



**University of Victoria
Department of Geography**

Regional Studies: The Caribbean

GEOG 388, A02

Spring 2019

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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Class Location: David Strong Building, Room C108

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 OBJECTIVES

- 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%
Group-Led Class Discussion	10%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Critical Analysis Term Paper	25%

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 GradingAs per stated in the 2018-2019 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. Group-Led Class Discussion (10%)

Each student will have an opportunity to lead a class discussion within a group assigned by the instructor. The instructor will assign students into groups towards the end of the second week of classes. Each group will consist of 3-4 students (depending on the number of students registered in the course) and will be assigned a date to lead the class in a discussion over the course of the semester. Beginning in Week 3, the first group will be expected to present and discuss the short stories assigned for that day (see course schedule for group discussion/presentation dates). Each group should follow these instructions in order to effectively present the short stories readings and lead a class discussion:

- Provide a handout to the instructor, which covers the main points and other information you feel are relevant. The handout should be one page in length and include a single-spaced, well-written 1-2 paragraph summary of the readings you are assigned. It should also consist of bullet points of information or questions you will be using in your discussion of the readings that you are assigned. This will be evaluated as part of your overall group presentation grade.
- Using a critical approach, discuss the main points from your group's assigned set of short stories. **You should not simply present a summary of the reading as your discussion.** You are expected to come up with thoughtful questions to discuss with the class based on the readings.
- You should ***add some creativity to your class discussion***. Since your discussion will be based on Caribbean short stories that are centered on specific themes such as migration, race, gender, natural disasters etc., you should consider using visual aids such as ***posters, short power-point presentation, short video clips or in-class activities (debate, class draw a concept map or diagram)*** to get your classmates to think critically about the issues you are discussing. Keep in mind that you will have the entire class period to discuss the short stories and to help your classmates to think critically about the readings.
- It is strongly encouraged that each group speak with the instructor at least one week prior to your group discussion in order to go over your ideas, plans, and the structure of your presentation. I am here to help guide you to do well on this part of your class assignment, so make sure you speak with me about how you plan to discuss/present the assigned short stories for that day. I can help you brainstorm ideas for class activities.
- Your grade for this assignment will be evaluated based on the following rubric:
 - a. Ability to carry out the instructions provided in the syllabus
 - b. Quality of discussion of content from the assigned short stories including key themes/concepts/ideas/theories/arguments
 - c. Organization and structure of presentation

- d. Creativity of presentation
- e. Ability to engage the class in critical thinking about the material in relation to global migration

III. Midterm Exam (25%) and Final Exam (30%)

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.

IV. Critical Analysis Term Paper (25%)

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, 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 15th**. 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 Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal>). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we 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.

COURSE POLICY ON RECORDING OF LECTURES AND USE OF COURSE MATERIALS

According to the university's Intellectual Property Policy (GV0215), professors and instructors are the authors of their original course materials, lecture notes, and lecture presentations. Accordingly, they own copyright in these materials. Occasionally, students enrolled in a course may ask to record lectures because they would like to review the material at a future date. A lecture constitutes an instructor's intellectual property. A student must get permission to record the lecture from their instructor. Any material for the course (e.g., lecture notes, PowerPoints, syllabus, including a recording of a lecture) is made solely for the use of the student registered in the course for research and private study only. These materials must not be posted online or shared with other students without the instructor's permission. In some cases, a student with a perceptual disability will be eligible for an academic accommodation to record a lecture. Please visit the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) website for more information. You should be aware that there are policies and legislation regarding academic accommodation. Should you have any questions please contact the Copyright Office.

