

**LLIT 201-Women of the Americas: Caribbean Women Writers**  
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**Caribbean Women Writers**

**DESCRIPTION**

The past few decades have seen an explosion of writing by women from the Caribbean. The course focuses on the Anglophone and Francophone regions, and examines major works by representative women writers from Antigua, Dominica, Haiti, and Guadeloupe. The novel genre will be explored in depth. Our discussions will center on geopolitical and socio-historical issues, the oral/scribal polarity, the question of identity, race and gender, the African diaspora, colonialism, postcolonialism, the reclaiming of women's voices, the mother-daughter relationship, the significance of the spiritual realm, and the linguistic dilemma. The course fulfills both the Diversity/Global and the Literature and Philosophical Analysis categories of the core curriculum.

**OBJECTIVES**

The goals of the course include, understanding and contextualizing the literary production of major Caribbean women writers, analyzing and developing a sensitivity to the literary text, exploring the question of identity and biculturalism, reading and writing critically about the issues mentioned.

**METHODOLOGY**

Primary texts will be assigned for reading. Focus will be on essays and discussion forums. In the process of reading, keep in mind the following questions:

- How are you affected by the text? (Confusion, anger, interest)
- Why do you think the text has this effect on you? (Examine the language of the text, structure, subject matter, characters, themes, knowledge of the culture)
- What does your response tell you about yourself as a Westerner? (Your assumptions about society, ethics, codes of behavior)

**TEXTS**

Jamaica Kincaid, Annie John  
A Small Island

Rosa Guy, My Love, My Love, My Love, or the Peasant Girl

Maryse Conde, I, Tituba, Witch of Salem

Edwidge Danticat, Breath, Eyes, Memory

Films: *Amistad*, *Sugar Cane Alley*

### **Reference Texts:**

Caribbean Women Novelists, An Annotated Critical Bibliography, eds.

Paravisini-Gebert

Caribbean Contours, eds. Mintz & Price

Caribbean Women Writers, ed. S.Cudjoe

Out of the Kumbla: Caribbean Women Writers, ed. Boyce C. Davis

Sacred Possessions, eds. Olmos, Paravisini

The Repeating Island, Benitez Rojo

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Course work includes:

Reading texts, viewing films, writing essays and completing discussion forums

### **EVALUATION**

Discussion Forum 50%

Assignments/essays 50%

Work submitted late does not receive full credit.

Instructor may alter syllabus as necessary.