

MERRITT COLLEGE
African American Studies

Dr. Siri Brown

[Afram Department Webpage](#)

COURSE SYLLABUS

African American Studies 27:

Afro Caribbean History, Politics and Culture

Instructor:

Dr. Siri Brown

Office Hours:

Office Hours are held each Wednesday from 3:00-5:00pm by Zoom. Students will need to log in to the Canvas shell for this class and click on Announcements for the Zoom link. If you want to meet with me during any other time, please email me and we can find a time that works.

My phone number is (510) 256-9508 you can call or text.

My e-mail sbrown@peralta.edu. EMAIL is the BEST way to reach me but be sure to put your class in the subject line. For example, Subject:” **Afram 27 History Student**” so that I don’t miss your email.

Course Description

Historical, economic, and cultural development of the Caribbean from Native American occupation and colonization by European nations to the struggle for sovereignty: Transformation of the region by the introduction of large-scale production in agriculture and the arrival of enslaved Africans; impact of African culture and resistance to slavery and European domination by blacks in the region; different paths to economic development in the post-emancipation years; and the role of U.S. foreign policy in the twentieth century.

Student Learning Outcomes

Assess the cultures of Native peoples of the Caribbean taking into account the impact of the arrival of Europeans on Native Americans, the development of the plantation system and the use of forced African labor, and the cultural and economic significance of the Black presence in the region.

Describe and analyze the continuous conflict between various European nations over control of the island colonies and the growth and development of various black majority sovereign nations and their political ideologies

Analyze the growth and development of various black majority sovereign nations and their political ideologies and the constant resistance to enslavement by African peoples in the Caribbean region.

Appraise the growth of unique Afro-Caribbean dialects, music, storytelling and other aspects of culture

Interpret the impact of Afro-Caribbean political and cultural leaders upon the region and the world and evaluate 20th century U.S. foreign policy towards the divergent national identities of the Caribbean region.

Required Textbooks

The following books are required reading for this course and may be purchased at the bookstore.

- 1) Dandicat, Edwidge. *Krik? Krak?*
- 2) James, Marlon. *John Crows Devil*
- 3) Browne, Randy. *Surviving Slavery in the British Caribbean*
- 4) A collection of articles is also required and are posted on the Canvas shell for this course

Lecture Content

1. Native American Nations in the Caribbean
2. European Exploration, Intrusion, and Colonization
3. The Sugar Revolution: The Development of a Plantation Economy
4. The Slave Trade and African Involuntary Migration
5. Race, Color, and Gender: The Construction of Caribbean Societies
6. Laboring Lives of the Enslaved
7. Creating a Distinctive Culture and Identity of the Region
8. Religion, Spirit, and Vodun
9. European Conflict for Control of the Prosperous Island Colonies
10. The Economic Impact of Caribbean Slavery upon European Wealth
11. African Resistance Movements
12. The Haitian Revolution and its Impact upon the U.S., France, and African Liberation
13. The Abolition of Slavery in the Caribbean
14. Emerging Sovereign Nations and European Post-Colonial Control
15. The Increasing Influence of the United States in the 20th Century
16. Waves of Political Unrest in the 20th Century
17. The Impact of the World Wars and the Movements Towards Political Independence
18. From Garvey to Aristide: Black Caribbean Leadership in the 20th Century
19. Afro-Caribbean Music: Political and Influential Sounds
20. How the U.S. Underdeveloped Caribbean Nations
21. Capitalism, Communism, and Socialism
22. Corporate America and Caribbean Economics
23. Current Conditions, Crisis, and Political Struggles of the Region

Methods of Instruction

The following educational techniques will be utilized in this course to achieve the course objectives; recorded lectures, discussion of assigned readings and other content, critiquing documentaries, critical thinking papers, and short answer essay, multiple choice and fill-in-the blank exams. This course utilizes a Canvas shell for full descriptions of assignments, the gradebook, and posted articles and videos.

Evaluation/Grading

1. Class Participation/Discussion (15%)
2. Jamaican Heroes Exam (20%)
3. Exams: (2) (40%)
4. Africana Center Assignments (05%)
5. Chapter Reviews/Quizzes (20%)

Grade Calculations:

90-100%=A 60-69%=D

80-89%=B 50% or below=F

70-79%=C

Schedule of Assignments:

SEE Canvas Shell for Details on Due Dates

Africana Center Assignments 1, 2, and 3: Pick up, complete, and turn in the assignment in L127

Exam 1: All of Dandicat, Browne chapters 1-3, plus class notes, films and articles

Jamaican Heroes Essay Exam

Exam 2: All of James, Browne chapters 4-6, plus class notes, films, and articles

Exam Format (Textbook, films, and lecture):

All exams include materials from readings, films, **and** lecture. No notes or books will be allowed during exam time. All exams include full essay questions, maps, and multiple-choice true/false questions. The final exam is not comprehensive.