Class Schedule

Day	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
WEEK 1			
Tues	Jan 8th	Introduction	Review syllabus and course requirements
Wed	Jan 9th	Globalization & Caribbean Migration I	Read Chapter 14 (Scher)
Fri	Jan 11th	Globalization & Caribbean Migration II	Read Chapter 14 (Scher)
WEEK 2			
Tues	Jan 15th	Urbanization & Informal Settlements I	Read Chapter 2 (Scher)

Wed	Jan 16th	Urbanization & Informal Settlements II Race & Identity in the Caribbean	Read Chapter 2 (Scher)
		TODAY INSTRUCTOR WILL ASSIGN STUDENTS INTO GROUPS FOR GROUP-LED CLASS DISCUSSION	
Fri	Jan 18th		Read Chapter 4 (Scher)
		WEEK 3	
Tues	Jan 22nd	Film: Cuba: The Next Revolution	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Jan 23rd	Gender Roles & Sexual Identity	Read Chapter 5 (Scher)
Fri	Jan 25th	Group 1 Lead Class Discussion--- Short Stories	Read "Caribbean Chameleon" and "The Waiting Room" (Brown & Wickham)
		WEEK 4	
Tues	Jan 29th	Film: Coming Out In Jamaica	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Jan 30th	Carnival, Music & Cuisine I	Read Chapter 10 (Scher)
Fri	Feb 1st	Group 2 Lead Class Discussion— Short Stories Discussion	Read "Pablo's Fandango" and "Encarnación Mendoza's Christmas Eve" (Brown & Wickham)
		WEEK 5	
Tues	Feb 5th	Carnival, Music & Cuisine II	Read Chapter 10 (Scher)
Wed	Feb 6th	Folklore, Art & Religion I	Read Chapter 13 (Scher)
Fri	Feb 8th	Group 3 Lead Class Discussion— Short Stories Discussion	Read "Trotters" and "Morris Bhaiya" (Brown & Wickham)
		WEEK 6	
Tues	Feb 12th	Folklore, Art & Religion II	Read Chapter 13 (Scher)
Wed	Feb 13th	Group 4 Lead Class Discussion— Short Stories Discussion	Read "Triumph" and "Red Dirt Don't Wash" (Brown & Wickham)
Fri	Feb 15th	REVIEW FOR MIDTERM EXAM	*No Assigned Reading
		WEEK 7	
Tues	Feb 19th	<i>Reading Break</i>	*No Class
Wed	Feb 20th	<i>Reading Break</i>	*No Class
Fri	Feb 22nd	<i>Reading Break</i>	*No Class
		WEEK 8	
Tues	Feb 26th	MIDTERM EXAM	*No Assigned Reading

Wed	Feb 27th	CLASS DISCUSSION: A Small Place	Jamaica Kincaid(1-96)
Fri	Mar 1st	Film: Life & Debt	*No Assigned Reading
		WEEK 9	
Tues	Mar 5th	Film: Life & Debt (con't)	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Mar 6th	Caribbean Tourism	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	Mar 8th	Crime, Drugs & Corruption	Read article "Tourism and Crime in the Caribbean"
		WEEK 10	
Tues	Mar 12th	Natural Disasters & Devastation	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Mar 13th	Caribbean Beaches, Coral Reefs & Fishing	Read article "African Dust and the Demise of the Caribbean Coral Reefs"
		Group 5 Lead Class Discussion--- Short Stories Discussion	
Fri	Mar 15th	CRITICAL ANALYSIS TERM PAPER DUE	Read "After the Hurricane" and "Drought" (Brown & Wickham)
		WEEK 11	
Tues	Mar 19th	Film: Caribbean Fish Sanctuaries	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Mar 20th	Sports in the Caribbean & Short Video Clips of Local Sports	Read Chapter 9 (Scher)
Fri	Mar 22nd	Group 6 Lead Class Discussion— Short Stories Discussion	Read "Leaving this Island Place" and "The Light of the Sea" (Brown & Wickham)
		WEEK 12	
Tues	Mar 26th	We Play Cricket!	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Mar 27th	Offshore Services	Read article "Offshore Financial Centres in the Caribbean"
Fri	Mar 29th	China & the Caribbean	*No Assigned Reading
		WEEK 13	
Tues	April 2nd	Film: China in the Caribbean	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	April 3rd	***Reminder: Complete CES Evaluation	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	April 5th	TBA	*No Assigned Reading
Note: I reserve the right to make reasonable changes to the syllabus over the course of the semester.			

***Note: January 23, 2019: Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term.

February 28, 2019: Last day for withdrawing from first term courses without penalty of failure.