

Željka Švrljuga  
ENG336  
Spring 2019

Tues. 14.15-16  
Thur. 12.15-14

### What is Caribbean Literature?

The aim of the course is to provide a brief insight into Anglophone Caribbean literature from its beginnings to the end of the twentieth century, which draws on the history of the colony, cultural and ethnic diversity, hybridity, orality and its Creole (patwa) inflections, and the Caribbean continental and island geographies—with the sea as one of its key tropes. Writing from exile, many of the writers on our reading list address the issues of colonization, the atrocity of slavery and its legacy, cultural heritage/religious practices, and racial politics. Since the politics of the colony and slavery underlies much of Caribbean literature, we will examine if and how two European artworks inform or figure in the literary works we will discuss in the course.

Exam format: School exam  
Date: 25 Feb. 2019

#### PRIMARY READINGS:

Aphra Behn, <i>Oroonoko</i> (1688)	Penguin Classics
Fred D'Aguiar, <i>Feeding the Ghosts</i> (1997)	Granta Books
David Dabydeen, "Guyana Pastoral," "Slavewoman's Song," and "Brown Skin Girl"	(Mitt UiB)
Junot Díaz, "Drown"	Norton 2 <sup>8th</sup> ed. 1666-73
Beryl Gilroy, <i>Inkle and Yarico</i> (1996)	Peepal Tree
Caryl Phillips, <i>Crossing the River</i> (1993)	Vintage
Jean Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> (1966)	Penguin Classics
Derek Walcott, "The Sea Is History" (1979) <a href="https://allpoetry.com/The-Sea-Is-History">https://allpoetry.com/The-Sea-Is-History</a>	

#### ARTWORKS:

William Blake, *Europe Supported by Africa and America* (1796)  
J.M.W. Turner, *Slavers Throwing Overboard the Dead and Dying, Typhoon Coming on* (1840)

#### SECONDARY READINGS:

Walter Benjamin, "Thesis on the Philosophy of History." In Ryan and Rivkin, 736-44.  
Kamau Brathwaite, "History of the Voice: 1929-1981." In *Roots*. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan P, 1993. 259-304. (Litteraturkiosk)  
Edouard Glissant, "Creolizations" and "For Opacity." In *Poetics of Relation*, transl. Betsy Wing. U of Michigan P, 2000. 89; 189-94. (Litteraturkiosk)  
Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (E xcerpt; in Ryan and Rivkin 1174-79).  
Robert Dale Parker, "Marxism" and "Postcolonial and Race Studies" In *How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies*. Oxford UP (2015): 220-58; 285-329.

Rivkin and Michael Ryan, Introduction: "English Without Shadows: Literature on a World Scale." In Rivkin and Ryan, 1099-1106.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism." In Ryan and Rivkin, 1147-62.

Derek Walcott, ---. "Derek Walcott - Nobel Lecture: The Antilles: Fragments of Epic Memory." *Nobelprize.org*. Nobel Media AB 2014. Web. 4 Dec 2017.

[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1992/walcott-lecture.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1992/walcott-lecture.html)

## SCHEDULE

DATE	THEME/TOPIC	TEXT(S)
Jan. 15	Introductory: THE SEA IS HISTORY	William Blake, <i>Europe Supported by Africa and America</i> Walcott, "The Sea Is History" Derek Walcott, "Nobel Lecture" Jamaica Kincaid, <i>A Small Place</i> (In Ryan and Rivkin, 1174-79)
Jan. 17	SEEING THROUGH THE WHITE WOMAN'S EYES	Aphra Behn, <i>Oroonoko</i> Parker, "Postcolonial and Race Studies" (285-308)
Jan. 22	CREOLE POETRY and THE FLUIDITY OF TIME AND SPACE	David Dabydeen, "Guyana Pastoral," "Slavewoman's Song," And "Brown Skin Girl" (Mitt UiB) Édouard Glissant, "Creolizations" and "For Opacity" Kamau Brathwaite, "History of the Voice"
Jan. 24	THE POLITICS OF THE WHITE MALE GAZE	Beryl Gilroy, <i>Inkle and Yarico</i> Parker, "Postcolonial and Race Studies" (cont. 308-29)
Jan. 29	THE BLACK ATLANTIC and/or COLORED BY WAYS OF SEEING and SPEAKING	Fred D'Aguiar, <i>Feeding the Ghosts</i> Walter Benjamin, "Thesis on the Philosophy of History" (Ryan and Rivkin, 736-44) J.M.W. Turner, <i>Slavers Throwing Overboard</i>
Jan. 31	THE FLUIDITY OF TIME AND SPACE	Caryl Phillips, <i>Crossing the River</i> Parker, "Marxism" (220-58)
Feb. 5	"HELEN OF OUR WARS"	Jean Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism" (In Ryan and Rivkin, 1190-1201)
Feb. 7	DIASPORA & CULTURAL IDENTITY	Junot Díaz, "Drown" (Norton 8 <sup>th</sup> ed. 1666-73) Stuart Hall, "Cultural Identity and Diaspora" (In Ryan and Rivkin, 1147-62)