



**University of Victoria  
Department of Geography**

**Regional Studies: The Caribbean  
GEOG 388, A02  
Spring 2018**

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Class Location: Clearihue Building, Room A308  
Class Time: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30am-10:20am  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:30am-11:20am

**Course Description**

The Caribbean is a diverse region with a long colonial history of slavery, sugar plantations, and economic exploitation. The aim of this course is to introduce students to the social, cultural, political, economic, and environmental geographies of the Caribbean region. Throughout the semester, we will explore the Caribbean by studying topics such as carnival, gender roles, folklore, the coral reefs, and the impact of natural disasters in the region. In the course, we shall examine this region from a historical and contemporary standpoint in order to understand the legacy of colonialism and the role it plays in shaping the lives of Caribbean islanders today.

**Course Objective**

- Introduce students to the physical, cultural, social, economic, and political geographies of the Caribbean.
- Introduce students to themes that highlight the diversity of the Caribbean region.
- Examine various case studies, which will allow us to gain a better understanding of the region as a whole.
- Explore concepts, ideas, and processes that make the Caribbean distinct from other regions of the world.
- Develop an understanding of the similarities and differences across the various countries that compose this region.

## Learning Outcomes

- Ability to identify the distinct physical, cultural, social, economic, and political geographies of the Caribbean.
- Describe themes and patterns that make the Caribbean similar to and different from other regions of the world.
- Utilize concepts, ideas, and themes that characterize the uniqueness of the region.
- Develop critical thinking skills in terms of understanding how the Caribbean region functions within the global economy.
- Develop an appreciation and cultural awareness of the diversity of the peoples that make up the Caribbean region.

## Required Course Text and Readings

- Scher, Philip. (2010). *Perspectives on The Caribbean*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Brown, Stewart & John Wickham. (2002). *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Short Stories*. Oxford University.
- Kincaid, Jamaica. (2000). *A Small Place*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux.
- Articles available electronically on UVic library website:
  - “Tourism and Crime in the Caribbean” by Klaus de Albuquerque and Jerome McElroy (1999)
  - “African Dust and the Demise of the Caribbean Coral Reefs” by Eugene A. Shinn et. al (2000)
  - “Offshore Financial Centres in the Caribbean” by Oral H. Williams, Esther C. Suss and Chandima Mendis (2005)

## Assignments and Grading Scheme

Your final grade will be based on the following calculation:

Attendance	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	35%
Critical Analysis Term Paper	35%

## Grading Scale:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	49% or Less

**Undergraduate Grading\*\*As per stated in the 2017-2018 Calendar**

## **Details About Assignments:**

### I. Attendance (10%):

Attendance will be taken each day class meets. It is your responsibility to find the attendance sheet circulated during each class meeting and make sure you sign it. Prompt attendance is a professional responsibility and courtesy (see Academic Regulations in the UVic calendar).

### II. Midterm Exam (20%) and Final Exam (35%)

There will be two exams over the course of the semester (see schedule below for dates). The exams will consist of short-answer essay questions, and they will cover material from the lectures, readings, and films. The midterm exam will only include material covered from the beginning to the middle of the semester. However, there will also be a cumulative final exam at the end of the semester. For the final exam, you will be responsible for all material covered in the course from the beginning of the semester to the end. The final exam date/time/location will be announced during the semester. All class lectures will be posted by midnight the night before each class meeting on the UVic CourseSpaces website (<http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>). The lectures posted on CourseSpaces do not include everything. You are expected to attend lectures and take notes because some information (concepts, ideas, themes) will be discussed in the class that may not be on the lecture slides. It is important to take notes in order to engage with the content presented in the course. Taking notes is a really important learning tool for studying as well. I highly recommend taking notes, and I also recommend coming to see me during office hours if you want to discuss any aspect of the course content even further to improve your learning. I am always here to assist in your learning of the course material.

### III. Critical Analysis Term Paper (35%)

You are required to write a critical analysis term paper for this course on the following required text:

#### **Kincaid, Jamaica. (2000). *A Small Place*.**

During Week 8 and 9 we will discuss the arguments and content of the text in class (see schedule below for class discussion date). You should follow these instructions as you write your paper:

- This paper should be a total of 8-10 pages doubled-spaced, 12 pt font size, 2.54 cm margins with proper in-text citations. You should also include a separate reference page for external sources cited in the paper (APA style is required).
- This paper is not a summary of the text. Your term paper is a critical analysis of the content of the book. Explain what are the main claims or arguments of the text. Discuss specific agreements or disagreements with the content of what you read and why. You should use any external resources you feel are necessary to support your statements in the paper. In your paper, you should also link ideas and concepts discussed during lectures and from the assigned reading in the course this semester to your discussion. Please do not only cite the lectures in your paper. You should draw upon a fair balance of lectures, the course reading

and external sources as you write the paper. Please do not use Wikipedia as a source (points will be deducted for this citation, as it is not a scholarly reference).

- Students may choose to write this critical analysis term paper as a group of two students or individually, but you **MUST** consult the instructor if you decide you want to write it with another classmate. Be aware that if you choose to write the paper with a partner, you will both receive the same grade for this portion of your final grade.
- The term paper will be due in-class as a printed hard copy (no electronic submission) on **Friday March 16<sup>th</sup>**. No late papers will be accepted after this date.
- Your essay will be evaluated based upon the following rubric:
  - a. Quality of content in terms of strong critiques and analysis of resources you review for the research paper
  - b. Quality of content and linkages to lectures and the course reading
  - c. Structure and organization of paper
  - d. Grammar and spelling
  - e. Proper in-text citations and references

### **Course Experience Survey (CES)**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of the term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca>. You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time to complete the survey online and I will give you some time in class to complete it as well.

