

**FRANCE IN THE CARIBBEAN:  
HAITI, MARTINIQUE, GUADELOUPE, & GUYANE**  
LAH 4473, Section 16221, Spring 2019

MWF 8 (3.00-3.50pm )	Office Hours: M 4pm-6pm
Flint Hall 111	Grinter Hall 333
Prof. D. Geggus	or by appointment
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Martinique and Guadeloupe are nowadays among the wealthiest islands in the Caribbean, while Haiti is the hemisphere's poorest state. They were France's most important colonies of the early modern era, when they became the world's major exporters of tropical products-sugar, indigo, and coffee, the produce of thousands of slave plantations. Their fortunes sharply diverged when, after fifteen years of revolution, Haiti became the region's first independent state in 1804. Densely-forested Guyane has always been the least-developed French territory, though nowadays it is home to the French space program as well as surviving remnants of the region's Amerindian population. Although most Caribbean colonies have now achieved independence, the remaining possessions of France have since 1946 enjoyed metropolitan status—they are part of France itself—a form of ultra-dependency.

Together France's former Caribbean colonies cover the spectrum of colonial experience in the region, and offer a useful vantage point from which to study questions of imperialism and its aftermath. Home to populations of African, European, Amerindian, and Asian descent, they are a living laboratory for ongoing experiments in the interaction of race, class, color, and gender; local intellectuals have long been in the forefront of debates regarding decolonization and identity.

This course explores the making of the modern Francophone Caribbean. It is designed to introduce students to a range of political, economic, and cultural phenomena from buccaneering and Vodou to tourism and transnational identity. Particular attention is paid to slave plantation society, the Haitian Revolution, and the black consciousness movements of the twentieth century. Instruction is by lecture, weekly reading, and discussion of assigned texts and video.

*Readings:* A set of online readings will be available from Ares, the UF Library reserve (<http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/accesssupport/howtostudents>). Links to further reading can be found on the course website (<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/dgeggus/FrCbn.htm>), which also contains suggestions regarding term papers and the maps for the map quiz.

*Requirements:* [Term paper](#) (10 pages, including notes, bibliography, and title-page), Mid-term Exam, and Final Exam, (30% each); Map quiz (10%). Regular attendance and good note-taking are essential to passing the exams. Students are expected to attend all classes, having read carefully the reading assignments for that session. The University of Florida Library has one of the best Caribbean collections in the world, especially strong on Haiti; students are encouraged to take advantage of its resources in books, manuscripts, newspapers, and should select their term paper topic in conjunction with the professor.

*Other:* Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the University's honesty policy regarding cheating and use of copyrighted materials (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/>). Those requesting classroom accommodation due to a disability must register with the Dean of Students Office and should see me at the beginning of semester (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>).

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## OUTLINE (subject to change)

### Part I. Building an Empire

- 1) Introduction: Europe and the Caribbean in the 16th century  
Kenneth Andrews, *Trade and Plunder*, 1-3, 81-87, 181-5
- 2) Buccaneers, Colonization, and Caribs  
Philip Boucher, *Cannibal Encounters*, 31-53
- 3) The Sugar Revolution, Mercantilism, and Imperial Rivalry  
David Geggus, "French Caribbean Slavery: An Overview"

### Part II. Slave Society

- 4) The Code Noir, Slave Trade, and Plantation Life  
David Geggus, "The Code Noir"
- 5) Whites, Free Coloreds, and Slaves MAP QUIZ (c.  
Feb. 6)
- "Saint Domingue on the Eve of Revolution" in Geggus, *Haitian Revolution*, 1-14
- 6) Voodoo, Maroons, and Rebels  
David Geggus, "Maroons in 1790"

### Part III. The Age of Revolution

- 7) The French Revolution and the [Haitian Revolution](#)  
David Geggus, "The Haitian Revolution," 5-29
- 8) The French Revolution and the Haitian Revolution Mid-Term (Mar. 1)\*  
\*because of the exam, Friday's class will end at 4.30

### SPRING BREAK

- 10) Restoration Society and Emancipation  
Robert Forster, *Sugar and Slavery, Family and Race*, 3-27, 52-53, 246-9, 259-260

### Part IV. Post-Slavery Society

- 11) Plantations & Peasants, Color & Class
- 12) U.S. Occupation of Haiti, Indigénisme, Négritude  
Paul Farmer, *The Uses of Haiti*, 72-103
- 13) Césaire, Fanon & Decolonization  
Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*, in Davis, *Slavery and Beyond*, 199-208
- 14) The D.O.M. since 1946  
Richard Burton, "Ki Moun Nou Ye?"
- 15) Haiti Post-1945
- 16) Dependence, Independence, and Memory [Term Paper](#) due (Fri., Apr. 26, 5.00pm)  
Richard Burton, "The French West Indies à l'heure de l'Europe"  
FINAL (Wednesday, May 1, 12.30pm)