

## PHIL XXXX: Caribbean Philosophy

### Instructor & Course Developer Information

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**Course Description:** The course examines the rich intellectual tradition of the Caribbean oriented around issues of colonization, decolonization, resistance, emancipation, and identity. As such, it takes its point of departure to be an interdisciplinary transnational study of ideas forged in and through the Caribbean, which in this context includes its diaspora. Students will consider the meaning of the Caribbean as a geopolitical space, identities forged in the Caribbean, social and political problems that emerge as a result of colonialism and globalization. In doing so, they will be introduced to major figures as well as philosophical problems around ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.

**Suggested Course Readings by Topic:** In what follows I provide a series of suggestions of texts that can be used under umbrella topics that are generally found throughout the philosophical literature of the Caribbean. Note: they are not separated by colonial regions (e.g. Spanish, French, British) rather, they are compiled by objects of philosophical concerns that stretch beyond national post-colonial boundaries. However, this is not to suggest that these texts take up identical concerns, but rather that they share in topical orientation and as such those links should be highlighted.

### Metaphilosophical Reflections

Gordon, L. *Main Currents in Caribbean Thought: The Historical Evolution of Caribbean Society in its Ideological Aspects, 1492-1900*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1983.

Henry, P. *Caliban's Reason: Introducing Afro-Caribbean Philosophy*. New York: Routledge, 2000.

Kamugisha, A. *Caribbean Political Thought: Theories of the Post-Colonial State*. Jamaica: Ian Randle Publishers, 2013.

Mills, C. *Radical Theory, Caribbean Reality: Race, Class, and Social Domination*. Kingston: University of West Indies Press, 2010.

Orlando, V and Cypress, S. *Reimagining the Caribbean: Conversations among the Creole, English, French, and Spanish Caribbean*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2014.

### Colonization & Decolonization

Cesaire, A. *Discourses On Colonialism*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2000.

Fanon, F. *Black Skins, White Masks*. New York: Grove Press, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_. *Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press, 2005.

Glissant, E. *Caribbean Discourse*. 1989

Keegan, W.F. *The Caribbean Before Columbus*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017

Nelson, M. *Against War*. Durham, Duke University Press, 2006.

Wynter, S. "No Humans Involved." *Knowledge on Trial*. Institute NHI, 1994.

### Politics and the Caribbean

Capetillo, L. *A Nation of Women: An Early Feminist Speaks Out: Mi Opinion Sobre Las Libertades, Derechos y Deberes de La Mujer* (English and Spanish Edition). Houston: Arte Public Press, 2005.

- Alexander, J. *Pedagogies of Crossing: Meditations on Feminism, Sexual Politics, Memory, and the Sacred*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.
- Rivera Rivera, J. *Affective Intellectuals and the Space of Catastrophe in the Americas*. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 2018.
- Rodriguez Acosta, O. *La Vida Manda*. 2016.
- Martí, J. *Selected Writings*. London: Penguin Books.
- Hall, S. *Familiar Stranger: A Life Between Two Islands*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017.
- Belton, K. *Stateless in the Caribbean: The Paradox of Belonging in a Postnational World*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017.
- Bonilla, Y. *Non-sovereign Futures: French Caribbean Politics in the Wake of Disenfranchisement*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2015.
- Meléndez-Badillo, J. *Voces libertarias: Los orígenes del anarquismo en Puerto Rico*. Bloomington: Secret Sailor Books, 2013.
- Bentíez-Rojo, A. *Repeating Island: The Caribbean and the Post-Modern Perspective*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1997.
- Bahadur, G. *Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014.
- Retamar, R. F. "Caliban and Other Essays" (Minneapolis 1989).
- Lopez, K. *Chinese Cubans: A Transnational History*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.
- La Fountain Stokes, L. *Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora*. 2009.
- Ramirez, D. *Colonial Phantoms: Belonging and Refusal in the Dominican Americas, from the 19th Century to the Present*. New York: NYU Press, 2018.
- Suarez Findlay, E. *Imposing Decency: The Politics of Sexuality in Puerto Rico, 1870-1920*. 2000.
- Wynter, S. *On Being Human as Praxis*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017.
- Fischer, S. *Modernity Disavowed: Haiti and the Cultures of Slavery in the Age of Revolution*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.

### **Philosophical Literature**

- Diaz, J. *Brief and Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao*. 2007
- Kinkaid, J. *The Autobiography of My Mother*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013.
- Indiana, R. *Papi*. 2004.
- Santos Febres, M. *Sirena Selena*. 2000.