



**University of Victoria
Department of Geography**

**Regional Studies: The Caribbean
GEOG 388, A01
Spring 2016**

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Class Location: Cornett Building, Room B111
Class Time: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 11:30am-12:20am
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 geography 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 geography of the Caribbean.
- Describe themes and patterns that make the Caribbean similar and different to other regions of the world.
- Utilize concepts, ideas, 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 2015-2016 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.

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 18th. 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 linkages to lectures, the course reading and external sources
- b. Structure and organization of paper
- c. Grammar and spelling
- d. Proper in-text citations and references

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of 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, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

1. What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
2. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

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.

Class Schedule

Day	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
		Week 1	
Tues	Jan 5th	Introduction	Review syllabus and course requirements
Wed	Jan 6th	Globalization & Caribbean Migration I	Read Chapter 14 (Scher)
Fri	Jan 8th	Globalization & Caribbean Migration II	*No Assigned Reading

Week 2			
Tues	Jan 12th	Short Stories Discussion	Read "Caribbean Chameleon" and "The Waiting Room" (Brown & Wickham)
Wed	Jan 13th	Urbanization & Shanty Towns I	Read Chapter 2 (Scher)
Fri	Jan 15th	Urbanization & Shanty Towns II	*No Assigned Reading
Week 3			
Tues	Jan 19th	Short Stories Discussion	"Pablo's Fandango" and "Encarnación Mendoza's Christmas Eve" (Brown & Wickham)
Wed	Jan 20th	Race & Identity in the Caribbean	Read Chapter 4 (Scher)
Fri	Jan 22nd	Film: Cuba: The Next Revolution	*No Assigned Reading
Week 4			
Tue	Jan 26th	Short Stories Discussion	Read "Trotters" and "Morris Bhaiya" (Brown & Wickham)
Wed	Jan 27th	Gender Roles & Sexual Identity	Read Chapter 5 (Scher)
Fri	Jan 29th	Film: Coming Out In Jamaica	*No Assigned Reading
Week 5			
Tues	Feb 2nd	Short Stories Discussion	Read "Triumph" and "Red Dirt Don't Wash" (Brown & Wickham)
Wed	Feb 3rd	Carnival, Music & Cuisine	Read Chapter 10 (Scher)
Fri	Feb 5th	Folklore, Art & Religion	Read Chapter 13 (Scher)
Week 6			
Tues	Feb 9th	<i>Reading Break</i>	*No Class
Wed	Feb 10th	<i>Reading Break</i>	*No Class
Fri	Feb 12th	<i>Reading Break</i>	*No Class
Week 7			
Tues	Feb 16th	Caribbean Tourism	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Feb 17th	REVIEW FOR MIDTERM EXAM	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	Feb 19th	MIDTERM EXAM	*No Assigned Reading
Week 8			
Tues	Feb 23rd	CLASS DISCUSSION (PART 1) A Small Place (1st Half of the Book)	Jamaica Kincaid(1-40)
Wed	Feb 24th	Film: Life & Debt	*No Assigned Reading

Fri	Feb 26th	Film: Life & Debt (con't)	*No Assigned Reading
		Week 9	
Tues	Mar 1st	CLASS DISCUSSION (PART II) A Small Place (2nd Half of the Book)	Jamaica Kincaid (41-96)
Wed	Mar 2nd	Crime, Drugs & Corruption	Read article "Tourism and Crime in the Caribbean"
Fri	Mar 4th	Natural Disasters & Devastation	*No Assigned Reading
		Week 10	
Tues	Mar 8th	Short Stories Discussion	Read "After the Hurricane" and "Drought" (Brown & Wickham)
Wed	Mar 9th	Caribbean Beaches, Coral Reefs & Fishing	Read article "African Dust and the Demise of the Caribbean Coral Reefs"
Fri	Mar 11th	Film: Caribbean Fish Sanctuaries	*No Assigned Reading
		Week 11	
Tues	Mar 15th	Short Stories Discussion	Read "Leaving this Island Place" and "The Light of the Sea" (Brown & Wickham)
Wed	Mar 16th	Sports in the Caribbean	Read Chapter 9 (Scher)
Fri	Mar 18th	Film: Short Video Clips of Local Sports CRITICAL ANALYSIS TERM PAPER DUE	*No Assigned Reading
		Week 12	
Tues	Mar 22nd	Short Stories Discussion	Read "The Cricket Match" and "Sunday Cricket" (Brown & Wickham)
Wed	Mar 23rd	Offshore Services	Read article "Offshore Financial Centres in the Caribbean"
Fri	Mar 25th	Good Friday	*No Class
		Week 13	
Tues	Mar 29th	China & the Caribbean	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Mar 30th	Film: China in the Caribbean	*No Assigned Reading
Fri	April 1st	REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM ***Reminder: Complete CES Evaluation	*No Assigned Reading
Note: I reserve the right to make reasonable changes to the syllabus over the course of the semester.			

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