

Revolutions and Radicalism in the Caribbean

Course Description: This course will introduce students to the history of the Caribbean through the lens of the region's revolutions and social movements dating from the late 18th century to the present. We will explore the contexts in which these struggles took place and take a close look at some of the ways they remain alive and relevant today. Together we will consider the experiences of people involved in resistance, rebellion and social change and how they collectively shaped the history of the region. Revolutions are made by the convergence of ideas and the actions of ordinary people; it is they who will be the central focus of our course.

This course covers a considerable range, and because of that, it will focus on establishing the historical context alongside core case studies to explore the ways in which subalterns have shaped their own political and historical realities and shaped the historical trajectory of the various nations that make up the Caribbean basin. We will discuss politics, memory, and the lived experiences of socio-political changes through time. This course will also discuss the role the United States has played in the region dating back to its own founding. That being said, the class will decenter Europe and the United States as the prime focus and engage with these entities from the perspective of the people living and struggling both on the continent and the islands. This is a multidisciplinary course in which we will draw upon History, Art History, Literature, Music, Film and Popular Culture to paint a vibrant picture of the Caribbean and its peoples. I look a fun semester!

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of the history of the Caribbean on its own terms and the role the region has played in world events.
- Gain a more rounded understanding of U.S.-Caribbean Relations.
- Hone analytical skills.
- Gain a wider political literacy and an understanding of the social forces that have impacted our hemisphere.

Course Structure

This course is taught asynchronously online. You will complete each week's work at your own pace, following strict weekly deadlines. There is no textbook. All readings and other resources will be accessible via the Modules tab of the course Canvas site. Be sure to work through the material in each Module in order and complete everything by the deadline.

Canvas: Students work through this course in Canvas using the Modules tab. Everything you

need for the week—links to all readings, assignments, Websites, discussions, tests, etc.—will be accessible in the week’s Module, which will open by Sunday. You must work through each Module in order. You can directly access Announcements, Discussions, and Assignments (and later, Grades) from the blue menu on the lefthand side.

Communications: We will communicate exclusively through Canvas and our UNCG e-mail accounts. Check both regularly. Also check the Canvas Home Page regularly for the latest course information. Be sure to set your Notification Preferences in Canvas Settings so you will receive announcements and other timely course updates via email. Don’t forget to check your UNCG email regularly!

Time Management in an Online Course: Plan to spend 6-9 hours per week on this class—as much time as if it were taught in a classroom. Like all forms of education an online course brings new opportunities for learning, and also its own particular challenges. One advantage is that you can complete the material on your own schedule. But without the structure of regular class meetings, it can be easy to fall behind. You must keep up with the weekly assignments and adhere to deadlines to stay on track. Plan your time wisely!

Course Requirements & Expectations

Course Accommodations:

I have designed this class in a way that I think promotes active student learning. If you need special accommodations for any portion of the class or type of activity, please let me know as soon as possible. There is often something that can be done to make the class better for you, but the sooner I know the more I can do.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: By submitting an assignment, each student is acknowledging their understanding and commitment to the Academic Integrity Policy:

<https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>. Quite simply, plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas without giving them credit. In this course you must always use your own words and only draw from course material. Know the rules. If in doubt, ask. For more information see the page about plagiarism in the Skills and Information Module.

AI and Academic Honesty

“The use of AI to generate any part of your assignments for this course constitutes a violation of the University’s policy on plagiarism, because it represents thoughts or ideas of another as your own.” (<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://osrr.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Academic-Integrity-Policy-Revised-7-7-2021.pdf>)

Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, and online assignment help tools, such as Chegg®, are examples of online learning support platforms: they can not be used for course assignments. The following actions are prohibited in this course:

- Submitting all or any part of an assignment statement to an online learning support platform;
- Incorporating any part of an AI generated response in an assignment;
- Using AI to brainstorm, formulate arguments, or template ideas for assignments;
- Using AI to summarize or contextualize source materials;
- Submitting your own work for this class to an online learning support platform for iteration or improvement.

If you are in doubt as to whether you are using an online learning support platform appropriately in this course, I encourage you to discuss your situation with me.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

We are very fortunate that UNCG has a wide array of excellent services to support students at every level. These are your go-to experts for specific problems and issues. Expert help is just a click away!

History Department: Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS): UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must connect with OARS. No accommodations can be made without completed paperwork.

Information Technology Services (ITS): Your source for all tech problems, including computer malfunctions, issues with Canvas, Internet connectivity, etc. They know far more about all this than we do!

Student Health Services: Provides free, confidential support for a variety of health issues. Counselling Center: Has resources dedicated specifically to the ongoing impact of the pandemic on mental health and other issues. Take good care of your body and your mind! Both are feeling the stresses of the times. Students First Office: This is your one-stop resource for a variety of support services to help ensure your academic success.

Dean of Students: Provides information, guidelines, and practical information to support students in a wide range of situations, including crises and emergencies.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities: This office has information about expectations for student conduct, academic integrity, appeal procedures, due process, and more.

The Writing Center: Provides useful resources for all types of writing assignments, no matter how large or small. You can schedule a meeting to discuss a specific assignment and also access a wide variety of information and tips to strengthen your writing.

