HISTORY 697Q: CARIBBEAN HISTORY: NEW APPROACHES: OLD DEBATES

History 697Q is an advanced reading and discussion course in the historiography of the Caribbean from pre-Columbian times to the present. Since the 1960s Latin Americanists have adopted a variety of methodologies, theories and techniques to examine old and new topics concerning this complex region. Although we will consider the region as a whole, our focus will be on Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico. We will be emphasizing recent, representative texts, monographs and essays but placing them in the context of earlier research. Our purpose is to survey this extensive bibliography, to learn about current directions in methodology, and to identify areas of potential future study.

Course Organization

This course is organized to highlight common themes/debates in the history of our four countries in a quasi-chronological order. Assigned reading for each week will usually include a monograph and some short essays pertinent to the topic. We will take turns reading the discussions. Two short essays will be due throughout the semester comparing themes and or historical approaches of the required reading. In addition each student will choose one topic to explore in depth. He/she will review several key works on this topic and write either a ten-page historiographical essay or a research proposal for a potential seminar topic.

Evaluation:
Course grades will be determined as follows: 30% class discussion: 30% short papers; 40% historiographic essay/research proposal.

Books
The following books can be purchased at the Textbook Annex. U-Mass copies have been placed on reserve. Copies are also available from the other Five College libraries.

# Tentative Syllabus

## 1st Week  Feb. 1

**Introduction and Organizational Meeting: Is the Caribbean a “Region”?**


## 2nd Week  Feb. 8

**Pre-Columbian Peoples of the Caribbean**

Knight, 3-26; Moya Pons 1-27


Sauer, *The Early Spanish Main*, 196-217

## 3rd Week  Feb. 15

**Columbus and the Spanish Conquest**


Knight, 27-65.


Other: John Noble Wilford, *The Mysterious History of Columbus*

Lewis Hanke: *The Spanish Struggle for Justice*


Feb. 21 First Paper Due: Review of Phillips, *The Worlds of Christopher Columbus*

## 4th Week  Feb. 22

**What has been the impact of the environment on Caribbean History?**


## 5th Week  March 1

**The Sugar Revolution and Slavery**


Knight, pp. 88-158.

Nicholls, pp. I-27
6th Week March 8 Wars of Independence
C.L.R. James, The Black Jacobins
Knight, 119-221; Moya Pons, 91-116; Nicholls, 1-66
Other: George Tyson, Toussaint L’Ouverture
Thomas O. Ott, The Haitian Revolution 1789-1804

Second Paper due March 11: Comparison of Pérez and Ayala

Spring Vacation

7th Week March 22 Race, Gender and Nationalism in the Nineteenth Century
Matos Rodriguez, Women in San Juan
Moya Pons, 143-164
Nicholls, 67-141

8th Week March 29 The Cuban-Spanish-American War
Perez, The War of 1898

9th Week April 5 Assessing the Era of U.S. Intervention:
Renda, Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940
Moya Pons, 321-339
Nicholls, 142-164

Choose Paper Topics.

10th Week April 12 Dictators vs Democratic Rule
Nicholls, 165-238
Moya Pons, 357-380

11th Week April 19 Assessing the Cuban Revolution
Moses, Real Life in Castro’s Cuba
Knight, 227-256

12th Week April 26 Aristide and Lavalas in Haiti
Nicholls, 239-255; xi-xxxix

13th Week May 3 Presentation of Papers

14th Week May 10 Presentation of Papers
Summary and conclusions