

## **EN705 Caribbean Intellectual History**

Rhonda Frederick

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Antonio Benítez-Rojo	<i>The Repeating Island</i>
Michelle Cliff	<i>Abeng</i>
Edwidge Danticat	<i>The Farming of Bones</i>
Joan Dayan	<i>Haiti, History, and the Gods</i>
Edouard Glissant	<i>Caribbean Discourse</i>
George Lamming	<i>The Pleasures of Exile</i>
M. Nourbese Philip	<i>She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks</i>
Olive Senior	<i>Working Miracles</i>
Derek Walcott	<i>What the Twilight Says: Essays</i>

### **REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS**

Kamau Brathwaite	<i>The Development of Creole Society in Jamaica, 1770-1820</i>
Erna Brodber	<i>Jane and Louisa Will Soon Come Home</i>
B. de las Casas	<i>History of the Indies</i>
Aimé Césaire	"Notebook of a Return to the Native Land"
Maryse Condé	"The Role of the Writer"; "Order, Disorder, Freedom, and the West Indian Writer"; "Language and Power: Words as Miraculous Weapons"
Carolyn Cooper	<i>Noises in the Blood</i>
J. Michael Dash	<i>The Other America</i>
Belinda Edmondson	<i>Making Men</i>
J. A. Froude	<i>The English in the West Indies</i>
Wilson Harris	<i>Tradition, the Writer and Society; History, Fable and Myth in the Caribbean and Guianas</i>
Peter Hulme	<i>Colonial Encounters</i>
C. L. R. Jame	<i>Beyond a Boundary</i>
Thomas W. Krise	<i>Caribbeana</i>
Gordon K. Lewis	<i>Main Currents in Caribbean Thought</i>
Nathaniel Murrell	<i>Chanting Down Babylon</i>
V. S. Naipaul	<i>The Mimic Men</i>
J. J. Thomas	<i>Froudacity</i>
Eric E. Williams	<i>From Columbus to Castro</i>

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course maps intellectual traditions through the works of scholars and creative writers from the Anglophone Caribbean, but also from the Hispanophone and Francophone regions. The goals for this course are threefold: to trace the rich and long tradition of intellectual exploration in the region; to identify specific concerns expressed in these writings; and to map the evolution of Caribbean intellectual thought from analyses of Europe and Europeaness through to investigations of Caribbean identities. While identifying many issues, we will spend the majority of this course studying how Caribbean writers represent gender, histories, cultures, Caribbean/Caribbeanness, Europe/Europeaness, and Africa's legacy in the region. Students will read texts by Edward Kamau Brathwaite, Erna Brodber, Antonio Benítez-Rojo, Aimé Césaire, Maryse Condé, Wilson Harris, George Lamming, Walter Rodney, and Olive Senior among others. Class presentations are intended to shape class discussion of required readings through an engagement with supplemental materials. Presenters may choose to position the work/ideas of these Caribbean writers in relation to contemporary and modern schools of thought (Marxism, Post-modernism, Deconstruction, Cultural Studies, New Historicism, etc.). Writing requirements: one formal research essay (approximately 10 pages) and 5 page critical response papers on each section of the course.