ENGL 439B

World Literature Written in English: Self, Life and Writing in Caribbean Literature

Winter 2022

Instructor: Dr. Nancy Wright

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You will read innovative life writing by Caribbean authors and poets from the mid-twentieth century to the present to address questions about identity, place and culture. How do generations of Caribbean writers revise literary genres to represent the identity not only of an individual but of a community? Does self-representation transform identity into a performance? How do gendered and racialized identities revise ideas of home and exile in autobiographical narratives?

Proposed texts:

Kamau Brathwaite, Born to Slow Horses (2005)

Erna Brodber, Jane and Louisa Will Soon Come Home (1980)

Zee Edgell, Time and the River (2007)

Wilson Harris, The Ghost of Memory (2006)

George Lamming, In the Castle of My Skin (1953)


Claude McKay, A Long Way from Home (1937)

V.S. Naipaul, The Enigma of Arrival A Novel (1987)

Caryl Phillips, A View of the Empire at Sunset (2018)

Sam Selvon, The Lonely Londoners (1956)


Proposed Assignments:

Four 500 word discussion papers (60%)

One 1500 word Research Portfolio (40%)