CIEE Santiago, Dominican Republic

Course name: Culture and Society in the Hispanic Caribbean
Course number: CAST 3002 DRLC
Programs offering course: Summer Language and Culture
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Summer 2019, Session I

Course Description

The course deals with the various cultures that comprise the Hispanic Caribbean as a socio-historic unity within the Caribbean cultural group, considering the specificities and diversities in which their cultural richness lies.

We will examine the historic and social processes of the formation and development of the various societies and state forms in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. In addition, we will study the manifestations and representative movements of political thought, philosophy, and pedagogy, as well as artistic and literary production in the Hispanic Caribbean.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, the students will be capable of:

1. Locating the Hispanic Caribbean within a system of interrelations with the rest of the Caribbean, the Americas, and the world.
2. Know the roots and vertices that gave rise to the formation of the Hispanic Caribbean populations and their unique cultural identities.
3. Understand the historic processes that drove the formation of the Hispanic Caribbean societies.
4. Know the principle cultural currents in each of the three countries and their representations in this region of the Caribbean.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction
Methods of instruction include, but are not limited to, analyzing and synthesizing the readings and concepts that have been chosen as most relevant to the course’s goals, discussions about the assigned readings and lectures, and other forms of visual resources such as PowerPoint.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluations</th>
<th>Units to be evaluated</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written reports and quizzes from readings and lectures.</td>
<td>Assignment of readings and research themes.</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Both motivation and class participation are evaluated.</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Final research project</td>
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<td>30%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Attendance and Class Participation**

Attendance will be taken at every class and fieldtrip, and as per the universal rules of tardiness and absences at the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, excess absences and/or tardiness are cause for failure. Attendance is mandatory for all fieldtrips, the same as for classes. Ten (10) minutes of tardiness equal one hour of absence—not one class, but one hour of class. The rule for allowed absences is the number of credits X 3 plus 1 (except for language classes, which allow students to miss no more than 10% of their classes). This means, since it is a 3-credit class, there is no penalty for absences—except that you will miss out on important material and participation in discussions/debates if you are absent—until or unless you reach a 10th hour of absence, at which point you fail the class, no matter what your grade average is at that point in time; the only legitimate excuse accepted is a doctor’s written testament that you were hospitalized at the time of an absence. Plagiarism is also cause for failure, no matter what your grade average is at the point in time when the plagiarism is discovered.

Note that if you are absent the day of a presentation quiz, or the due date of a report, final essay, mid-term exam, or final exam, you will receive an F on said presentation, report, essay, or exam. Any late papers or reports will be marked down 5% after the first day and 1% every day afterwards. **No coursework or final papers will be accepted after the last day of class.**

**Weekly Schedule**

**Unit I: What the Hispanic Caribbean is.**

1.1 The geographic setting.
1.2 Countries of the Hispanic Caribbean.
1.3 Historic interrelations, economics, politics, and cultures compared to the rest of the Caribbean and Latin America.

**Unit II: The formation of the Hispanic Caribbean populations.**
2.1 National identity and Caribbean identity.
2.2 The process of the formation of the Hispanic Caribbean populations.
2.3 The plantation economy. Economic, cultural and demographic consequences.
2.4 The African presence in the Hispanic Caribbean.
2.5 Migratory processes.

Unit III: The formation of the Hispanic Caribbean states.
3.1 Colonization and decolonization in the Dominican Republic.
3.2 Cuba: Colonialism, neocolonialism, and the Socialist State.
3.3 Puerto Rico: A special case.
3.4 The processes of social and political change in the Post-Cold-War Hispanic Caribbean.

Unit IV: The economy of the Hispanic Caribbean countries.
4.1 The economic characterizations of the area’s countries.
4.2 Natural resources.
4.3 Sectional development.
4.4 Economic dependence and the impact of globalization.

Unit V: The culture of the Hispanic Caribbean.
5.1 Transcultural processes in the formation and development of the Hispanic Caribbean cultures.
5.2 Philosophic and pedagogical thinking.
5.3 Literary movements. Antillianism.
5.4 Music.
5.5 Dance.
5.6 Fine arts.
5.7 Cinema

Readings


Florida.