### **UVic's Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. It is expected that students, faculty members and staff at the University of Victoria, as members of an intellectual community, will adhere to these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research and service. Any action that contravenes this standard, including misrepresentation, falsification or deception, undermines the intention and worth of scholarly work and violates the fundamental academic rights of members of our community. This policy is designed to ensure that the university's standards are upheld in a fair and transparent fashion. See website (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2015-01/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcl.html>).

### **Plagiarism**

All class assignments should be prepared by the student(s) submitting the assignment. Plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty, will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism consists of: (a) submitting someone else's work as your own without the use of proper citation or (b) paraphrasing another's ideas without acknowledging the

author's work through citation. The use of an editor, whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization. If you have any questions concerning matters of plagiarism, please see the following link: <http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/index.php>.

### **UVic's Accessibility Statement for Students with a Disability**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSA) as soon as possible. The RCSA staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (<http://rcsd.uvic.ca>). The sooner you let me know your needs the quicker I can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

### **UVic Positivity and Safety Statement**

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

### **Class Schedule**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
<b>WEEK 1</b>			
Wed	Jan 3rd	Introduction	Review syllabus and course requirements
Fri	Jan 5th	Globalization & Caribbean Migration I	Read Chapter 14 (Scher)
<b>WEEK 2</b>			
Tues	Jan 9th	Short Stories Discussion	Read "Caribbean Chameleon" and "The Waiting Room" (Brown & Wickham)
Wed	Jan 10th	Globalization & Caribbean Migration II	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	Jan 12th	Urbanization & Shanty Towns I	Read Chapter 2 (Scher)
<b>WEEK 3</b>			
Tues	Jan 16th	Short Stories Discussion	"Pablo's Fandango" and "Encarnación Mendoza's Christmas Eve" (Brown & Wickham)
Wed	Jan 17th	Urbanization & Shanty Towns II	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	Jan 19th	Race & Identity in the Caribbean	Read Chapter 4 (Scher)
<b>WEEK 4</b>			
Tues	Jan 23rd	Short Stories Discussion	Read "Trotters" and "Morris Bhaiya" (Brown & Wickham)

Wed	Jan 24th	Film: Cuba: The Next Revolution	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	Jan 26th	Gender Roles & Sexual Identity	Read Chapter 5 (Scher)
<b>WEEK 5</b>			
Tues	Jan 30th	Short Stories Discussion	Read "Triumph" and "Red Dirt Don't Wash" (Brown & Wickham)
Wed	Jan 31st	Film: Coming Out In Jamaica	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	Feb 2nd	Carnival, Music & Cuisine	Read Chapter 10 (Scher)
<b>WEEK 6</b>			
Tues	Feb 6th	Folklore, Art & Religion	Read Chapter 13 (Scher)
Wed	Feb 7th	Caribbean Tourism	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	Feb 9th	REVIEW FOR MIDTERM EXAM	*No Assigned Reading
<b>WEEK 7</b>			
Tues	Feb 13th	<i>Reading Break</i>	*No Class
Wed	Feb 14th	<i>Reading Break</i>	*No Class
Fri	Feb 16th	<i>Reading Break</i>	*No Class
<b>WEEK 8</b>			
Tues	Feb 20th	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>CLASS DISCUSSION (PART 1) A Small Place (1<sup>st</sup> Half of the Book)</b>	Jamaica Kincaid(1-40)
Fri	Feb 23rd	Film: Life & Debt	*No Assigned Reading
<b>WEEK 9</b>			
Tues	Feb 27th	Film: Life & Debt (con't)	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Feb 28th	<b>CLASS DISCUSSION (PART II) A Small Place (2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the Book)</b>	Jamaica Kincaid (41-96)
Fri	Mar 2nd	Crime, Drugs & Corruption	Read article "Tourism and Crime in the Caribbean"
<b>WEEK 10</b>			
Tues	Mar 6th	Natural Disasters & Devastation	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Mar 7th	Short Stories Discussion	Read "After the Hurricane" and "Drought" (Brown & Wickham)
Fri	Mar 9th	Film: Caribbean Fish Sanctuaries	*No Assigned Reading
<b>WEEK 11</b>			
Tues	Mar 13th	Caribbean Beaches, Coral Reefs & Fishing	Read article "African Dust and the Demise of the Caribbean Coral"

			Reefs”
Wed	Mar 14th	Short Stories Discussion	Read “Leaving this Island Place” and “The Light of the Sea” (Brown & Wickham)
Fri	Mar 16th	Sports in the Caribbean <b>CRITICAL ANALYSIS TERM PAPER DUE</b>	Read Chapter 9 (Scher)
<b>WEEK 12</b>			
Tues	Mar 20th	Film: Short Video Clips of Local Sports	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Mar 22st	Short Stories Discussion	Read “The Cricket Match” and “Sunday Cricket” (Brown & Wickham)
Fri	Mar 23rd	Class Activity (We Play Cricket!)	*No Assigned Reading
<b>WEEK 13</b>			
Tues	Mar 27th	Offshore Services	Read article “Offshore Financial Centres in the Caribbean”
Wed	Mar 28th	China & the Caribbean	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	Mar 30th	Good Friday	*No Class
<b>WEEK 14</b>			
Tues	April 3rd	Film: China in the Caribbean	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	April 4th	REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM <b>***Reminder: Complete CES Evaluation</b>	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	April 6th	TBA	*No Assigned Reading
<b>Note: I reserve the right to make reasonable changes to the syllabus over the course of the semester.</b>			

\*\*\*Note: January 19, 2018: Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term.

February 28, 2018: Last day for withdrawing from first term courses without penalty of failure.