

**Not One but Many:** Latinidad and Anglophone Caribbean Literatures

English 321: Literatures of Diversity of North America

**Required texts:**Alvarez, Julia. *In the Time of the Butterflies*

Cliff, Michelle. *No Telephone to Heaven* Danticat, Edwige. *Breath, Eyes, Memory*

Ferre, Rosario. *Sweet Diamond Dust*

Hodge, Merle. *Crick Crack Monkey* Kincaid, Jamaica. *A Small Place*

Obejas, Achy. *Memory Mambo* course readings (available on Sakai)

**Objectives:**This course will focus on Afro-Caribbean and Latino/a-Caribbean literary texts, with a particular focus on the intersections of racial and linguistic identities. The Caribbean is a site of the literary histories of “the New World” yet historically literature courses center either on Afro-Caribbean literatures or Latino/a Caribbean literatures. In this class we will engage them together in order to highlight the complex literary history of what is often monolithically called “Caribbean literature.” We will have the opportunity to study the ways race, language, and identity converge and diverge in these literary texts and the complicated ways in which authors contend with histories of Spanish, British, and American imperialisms. Questions we may focus on include: what are the legacies of colonialisms in the Caribbeans we encounter textually? How and to what extent do race and language intersect in the authors’ conceptions of “the island” and of the emigration from it? Does gender and sexuality matter when considering linguistic and/or racial topographies? What is the role of family and nation in the dynamics of racial and linguistic identities as our authors and texts conceive of them?

Thursday, Jan. 19 Introductory theory

**Tilling the Ground: Some Foundational Concepts**

Tuesday, Jan. 24 “Introduction” to The Other America: Caribbean in a New World Context by J. Michael Dash (Sakai)

Thursday, Jan. 26 “If I Could Write this in Fire I Would Write this in Fire” by Michelle Cliff (Sakai) &

**Allegories of Nationalism**

Tuesday, Jan. 31 *Sweet Diamond Dust,* pp. vii- 85

Thursday, Feb 2 *Sweet Diamond Dust*, pp. 89- 118 Tuesday, Feb. 7 *Sweet Diamond Dust, pp. 121- 197*

Thursday, Feb. 9 “Latin, Latino, American: Split States and Global Imaginaries” by Professor Roman de la Campa (Sakai)

**People Like Us: Making the Colonial Subject**

Tuesday, Feb. 14 “Girl” By Jamaica Kincaid, “Popular Education in the West Indies in the 19th century” by Kenneth Ramchand & “On First Seeing England” by Kincaid (Sakai)

Thursday, Feb. 16 *Crick Crack Monkey*, pg vii- 76

Tuesday, Feb. 21 *Crick Crack Monkey*, pg 76- end

(**Response paper #1 due on *Sweet Diamond Dust***)

**Resistance on the Island**

Thursday, Feb. 23 *Breath, Eyes, Memory* pg 3- 61

Tuesday, Feb. 28 *Breath, Eyes, Memory* pg 65- 174

Thursday, Mar. 1 *Breath, Eyes, Memory* pg 177- 236

Tuesday, March 6 *Breath, Eyes, Memory* continued

**Family Pasts: The Violences and Vicissitudes of Love**

Thursday, March 8 *Memory Mambo* pg 9-99

Tuesday, March 13 *Memory Mambo* pg 100-186

Thursday, March 15 *Memory Mambo* pg 187-237

Tuesday, March 20 Spring breakThursday, March 22 Spring breakTuesday, March 27 *No Telephone to Heaven* pg 1- 84

Thursday, March 29 *No Telephone to Heaven* pg 84- 140

(**Response Paper #2 due on *Breath Eyes Memory***)

Tuesday, April 3 *No Telephone to Heaven* pg 140- 208

Thursday, April 5 *No Telephone to Heaven* continued

Tuesday, April 10 *In the Time of the Butterflies*, pg 3- 83

Thursday, April 12 *In the Time of the Butterflies*, pg 84- 147

(**Proposal and** **Annotated Bibliography due**)

Tuesday, April 17 *In the Time of the Butterflies*, pg 148- 256 (to page break)

Thursday, April 19 *In the Time of the Butterflies*, pg 257- 324

**Allegories of Nationalism, Take II**

Tuesday, April 24 *A Small Place* Thursday, April 26 *A Small Place* Tuesday, May 1 Muddying the Waters

**Final essay due Saturday, May 5, 2012 @ noon to Sakai link**