

AN237 Culture Area:
Blacks in the Caribbean and Latin America
Formerly African Diaspora in the New World
Block 3, 2003

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North Americans are divided and stymied by the current role race plays in shaping politics, identities and culture. Ironically, the Caribbean and Latin American offer an eye-opening array of diverse experiences that cast North American experiences in a different light. Comparing distinct stories of the African/European/Indigenous encounter in the colonial, so-called New World requires only turning our eyes southward; unfortunately, these experiences are little invoked or understood.

This course compares the experiences of African Americans in diverse New-World settings, with special emphasis on Brazil and the Caribbean. Our anthropological approach begins in an exploration of how to conceptualize the African in divergent American cultures. We look at maroon communities, where escaped slaves recreated blended African cultures, African-based religions such as Candomblé, Santería and Vodoun, and revivalist religions like Myalism and Rastafarianism. The course concludes in realms more overtly political and socioeconomic, with critical examinations of racism, along with negritude and civil rights movements. We contrast diverse systems of racial categorization, and discuss how color differences are bound up with other social distinctions, like nationality, socioeconomic class, gender and education.

Required Texts (In order of appearance):

Mintz, Sidney, and Richard Price. 1992. *The Birth of African American Culture: An Anthropological Perspective*. Boston: Beacon.

Lewis, William. 1993. *Soul Rebels: The Rastafari*. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland.

Wade, Peter. 1997. *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America*. London: Pluto.

Twine, France W. 1998. *Racism in a Racial Democracy: The Maintenance of White Supremacy in Brazil*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers.

Additional Readings:

Photocopied articles are available on reserve in Tutt Library.

Course Requirements:

Course format includes occasional short lectures, films and student presentation, but relies primarily on seminar-style group discussion.

Scrupulous attendance is assumed; you should always arrive prepared and having thought about readings. It would be very difficult to pass this class with three or more absences.

Each day any student might be asked to initiate our discussion; therefore, you should always come prepared with notes from reading and at least one substantive discussion question or problem, written out.

Course Requirements (Continued):

Participation (informal writing, contribution to in-class activity, attendance)	20%
Two tests:	30%
Presentation (including 1 page handout):	10%
Longer Paper: (proposal 5%, and paper 25%):	30%
Debates on Reparations, etc. (participation and write-up/notes)	10%

All assignments will be discussed in class.
Two in-class tests will be given on geography and basic terms and concepts, and short essays.

Course Schedule

Week One

Monday Oct. 27	Introduction to the Course. Cultural Anthropology as a study perspective lecture. Good Faith Principles. In-Class Film: Segment from “Roots”
Tuesday Oct. 28	Africa and the Slave Trade, Comparative Slavery Overview -----Submit one-page “racial’ location” autobiography----- Heuman, G. and J. Walvin. 2003. Intro. to Part I: “The Atlantic Slave Trade” (4-9); Intro. to Part II : “Origins and Development of Slavery” (76-82). Mintz, Sidney, and Richard Price. 1992. <i>The Birth of African American Culture: An Anthropological Perspective</i> . Preface (pp. vii-xiv), Intro & Ch. 1 (pp. 1-22).
Wednesday Oct. 29	African-American Culture: Creation, Suffering and Resistance I Mintz, Sidney, and Richard Price. 1992. <i>The Birth of African American Culture: An Anthropological Perspective</i> . Rest of book (pp. 23-84).
Thursday Oct. 30	African-American Culture: Creation, Suffering and Resistance II Wade, Peter. <i>Race and Ethnicity in Latin America</i> . “Introduction” and “the Meaning of Race and Ethnicity (1-24). Torres, Arlene and Norman E. Whitten, Jr. 1998. “General Introduction: To Forge the Future in the Fires of the Past: An Interpretive Essay on Racism, Domination, Resistance, and Liberation.” In <i>Blackness in Latin America and the Caribbean, Volume II</i> , pp. 3-33. (Begin working on research and presentation topics)

Friday Oct. 31	<p>Maroons, Palenques, Quilombos</p> <p>Price, Richard, ed. 1996. <i>Maroon Societies: Rebel Slave Communities in the Americas</i>. "Introduction" 1-30; "Palmares: An African State in Brazil," 169-190.</p> <p>Hurston, Zora Neale. 1990[1938]. "Hunting the Wild Dog." In <i>Tell My Horse</i>, 21-37.</p> <p>Film: "Quilombo."</p>
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Week Two

