean*

Discussion Schedule:

January 26: Introduction

General history of the Caribbean

Environmental History of the Caribbean

Required Reading:

Knight and Palmer. "The Caribbean: An Overview" (Blackboard)

Up in Smoke? Latin America and the Caribbean (Blackboard)

Wong et al's "Island Systems" (Blackboard)

Recommended Readings:

Paravisini-Gebert's "Endangered Species: Ecology and the Discourse of the Nation." (Blackboard)

February 2: Dominica

Required Readings:

Richardson's "British Caribbean Economic History: An Interpretation" (Blackboard)

Paravisini-Gebert's "Soi-Disant Columuses: The Discovery of Dominica's Boiling Lake" (Blackboard)

Lennox Honychurch's "Crossroads of the Caribbean: A Site of Encounter and Exchange in Dominica" (Blackboard)

Phyllis Allfrey's "O Stay and Hear" (Blackboard)

Recommended Readings:

Dale Tomich's "Small Islands and Huge Comparisons: Caribbean Plantations, Historical Unevenness, and Capitalist Modernity" (Blackboard)

Benjamin Goss and Dennis Conway's "Sustainable Development and Foreign Direct Investment in the Eastern Caribbean: A Strategy for the 1990s and Beyond?" (Blackboard)

February 9: Martinique

Required Read :

David Macey's « Frantz Fanon, or the Difficulty of Being Martinican » (Blackboard)

Ernest Zebrowski's « Mont Pelée » (Blackboard)

Ian Williams, from *Rum* (Blackboard)

Landscape and memoir: Martinican land, People, History (in class)

Lafcadio Hearn's "Les Blanchisseuses" from *Two Years in the West Indies* (Blackboard)

Recommended Readings:

William Miles' "Contradictions in the Caribbean: Martinique and the 2002 French National Election" (Blackboard)

Richard D. E. Burton's "Maman-France Doudou: Family Images in French West Indian Colonial Discourse" (Blackboard)

Max Welborn's "Victor Schoelcher: A Superior Breed of Abolitionist" (Blackboard)

Rosa Luxemburg's "Martinique" (Blackboard)

February 16: St Lucia/Project Presentations

Required Readings :

Glenn Griffin; "Come, We Go Burn Down Babylon: A Report on the Cathedral Murders and the Force of Rastafari in the Eastern Caribbean" (Blackboard)

Christian Colmore et al. "Parrot Conservation and Ecotourism in the Windward Islands" (Blackboard)

Charles Schmidt's "Keeping Afloat: A Strategy for Small Island Nations" (Blackboard)

Derek Walcott, Selections from *Omeros* (Blackboard)

Recommended Readings:

Daniel Crowley's "La Rose and La Marguerite Societies in St. Lucia"

Daniel Crowley's "Song and Dance in St. Lucia"

Mark Moberg's "Fair Trade and Eastern Caribbean Banana Farmers: Rhetoric and Reality in the Anti-Globalization Movement" (Blackboard)

February 23: Project Presentations

March 2: Project Presentations/ Preparations

April 6: Wrap-up

May 1: Final Papers due