

EN744 Jamaican Culture and Globalization

Rhonda Frederick

REQUIRED TEXTS

Books

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| Arjun Appadurai | <i>Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization</i> |
| Margaret Cezair-Thompson | <i>The True History of Paradise: A Novel</i> |
| Carolyn Cooper | <i>Noises in the Blood</i> |
| Laurie Gunst | <i>Born Fi' Dead: A Journey Through the Jamaican Posse Underworld</i> |
| Michael Hardt et. Al. | <i>Empire</i> |
| Michael Thelwell | <i>The Harder They Come: A Novel</i> |

Films

"Dancehall Queen"
"The Harder They Come"
"Life and Debt"

Music (selected)

Reggae/Roots (Jimmy Cliff, Mutabaruka)
Dancehall (Bounty Killer, Buju Banton, Capleton)
"Jamaican Pop" (Sean Paul)

Articles

Timothy Chin "'Bullers' and 'Battymen': Contesting Homophobia in Black Popular Culture and Contemporary Caribbean Literature," *Callaloo* 20.1 (1997): 127-141

Peter Noel, "Batty Boys in Babylon," *The Village Voice* 38.2 (1/12/1993): 29-36

Saskia Sassen, "Globalism After September 11th," *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 1/18/2002 (<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v48/i19/19b01101.htm>)

Patricia Saunders, "Is Not Everything Good to Eat, Good to Talk: Sexual Economy and Dancehall Music in the Global Marketplace," *Small Axe* 13 (3/2003): 95-115

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on "culture" (literature, music, film), specifically Jamaican culture, as an important commodity in the age of globalization. We will consider how Jamaican culture moves into global markets and is transformed into products and identities that are often at odds with the ideologies and values of the communities they are said to represent. We will begin by examining definitions of globalization and then locate the role of culture within it. We will then consider how globalization has influenced definitions of Jamaican culture and cultural values. Lastly, we will investigate how and/or if globalization has created opportunities for re-thinking nationalism, commodities, and in/formal economies. We will employ an interdisciplinary approach in an effort to address some of these issues; specifically, we will use Jamaican literature, film/video, and music.