

Fall 2009

Caribbean Women Writers

WS 3998-2: Special Topics in WS (3 credits)

Mon & Wed 6:00 - 7:15 PM - Arjona 215

Instructor:

Dr. Angelique Nixon, Assistant Professor in Residence

This course examines the representation of Caribbean women's lives through literature, with a specific focus on gender and sexuality. We will discuss a range of issues such as the politics of history, identity, migration, and labor. These issues will be contextualized within the ongoing struggle in the region to establish an independent culture and social fabric, both in relationship to former and current colonial powers and to new forms of imperialism (i.e. U.S. hegemony and globalization). Therefore, our readings will necessarily include consideration of regional history (marked by colonialism, slavery, and resistance), as well as the politics and intersections of race, gender, class, and sexuality. Furthermore, we will engage the diversity of the Caribbean as multi-lingual, multi-racial, and heterogeneous, shaped through creolization (the mixing and clashing of races, cultures, religions, and languages from Africa, Asia, and Europe) and migration.

The following questions will be addressed: How has the writing of Caribbean women transformed the literary canon and intellectual traditions of the region? How do Caribbean women writers define and re-define postcolonial identity? Do they challenge dominant narratives of history and nation? Have concerns about migration, labor, and neocolonialism impacted writing by Caribbean women? What are the connections between sexuality and subjectivity for Caribbean women; and how are these issues affected by color, race, class, and mobility? The selected texts offer only a glimpse into the rich and complicated region and its literature.

Therefore, we will discuss the reasons for the selections and why there is an over-representation of Anglophone writers who live outside the region.

For more information, please contact Dr. Nixon at
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