ANTH/FREN 4559/7559
French Caribbean Cultural and Intellectual Currents
Yarimar Bonilla & Stephanie Bérard
Thursdays 3:30-6pm

Course Description: This interdisciplinary co-taught course will combine historical, anthropological, and literary approaches to the study of the French Caribbean islands. We will examine important periods in the history of French territorial expansion (including colonialism, slavery, decolonization, and the transformation of empire) with an eye towards how these histories informed the cultural and quotidian world of life in the Caribbean French Colonies. We will also examine how varying ideological currents and philosophical projects (such as Negritude, Antillanité, Creolité, and the Tout-Monde) have sought to navigate the complicated relationships of alterity, political community, and national belonging that have shaped the French postcolonial world. Throughout the course we will examine the French Caribbean as an important analytical site for the study of racial hierarchies, colonial histories, and postcolonial alternatives.

Books Available for Purchase:

Requirements:
I. Attendance/Participation
- You are expected to attend ALL SESSIONS. Any absences must be excused in writing. Unexcused absences will impact your class participation grade.
- You are expected to complete all the readings before class and to be prepared for discussion each class session. All students are expected to participate in discussion.
- In addition, you are expected to communicate with the instructor about any difficulties you face regarding the class, the assignments, or your individual projects. Failure to communicate in a timely manner will impact your class participation grade.

II. Weekly Reflections on Collab
- You are required to post a short reflection to the Collab Discussion Board by 9am on each day of class. You should also read your classmates’ comments and be prepared to engage with them.
The point of this assignment is to explore your “response” or “reaction” to the reading. You should focus on the elements that struck you or confused you, pose questions for either clarification or discussion, and make connections to previous class discussions.

You are not expected to have completely mastered the reading, but you are expected to have some thoughts or questions about it.

FREE PASS: You get 1 “free pass” during the semester – that is, you get to choose one week in which you do not have to submit a response. CHOOSE WISELY.

* On the week that you choose to use your free pass, please post “free pass” in the discussion board – otherwise we will think you have simply failed to post.

III. Mid Term Essay Exam

- Undergraduate Students will receive Mid term questions in class Feb 18th and will turn their papers in (on collab) on March 05.
- Graduate Students will write a scholarly review of two texts from the first half of the semester, in the style of a review article for an academic journal.

IV. Final Paper
- Undergraduates: Final Research paper (10-12 pgs)
  - paper topic (2-3 paragraphs) proposing a topic of research (March 25)
  - paper proposal (1-2 pages) stating the proposed research question or argument and listing proposed sources. (April 15)
  - final paper with a finalized outline at the end of the quarter.

- Graduates: Final research paper 18-20pg

OUTLINE OF TOPICS AND READINGS:

Week I. 01/21
Introduction to the Course

Week II 01/28 (YB)
The Colonial Encounter

Week III 02/04 (SB)
The Cultural world of Slavery
  - MOVIE: Middle Passage

*** FYI: Historian Laurent Dubois will be in Charlottesville on Feb 05 and will be available to meet with students

Week IV 02/11 (SB)
Life in the Colonies
  - Fanon, Frantz Black Skins white masks [selections]
Week V 02/18 (YB)
Emancipation and Revolution
[selections TBA]

*You will receive midterm questions in class on 02/18*

Week VI. 02/25 (NO CLASS)
Read and post on Collab about:

Week VII 03/04 (YB)
Emancipation and Citizenship

Midterm due Friday 03/05 on Collab

-- Spring Break - NO CLASS--- *(Begin reading Cesaire for next week)*

Week VIII 03/18 (SB)
Tensions of Colonial Citizenship

Week IX 03/25 (YB)
Departmentalization
- TBA

Week X 04/01 (SB)
Antillanité and Anti colonialism
- Mardorossian, Carine 2009 From Fanon to Glissant: A Martinican Genealogy *Small Axe* vol 30

Week XI 04/08
Creolité (SB)

**Week XII 04/15 (SB)**
**Tout monde/New Worlds**
- McCusker, Maeve 2009 On Slavery, Césaire and Relating to the World: An Interview with Patrick Chamoiseau *Small Axe* vol 30

**Week XIII 04/22**
**The Politics of Memory**
- TBA

**Week XIII 04/29**
**Against Pwofitalasyon**
- TBA