

V53.0532 Politics of the Caribbean Nations

Professor Christopher Mitchell
Fall, 2006

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

Course requirements: (1) **Reading:** required readings are assigned for all topics. Please keep up with the reading carefully; it will be discussed in class and doing well on exams will depend on mastering the reading. Please treat handouts distributed in class as assigned readings. All books may be bought in the NYU Bookstore, and all will be available in the Reserve Room, on Lower Level 2 in Bobst Library. (2) **Attendance in class:** it's important to participate regularly in class discussions, and attendance will be taken. (3) **Mid-term exam:** there will be a one-hour exam in class, on October 17. It will include both a short-answer section and an essay section; both will be designed to test full understanding of the reading. This mid-term will count for 25% of a student's final grade. (4) **Book review:** There will be one five-page book review, on a book to be chosen from the list that will be distributed later in September; the review will be due at the start of class on November 16. Details on the book review format will be distributed in class, and on October 13 students will sign up to review specific books; the review will count for 25% of a student's final grade. (5) **Final exam:** a two-hour final, including both essays and short-answer questions, will be held on December 19 from 10 to 11:50 AM. Please do not schedule any travel that would conflict with this exam date. The final will cover the full course, and will count for 50% of a student's final grade.

- **Office hours:** Professor Mitchell holds office hours on Tuesdays, from 2:30 to 4:30 PM, at 726 Broadway, Room 767. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the office door, or e-mail <cm3@nyu.edu> for a specific appointment. If you have class on Tuesdays at that hour, an alternate day and time for an office meeting will be arranged.

TOPICS AND READINGS

I Introduction and Overview of the Course -- September 5

II Caribbean history and geography -- September 7, 12, 14

Reading: Franklin W. Knight, The Caribbean: The Genesis of a Fragmented Nationalism (New York: Oxford University Press, 2nd edition 1990), pp. 1-331.

III The politics of Hispanic societies in the Caribbean

A. The Dominican Republic -- Sept. 19, 21, 26

Reading: Jonathan Hartlyn, The Struggle for Democratic Politics in the Dominican Republic (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), pp. 3-59, 134-279.

Sept. 28: Focus on Political Problems, #1: Debating Development in the Bahía de las Águilas in the Dominican Republic

B. Cuba -- October 3, 5, 10

Reading: Marifeli Pérez-Stable, The Cuban Revolution: Origins, Course, and Legacy (NY: Oxford University Press, second edition, 1998), pp. 36-210.

Oct. 12: Focus on Political Problems, #2: Analyzing Cuba's Succession in Political Leadership, 2006

The mid-term exam will be held in class on Tuesday, October 17. It will cover all material in the course through Pérez-Stable's book The Cuban Revolution

C. Puerto Rico – October 19, 24, 26, 31

Reading: Katherine T. McCaffrey, Military Power and Popular Protest: The U.S. Navy in Vieques, Puerto Rico (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2002), entire book except only skim Chapter 3.

IV Politics of Jamaica and other Anglo-Caribbean nations: November 2, 7, 9, 14

Reading: Trevor Munroe, Renewing Democracy into the Millennium: The Jamaican Experience in Perspective (Kingston: University Press of the West Indies, 1999), pp. 1-5, middle of p. 17 through p. 20; pp. 21-114.

Book reviews are due at the start of class on November 16

November 16: Focus on Political Problems, #3: Explaining the Decline of Political Violence in Jamaica since 1980

V Politics in Haiti – Nov. 21, 28, 30, Dec. 5

Reading: Robert Fatton, Jr., Haiti's Predatory Republic: The Unending Transition to Democracy (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002), Chapters 2 through 6.

VII Conclusion and Review

Overview and conclusion: December 7, 12

**Final Exam – Tuesday, December 19, 10 to 11:50 AM
(please note that the exam begins at 10 AM, not 11 AM)**