EN705 Caribbean Intellectual History
Rhonda Frederick

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

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS
Kamau Brathwaite The Development of Creole Society in Jamaica, 1770-1820
Erna Brodber Jane and Louisa Will Soon Come Home
B. de las Casas History of the Indies
Aimé Césaire “Notebook of a Return to the Native Land”
Carolyn Cooper Noises in the Blood
J. Michael Dash The Other America
Belinda Edmondson Making Men
J. A. Froude The English in the West Indies
Wilson Harris Tradition, the Writer and Society; History, Fable and Myth in the Caribbean and Guianas
Peter Hulme Colonial Encounters
C. L. R. James Beyond a Boundary
Thomas W. Krise Caribbean
Gordon K. Lewis Main Currents in Caribbean Thought
Nathaniel Murrell Chanting Down Babylon
V. S. Naipaul The Mimic Men
J. J. Thomas Froudacity
Eric E. Williams From Columbus to Castro

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 Europeanness 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/Europeanness, and Africa’s legacy in the region. Students will read texts by Edward Kamau Brathwaite, Erna Brodber, Antonio Benitez-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.