Assignments & Assessments (An Overview)

- Course Engagement 35%
 - Reading and Lecture Notes (Posted to Canvas) 10%
 - Weekly Writing Engagement 25%
- Film Responses (there will be two, each worth 10%)- 20%
- Midterm – Video Blog 20%
- Final Exam – Thematic Essay 25%

Topic Engagement-

These assignments come in two parts.

- **Reading Notes:** Students will post their notes on readings and lectures in pdf format every week as a way to demonstrate their progress following the material.
- **Weekly Writing:** Each week there will also be a short writing prompt that is meant to put the readings and videos into dialogue with each other and demonstrate the student's grasp of the weekly topics. The prompts will be posted on Sunday each week, and the responses from the previous week will also be due on Sunday by midnight.

Film Responses- There will be certain weeks where films will be available to screen and students will write a two brief one-page response to the film. Students will share their ideas about the film and how they forward our discussions on the weekly topics. Students must complete two film reflections but can choose any two they wish to complete. They will be due alongside their corresponding weekly prompts.

Midterm Video Blog- Students will create a brief, five-minute video blog/presentation on a topic covered in the first half of the course. Details will be posted as we approach the midterm.

Final Exam- The Final Exam will consist of a thematic essay meant to draw upon the cumulative material of the course. Students will utilize the readings and the posted videos to compose a well-rounded essay that will seek to answer one of three overarching and multifaceted questions that will combine elements from various themes of the course.

Remember- The use of AI to generate any part of your assignments for this course constitutes a violation of the University's policy on plagiarism, because it represents thoughts or ideas of another as your own." <https://osrr.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Academic-Integrity-Policy-Revised-7-7-2021.pdf>)

Course Calendar

Please note that this course calendar is a work in progress and is, therefore, subject to change. Be sure to check your email and Moodle regularly for any schedule changes. Moodle will have the correct, most up-to-date list of assignments and topics.

Readings, Hypothesis notes, and other tasks are to be completed **prior to the class** for which they are assigned. All readings will be available on Moodle. You must bring a copy of the readings to class in paper or electronic form.

For all guided questions and annotation requirements for the readings in see Canvas.

Key Dates		
Aug. 15 th – First Day of Classes	Sept. 22 nd – Midterm Grades Due	Nov. 29 th – Last Day of Classes
Aug. 21 st – Drop/Add Ends	Oct. 6 th -11 th – Fall Break	
Sept. 4 th – No Class Labour Day Holiday	Nov. 21 st -26 – Thanksgiving Break	

Week 1: Aug. 15-18

- **Topic 1:** Welcome – Overview of class, topic and material (how do we study history, historiography of topic or theme)
- **Topic 2:** What is a revolution?
- **Readings:** Selections from *Born in Blood and Fire*- By John Chasteen
- **Engagement:** Discussion Question:- “What comes to mind when you think of ‘Revolution’? What does this mean to you?: -**To be posted with your notations by midnight on Monday August 21st**

Week 2: Aug. 21-25

- **Topic 1:** Roots of Resistance: Indigenous Struggle and Slave Rebellion in the Colonial Era
- **Topic 2:** The Age of Revolutions and the Americas
- **Readings:**

Week 3: Aug. 28-Sept. 1

- **Topic 1:** The Haitian Revolution
- **Topic 2:** The Black Republic: Haiti as Revolutionary Bastion
- **Readings:**

Week 4: Sept. 4-8

- **Topic 1:** Américanos and the United States
- **Topic 2:** Antillanos

- Readings:

Week 5: Sept. 11-15

- Topic 1: The Cuban Wars for Independence
- Topic 2: Cuba and the Birth of the American Empire
- Readings:

Week 6: Sept. 18-22

- Topic 1: Neo-Colonialism, “Good Neighbours” and The Banner of Ethiopia
- Topic 2: Nicaragua and Sandino
- Readings:
- Engagement:

Week 7: Sept. 25-29

- Topic 1: Mafia and Mambo
- Topic 2: The Cuban Revolution
- Readings:

Week 8: Oct. 2-6

- Topic 1: The 1959 Moment: The Cuban Revolution in Power
- Topic 2: The Struggle for Puerto Rico
- Readings:

Week 9: Oct. 9-13 (Fall Break 7-11)

- Topic 1: Guerrillas

Week 10: Oct. 16-20

- Topic 1: Tricontinentalism and OSPAAAL
- Topic 2: Sandino’s Children: The Nicaraguan Revolution
- Readings:

Week 11: Oct. 23-27

- Topic 1: Rude Boys and Rastas: Jamaica
- Topic 2: Rastas and Revolutionaries: The Grenada Revolution
- Readings:

Week 12: Oct. 30-Nov.3

- Topic 1: The 1979 Moment: Revolutionary Alternatives
- Topic 2: The Empire Strikes Back
- Readings:

Week 13: Nov. 6-10

- **Topic 1:** Civil Wars and The Return to Democracy
- **Topic 2:** Macheteros
- **Readings:**

Week 14: Nov. 13-17

- **Topic 1:** New Social Movements
- **Topic 2:** ALBA and Caribbean Movements Today
- **Readings:**

Week 15: Nov. 20-24 (Thanksgiving Break)

- **No Class Materials – Enjoy Break!**

Week 16: Nov. 29 – Last Day of Classes

- **Final Review Posted**

FINAL EXAM

- **FINAL EXAM WEEK DECEMBER 1-7- Exam date TBD**