

# Pirates, Plantations, and Empire: The Caribbean, 1492-1940

History 533c  
Eisenhower 224  
TTh 9:30-10:45

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Office Hours: MW 2-3pm

This course is a survey of Caribbean history since the arrival of Europeans. A degree of selectivity is required given the long time period and the diversity of the region. This course therefore takes an Atlantic World perspective on the region, and has a thematic focus on the struggle of people in the Caribbean for freedom. From multinational pirate crews and enslaved Africans in the age of democratic revolutions, to agricultural laborers in the liberal 19<sup>th</sup> century, people attached varied meanings to their freedom and faced different barriers in seeking it. This class will explore some of these meanings and barriers.

Students will develop their analytic skills by engaging in writing with primary source documents (through digital archives), as well as selected recent scholarship. The course will be discussion-based, and is designed to encourage independent exploration on the part of students.

## Evaluation

Participation	20
Presentation	10
Paper #1	10
Paper #2, 3, 4	45 (15*3)
Map quizzes	15 (5*3)

## Readings

Required books, (ISBN):

Rogozinski, Jan. *A Brief History of the Caribbean*. (978-0452281936)

Rediker, Marcus. *Villains of All Nations*. (978-0807050255)

Walvin, James. *Crossings: Africa, the Americas, and the Slave Trade*. (978-1780231945)

Popkin, Jeremy. *Facing Racial Revolution*. (978-0226675831)

Dubois, Laurent. *Aftershocks*. (978-1250002365)

James, CLR. *Toussaint Louverture*. (978-0822353140)

Total *estimated* cost: ~\$110.

NB: These books are required, and it is furthermore required that you purchase physical copies of them. They are available at the campus bookstore. These prices are approximate and for a new book. **All these books are available used, frequently at substantially lower prices.**

All other reading will be posted to KSOL.

## Schedule

Week 1 – The Caribbean?

August 26<sup>th</sup>

August 28<sup>th</sup>

Rogozinski, pp 3-33

Week 2 - Early Settlements

September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Rogozinski, pp 34-66

Rediker and Linebaugh, intro, ch 1

September 4<sup>th</sup>

Rediker and Linebaugh, ch 2

\*\*\*Map Quiz #1

Week 3 – Pirates & Imperial Competition

September 9<sup>th</sup>

Exquemelin, *The Buccaneers of America* pp 25-34, 53-66, 70-85.

Rogozinski, pp 85-106

<http://theappendix.net/issues/2014/4/a-pirate-surgeon-in-panama>

September 11<sup>th</sup>

Exquemelin, *Buccaneers*. 119-121, 134-140, 197-226.

Week 4 – The Golden Ages of Piracy, I

September 15<sup>th</sup>, last day to drop w/refund

September 16<sup>th</sup>

Rediker, *Villains of All Nations*, chs 1-4

September 18<sup>th</sup>

Rediker, *Villains*, 5-8.

Week 5 – The Golden Ages of Piracy, II

September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Cordingly, *Under the Black Flag*. chs 4, 8.

September 25<sup>th</sup>

Beckles, “A “riotous and unruly lot”: Irish Indentured Servants and Freemen in the English West Indies, 1644-1713”

\*\*\*Paper #1 Due

September 29<sup>th</sup>, last day to drop w/o “W”

Week 6 – Sugar & Slavery, I

September 30<sup>th</sup>

Walvin, *Crossings*. Intro, chs 1-4

Higman, “The making of the sugar revolution”

October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Rogozinski, pp 107-142  
\*\*\*Map Quiz #2

Week 7 – Sugar & Slavery, II

October 7<sup>th</sup>

Walvin, *Crossings*. Chs 5-6  
Chaney, “Cul de Sac”

October 9<sup>th</sup>

Bush, *Slave Women*, ch 4.  
Rogozinski, pp 143-178

Week 8 – Resistance and Accommodation

October 14<sup>th</sup>

Walvin, *Crossings*. ch 7  
Wood, Peter. “Anatomy of a Revolt” & Smith, Mark. “Time, Religion, Rebellion.”  
From Smith, ed. *Stono: Documenting and Interpreting a Slave Revolt*.

October 16<sup>th</sup>

*Maroon Societies*. pp 230-245.  
\*\*\*Paper #2

Week 9 – Revolutionary Atlantic, I

October 21<sup>st</sup>

Dubois & Garrigus, *Slave Revolution*, introduction, document #s 1-3  
Popkin, *Facing Racial Revolution* chs 1-6.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Thornton, John. “I am the Subject of the King of Congo”

Week 10 – Revolutionary Atlantic, II

October 28<sup>th</sup>

Popkin, *Facing Racial Revolution* chs 7-9, 11-17.

October 30<sup>th</sup>

Dubois & Garrigus, *Slave Revolution*, document #s 4-5, 12, 15, 18.  
\*\*\*Map Quiz #3

Week 11 – Haiti after the Revolution

November 4<sup>th</sup>

Dubois, *Aftershocks*. Intro, chs 1-4.

November 6<sup>th</sup>

Dubois, *Aftershocks*. chs 5-7.

Week 12 – Abolition

November 11<sup>th</sup>

Rogozinski pp 179-224  
Walvin, *Crossings* ch 8-9

November 13<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*Paper #3

Week 13 – The Problems of Freedom

November 18<sup>th</sup>

Holt, *The Problem of Freedom*, chs 1-2.

November 20<sup>th</sup>

Holt, *The Problem of Freedom*, chs 6-8.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14 – Negritude and the Postcolonial

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

CLR James, *Toussaint*. Introduction (Høgsberg), Acts I, II. (45-105)

December 4<sup>th</sup>

CLR James, *Toussaint*. Act III (105-133), and variant II.1 (135-151).

Week 15 - Looking Back & Tourism

December 9<sup>th</sup>

Walvin, *Crossings* 10  
Hartman, Saidiya. *Lose Your Mother*, pp 101-172.

December 11<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*Paper #4

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A [grade of XF](#) can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

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