ANTH 391
ETHNOLOGY OF THE CARIBBEAN

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Caribbean is often described as a “melting pot” of cultures, peoples, musics, foods, traditions, ethnic groups, languages, etc. Drawing on diverse perspectives, this course aims at understanding the reasons that explain such cultural diversity and regional unity. The course proposes to delve into a series of ethnographies written about a region of the Caribbean or a diaspora group, covering various themes of interest such as religion, language, music, politics, indigenous people, and economy. Theoretical Caribbean writings, such as those of the négritude, a literary and ideological movement that emerged in the French Caribbean, will provide a historical and postcolonial understanding of the Caribbean and its proliferous diaspora. Despite all of its particularities, the Caribbean region shares a colonial past that has strongly influenced the emergence of contemporary identity(ies) of blackness, mixture and syncretism, among others.