Africana Center Assignments: [Africana Center Webpage](#)

Our department has a new **Africana Studies Community Research Center** located in the L building on campus in room 127. The Africana Center has ipads and computers with a custom designed curriculum with videos, music, readings, maps and more that teach about Africa, the Maafa, Oakland's Black History and Pan Africanism. Each student is to spend a total of 4 hours of learning that will occur in the Africana Center to complete the assignments. These 4 hours are to be completed in the assignments listed in the Schedule of Assignments above.

The Africana Center is open Monday-Thursday 9:30am-2pm. It is closed on Fridays. I strongly suggest you work on these assignments early in each session to avoid the "last minute rush" because the center only has space for 12-15 students at a time.

Chapter Review/Quizzes:

Students will have chapter reviews or quizzes of our main textbook. Details and the dates that you **MUST** bring the book or copies of specific chapters to class will be announced in class.

Academic Honesty:

Merritt College believes strongly in academic honesty and integrity; therefore, any kind of academic dishonesty is prohibited. A common violation is the use of another student's work without acknowledgement. The most common violation involves a student using published material, particularly from electronic sources such as the web and failing to acknowledge the sources. To ensure academic honesty please use the proper citation when using, anyone's work other than your own.

Disciplinary action may be imposed on a student for violation of college rules and regulations, the California Education Code, California Penal Code, and the California Administrative Code

Accessibility Disclosure Statement:

Any student who has a need for accommodations based on the impact of a disability should contact me as soon as possible to discuss the specifics. The Accessibility Services Program (ASP) can support students with the accommodation process. The ASP is located in the Student Center R Building, Room 109A and can be reached by phone at 510-436-2429.

ASP provides alternate media for class handouts, quizzes, tests, textbooks, and videotapes for students with verified disabilities including vision impairments, dyslexia, deafness, and some other disabilities. The Alternate Media Specialist works with faculty members to make sure students with disabilities receive their course materials in alternate media at the same time their classmates receive traditional print handouts.

Students complete the Alternate Media Request Form to request course books and/or materials in an alternate format (i.e. audio, large print, Braille, electronic text). The form may also be filled out and submitted over the Internet using the online form.

ASP provides alternative testing for students with verified disabilities. The student obtains an Alternative Testing Form from the ASP office, fills it out, asks the instructor to sign it, and returns the form 1 week before a test or 2 weeks before a final. Alternative testing may be used to allow the student extra time, to provide a quieter environment, to allow a blind student to use a computer or a reader/scribe, or for other appropriate accommodations.

ASP provides sign language interpreters for students who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or whose speech or auditory processing deficits necessitate this service. This service includes but may not be limited to: classroom lectures/labs, student orientation meetings, tutoring sessions, counseling appointments, meetings with instructors, or other academic related activity.

Respectful In-Class and Online Conduct:

Success in history or any area of study requires attention and concentration. Please be considerate of the instructor and your fellow classmates. Please note that the following rules apply to all students and will be uniformly enforced. These rules conform to the Student Code of Conduct at Merritt College.

Self- Respect, Classroom Respect, Collective-Respect. If this is our motto, we won't have any issue.

No cell phones, nor other electronics!!!! Please turn them off during class

If you decide to discontinue this course, **it is your responsibility** to drop the course by the deadline so that the worst you get is a W (withdrawal) and not an F grade. If you do not you may receive an F in the course.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what information and announcements occurred

No make-up assignments or extensions will be given without a dated medical release

Please inform the instructor if you are arriving late or leaving early

Do not talk or socialize during the lecture

All assignments must be typed

Raise your hand before participating in class discussions and be attentive to other student's comments

Do not read other materials that are not relevant to the class, nor do homework from other classes

Academic dishonesty, cheating, copying material out of books, the internet or from other students and passing it off as your own is plagiarism and will not be tolerated

Derogatory statements or term about individuals, groups or lifestyle choices will not be tolerated

In case of discrepancies, it is suggested that students keep all of their work for this course until after the final grades are posted

Tips For Achieving Success in This Course:

** Have an open mind. Much of what you learn in this class may be new and may challenge your ideas.

** Read all required readings prior to lectures so that you are more likely to remember and understand the subjects we cover

**Attend all lectures because the information provided in them may be different then what you will read in the book

**Take good notes and talk to me if you need clarification on any points addressed in class

**Communicate with me about any concerns, issues of interest or references.