

# Race, Politics and Caribbeans

MAS 364R – Fall 2024

Professor Danielle Pilar Clealand

**Objective for the course:** This course introduces the study of racial politics and identity among Caribbeans in the United States and the Caribbean islands. We will cover themes such as race, inequality, racial activism, identity development, colorism, the Census, racial policy, housing and many other themes around marginalization and representation.

**Organization and Requirements:** The requirements for the course are engagement with the topic, active participation, careful and consistent reading of the material, and the completion of writing assignments and exams.

*Participation.* Class participation is an essential component of this class. While I realize that not everyone feels comfortable speaking in class, my goal is to create an environment in the classroom where we can all participate with ease. There is also a Discussion Board on Canvas for students to post as an alternative option to participating in class.

*Response Papers.* A two-page response paper of the readings is due every other Thursday in class. Each paper will cover the readings for the previous two weeks, including the reading assigned on the date that the paper is handed in. These essays must reflect and **directly reference** the arguments and points made in **at least two** course readings, but can also integrate current events and issues. These assignments do not have to follow the format of an analytical paper, but should be organized and well written with a clear theme and introductory paragraph. Emphasis should be put on thinking critically about the issues in the readings and the papers should reflect **your personal opinions and arguments on the subjects and theories that you have read**. These response papers **should not summarize the readings**. Each paper will cover the previous two weeks of readings. **The first essay will be due Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Please mark each due date on your own.**

*Current Events Paper.* The current events paper is an OpEd that each student will write based on a current event or issue that affects Latina/os in the U.S. An OpEd is a newspaper opinion piece from contributors not affiliated with a newspaper's editorial board. The purpose of an OpEd is to sway public opinion and change minds using convincing argument and presenting it in a concise, readable way. You may view other Oped articles in national newspapers for guidance on this project. The assignment can be anywhere from 700 to 1200 words. The OpEd is due **October 20<sup>th</sup>**.

*Digital Projects.* Students will create two separate videos on any topic in our syllabus. Videos will be 1-3 minutes and should introduce information on a certain topic in a way that is suitable for

building awareness on social media. Students will indicate whether they would like their videos shared. You are encouraged to work in groups of 2-4, but projects can also be completed by a

single student. The Digital Projects can be uploaded to Canvas. The first video is due on **November 18<sup>th</sup> and the second is due on November 29<sup>th</sup>**.

*Final Exam.* There will be a final exam composed of short answer questions, which will focus on the semester's course material.

*Grading.*

OpEd Paper	15%
Response Papers	30%
Digital Projects	20%
Final Exam	35%

**Classroom expectations:**

- Reading assignments must be completed before coming to class to facilitate participation among all of the students. You are encouraged to bring any questions or thoughts to class as well. Participation also can include alerting me to sections of the reading that you may not have understood or grasped completely.
- Cell phones are to be turned **off** when you enter the classroom. I can see you texting and it is not respectful to do so.
- Plagiarism is a serious offense and I will report any instances to the administration. All work should be properly cited. If you have questions about this, please feel free to ask.
- Be proactive about any problems that may impair your ability to achieve the level of success in the course that you desire. The sooner I am made aware of potential problems, the more options we have for solutions. As an instructor I am here to assist you with any problems or concerns that you may have however, I can only be aware of them if you communicate with me. My goal is to have you do as well as possible in this course and I am happy to do anything that I can to achieve that.

**Required Texts:** We will use the following book, which is available online and in the library. Other readings will be posted on Canvas.

Jiménez Román, M. and Flores, J., 2010. *The Afro-Latin@ reader: History and culture in the United States*. Duke University.

James, C.L.R., 1989. *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*. Vintage.

**Course Schedule:**

Tuesday, August 23

Course Introduction

**Historical Overview**

Thursday, August 25

*Discourse on Colonialism*, Aimé Césaire

Tuesday, August 30

*Black Jacobins* – Chapters 1-2,5 (3-4 optional)

Thursday, September 1

*Black Jacobins* – Chapters 10-13 (6-9 optional)

Tuesday, September 6

*Black Jacobins*, Appendix

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. 1995. *Silencing the Past. Power and the Production of History*. Boston: Beacon Press. Prologue and Chapter 1

Thursday, September 8

Clealand, The Power of Race in Cuba: Racial Ideology and Black Consciousness During the Revolution, Chapters 2 & 3

Tuesday, September 13

Hernandez, Tanya Kateri. 2012. *Racial Subordination in Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Thursday, September 15

No Class

Tuesday, September 20

Guridy, Frank. *Forging Diaspora: Afro-Cubans and African Americans in a World of Empire and Jim Crow*. University of North Carolina Press. Introduction and Chapter 2

**Racial Conceptualizations**

Thursday, September 22

Understanding the Caribbean, Chapter 8  
Film - RAZA

Tuesday, September 27

Simmons, Kimberly. *Reconstructing Racial Identity and the African Past in the Dominican Republic*. Chapter 2.

Thursday, September 29

Afro-Latin@ Reader, Selected Readings

Tuesday, October 4

Afro-Latin@ Reader, Selected Readings  
Jiménez -Román & Flores. *Triple Consciousness: Approaches to AfroLatino Culture in the United States*

**Migration**

Thursday, October 6	Sawyer, Mark & Paschel, Tianna. 2007. We didn't Cross the Color Line, The Color Line Crossed Us.: Blackness and Immigration in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and the United States. <i>Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race</i> .
	Benson, D., & Clealand, D. (2021). Re-Narrating Mariel: Black Cubans, Racial Exclusion, and Building Community in Miami. <i>Anthurium</i> , 17(2).
Tuesday, October 11	Clerge, Orly. 2019. <i>The New Noir: Race, Identity and Diaspora in Black Suburbia</i> . Excerpt.
Thursday, October 13	No Class
Tuesday, October 18	TBD

### **Racial Activism**

Thursday, October 20	Fernandez, Johanna. The Young Lords: A Racial History. UNC Press, 2019.
Tuesday, October 25	Afro-Latin@ Reader, Selected Readings
Thursday, October 27	Mayes, April. 2019. Feminist Formations in the Dominican Republic since La Sentencia. In <i>Comparative Racial politics in Latin America</i> .

### **Politics and Policy in the United States**

Tuesday, November 1	Greer, Christina. Black Ethnics – Introduction and Chapter 4
Thursday, November 3	Krysan, Maria & Amanda Lewis. 2004. <i>The Changing Terrain of Race and Ethnicity</i> . New York: Russell Sage Foundation. Chapter 4
Tuesday, November 8	Martinez, Brandon P., and Alan A. Aja. "How Race Counts for Latinx Homeownership." <i>Critical Sociology</i> (2020): 0896920520974086.
Thursday, November 10	LeBrón, Marisol. Policing Life and Death: Race, Violence, and Resistance in Puerto Rico. Univ of California Press, 2019.
Tuesday, November 15	Aja, Alan A. Miami's forgotten Cubans: Race, racialization, and the Miami Afro-Cuban experience. Springer, 2016.
Thursday, November 17	Miami Wealth Report

November 22-24

Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, November 29

Black Politics in Transition, Excerpts.

Review

Thursday, December 1