Monday Nov. 3	<p>Race and Ethnicity as Historicized Conversations</p> <p>Wade, Peter. <i>Race and Ethnicity in Latin America</i>. (25-94).</p> <p>Ch. 2: "Blacks and Indians in Latin America"</p> <p>Ch. 3: "Early Approaches to Blacks and Indians 1920s-1960s";</p> <p>Ch. 4: "Inequality and situational Identity – 1970s"</p> <p>Ch. 5: "Blacks and Indians in the Postmodern State"</p> <p>--Paper Proposal Due--</p>
Tuesday Nov. 4	<p>-First Quiz—</p> <p>Caribbean and Central American Geography; Terms & Concepts</p>
Wednesday Nov. 5	<p>African-Derived Religions I</p> <p>Segal, Ronald. 1995. "The Soul of the Diaspora." In <i>The Black Diaspora</i>, 428-440.</p> <p>Barnet, Miguel. 1997. "La Regla Ocha: The Religious System of Santería." In <i>Sacred Possessions: Vodou, Santería, Obeah and the Caribbean</i>, pp. 79-100.</p> <p>Shapiro, Dolores. 1995. "Blood, Oil, Honey and Water: Symbolism in Spirit Possession Sects in Northeastern Brazil." <i>American Ethnologist</i>, 22(4): 828-847. (Get this article on Jstor from Tutt)</p> <p>***Afternoon Film, 1:30-3:00** Divine Horsemen</p>
Thursday Nov. 6	<p>African-Derived Religions II: Ogun</p> <p>Barnes, Sandra. 1989. "Introduction: The Many Faces of Ogun." In <i>Africa's Ogun</i>, pp. 1-26.</p> <p>Brown, Karen McCarthy. 1989. "Systematic Remembering, Systematic Forgetting: Ogou in Haiti." In <i>Africa's Ogun</i>, pp.65-89.</p>

<p>Friday Nov. 7</p>	<p>More Syncretic Afro-American Religions I</p> <p>Brown, Diana DeG. 1994. "The Founding of Umbanda: Identities and Ideologies." In <i>Umbanda</i>, pp.15-51. OR??</p> <p>Brown, Diana DeG. Religion, class, and context: continuities and discontinuities in Brazilian Umbanda / by Diana DeG. Brown; Mario Bick. In: <i>American ethnologist</i> -- Washington, D.C. v. 14, no. 1, 1987, p.73-93, ill. ISSN 0094-0496.</p> <p>Droogers, Andre. 2001. "Joana's Story: Syncretism at the Actor's Level." In <i>Reinventing Religions</i>, 143-161.</p> <p>Ortiz, Renato. 1989. "Ogum and the Umbandista Religion." In <i>Africa's Ogun</i>, pp. 90-102.</p>
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Week Three

Monday Nov. 10	More Syncretic Afro-American Religions II Lewis, William. 1993. <i>Soul Rebels: The Rastafari</i> . Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland. Wade, Peter. <i>Race and Ethnicity in Latin America</i> . "Black and Indian Social Movements" (95-110).
Tuesday Nov. 11	More Syncretic Afro-American Religions III Chevannes, Barry. 1998. "Rastafari and the Exorcism of the Ideology of Racism and Classism in Jamaica." In <i>Chanting Down Babylon</i> , pp.55-71. McFarlane, Adrian A. 1998. "The Epistemological Significance of 'I-and-I' as a Response to Quashie and Anancyism in Jamaican Culture." In <i>Chanting Down Babylon</i> , pp.107-121. Tafari-Ama, Imani M. 1998. "Rastawoman as Rebel: Case Studies in Jamaica." In <i>Chanting Down Babylon</i> , pp. 87-106.
Wednesday Nov. 12	--Second Quiz-- South American Geography; Terms & Concepts
Thursday Nov. 13	Gender and Power -- Crab Antics Wilson, Peter. 1966. "Reputation and Respectability: A Suggestion for Caribbean Ethnology." <i>Man</i> 4(1), 70-84. Besson, Jean. 1993. "Reputation and Respectability Reconsidered: A New Perspective on Afro-Caribbean Peasant Women." In <i>Women and Change in the Caribbean</i> , pp. 15-37. Olive Senior (Jamaica) "Bright Thursdays" at: http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/chia/Caribbean/brightthursdays.pdf Lecture: The City of Women – Power and Violence in Bahia Possible Film: Brazil: priests, samba dancers, and mulattos. ***Begin Reading Twine for Monday***
Friday Nov. 14	No Class – 8-10 pp. Paper due by 5 p.m.

Week Four

Monday Nov. 17	<p>Race/ism, Color, Class, Nation</p> <p>Twine, Francine. 1998. <i>Racism in a Racial Democracy: The Maintenance of White Supremacy in Brazil</i>. Entire Book.</p>
Tuesday Nov. 18	<p>Contemporary Snapshots: Ironies and Identities</p> <p>Segal, Ronald. 1995. "A Haitian Space" 227-236, and "Traumatized Guiana" 295-301. In <i>The Black Diaspora</i>.</p> <p>Wade, Peter. <i>Race and Ethnicity in Latin America</i>. "Studying Race and Ethnicity in a Postmodern and Reflexive World" (111-119).</p>
Wednesday Nov. 19	<p>Debate (Short write-up and notes due) --Reparations for Slavery & Other Topics— Course Evaluations</p>