REL 3066

Christianity in the Caribbean

Section: U01

Hybrid/Certified

Spring Term 2027

Course Meeting Information

Jan 11, 2027 - Apr 24, 2027

REL3066-U01 Caribbean Christianity ~ We 11:00AM - 12:15PM ~ SCH INTER & PUB AFFAIR 1 502

RLG 5937 U03 GRAD SECTION ~ We 11:00AM - 1:45PM ~
Course Time Zone: Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates and times are according to this time zone.

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

This course offers an overview of Christianity in the Caribbean from the arrival of Spanish Catholics to contemporary Pentecostalism in the twenty-first century. It is intended to provide students with knowledge of the region, emphasizing its diversity, complexity, and vital culture.

‘Caribbean,” a term derived from the indigenous Caribs, has also been called The Antilles and the West Indies. It refers to an extremely diverse region from Miami and the Bahamas southward to Trinidad and the Venezuelan coast and sometimes including the Guyanas and Surinam. The greater Caribbean not only includes Spanish-speaking peoples in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the DR, but also includes English, Dutch and French speaking peoples in the Anglo and Dutch West Indies and the French Antilles, not to mention Patois and Creole speaking countries such as Haiti. The region is a mixed population of Amerindian, African, European, and Asian descent, whose diversity has created a multifaceted society and complex religions with Indigenous, European and Afro-Diaspora elements. This course examines the trajectory of various expressions of Christianity in the Caribbean and their diverse attitudes toward race, African peoples and slaves, from an interdisciplinary perspective. Catholic, Protestant, nonconformist and Pentecostal churches, leaders and movements will be considered in the light of a number of classical and contemporary

theoretical perspectives and using methodologies from the academic disciplines of history, sociology, anthropology and phenomenology. Particular emphasis will be given to Christian collaboration with, and resistance to, the African slave trade.

In summary, the course will cover the following topics:

- Christian attitudes toward baptizing and Christianizing newly arriving slaves from Africa.
- The role of the Catholic inquisition, both in exercising social control over Africans as well as offering protection to slaves from excessive brutality from slave owners.
- The extension of religious conflict emanating from Europe into the Caribbean through piracy and non-Spanish Protestant encroachment.
- The distinctive treatment of African slaves by Church of England and the Dutch Reformed Church (distinctive from Spanish Catholicism).
- The arrival of the ‘Nonconformist’ Protestant sects (Quakers, Moravians, Methodists and Baptists) in the Caribbean and their divergent attitudes and missionizing efforts toward people of color.
- The explosive growth of Pentecostalism in the twentieth and early twenty-first century, particularly among Afro-Caribbeans.
- The role of women and Afro-Caribbean leaders in appropriating and spreading Christianity as a means of

empowerment for Afro-Caribbean peoples.

Textbook and Course Materials

Caribbean Religious History

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Ennis B. Edmonds, Michelle A. Gonzalez ·

Publisher: New York University Press

Publication Date: 2010

Copyright Date: 2010

ISBN 10: 0814722342

ISBN 13: 9780814722343

Notes: For access to a free PDF in google drive: https://drive.google.com/file/d/148TiyoULouzhfIXHvT9dWSvUrJVTJZ5b/view?usp=sharing

Chapters/Pages: 269

Christian Slavery

Subtitle: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Katherine Gerbner

Publisher: University of Pennsylvania Press

Publication Date: 2018

Copyright Date: 2018

ISBN 10: 081225001X

ISBN 13: 9780812250015

Notes: Could slaves become Christian? If so, did their conversion lead to freedom? If not, then how could perpetual enslavement be justified? In Christian Slavery, Katharine Gerbner contends that religion was fundamental to the development of both slavery and race in the Protestant Atlantic world. Slave owners in the Caribbean and elsewhere established governments and legal codes based on an ideology of "Protestant Supremacy," which excluded the majority of enslaved men and women from Christian communities. For slaveholders, Christianity was a sign of freedom, and most believed that slaves should not be eligible for conversion.

Description: for access to a free PDF on my google drive, click this link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K2ZyGkb23MjkDiB0ec5_BvazPnamIoTo/view?usp=sharing

Chapters/Pages: 280

Rebecca's Revival

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Sensbach, Jon F.

Publisher: Harvard University Press

Publication Date: 2006

Copyright Date: 2006

ISBN 10: 0674267249

ISBN 13: 9780674043459.

Notes: Rebecca's Revival is the remarkable story of a Caribbean woman--a slave turned evangelist--who helped inspire the rise of black Christianity in the Atlantic world. All but unknown today, Rebecca Protten left an enduring influence on African-American religion and society. Born in 1718, Protten had a childhood conversion experience, gained her freedom from bondage, and joined a group of German proselytizers from the Moravian Church. She embarked on an itinerant mission, preaching to hundreds of the enslaved Africans of St. Thomas, a Danish sugar colony in the West Indies. Laboring in obscurity and weathering persecution from hostile planters, Protten and other black preachers created the earliest African Protestant congregation in the Americas.

Description: I have a PDF in google drive at this URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TfaBTZmrqpmBAKjzpzSEymKQkU-WTObO/view?usp=sharing

Chapters/Pages: 320

The Development of Christianity in the Latin Caribbean

Required/Recommended: Recommended

Authors: Justo L. Gonzalez

Publisher: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company

Publication Date: 1969

Copyright Date: 1969

ISBN 10: 6110306571

ISBN 13: 9902083961103

Notes: I have some of the book copied into PDFs in my google drive

Chapters/Pages: 136

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for $22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop.

Readings, Materials, and Open Educational Resources (OER)

Readings (in chronological order):

PDFP Bartolome de las Casas, *A short introduction to the destruction of the Indies*.

PDF Edmonds and Gonzalez, *Caribbean Religious History*, New York University Press (2010) ISBN:

PDF Katherine Gerbner, *Christian Slavery: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World.* University of Pennsylvania Press (2018) 9780812250015.

HARD COPY Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Development of Christianity in the Latin Caribbean*. Erdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1969).

PDF Kristen Block, , *Ordinary Lives in the Early Caribbean: Religion, Colonial Competition, and the Politics of Profit* University of Georgia Press (2012) ISBN: 9780820338675, 0820338672.

PDF Sensbach, Jon F. *Rebecca's Revival*. Boston: Harvard University Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780674043459.

NOTES (Kindle): Morrison, Doreen, Slavery's Heroes: George Liele and the Ethiopian Baptists of Jamaica 1783 -1865, 2014.

NOTES: Shannon, David T. Sr. *George Liele's Life and Legacy: An Unsung Hero (The James N. Griffith Endowed Series in Baptist Studies)*. Mercer University Press, 2013. (photocopy)

NOTES (Kindle): Victor. Cadette, *Slaves, Soldiers and Saints: Two Hundred Years of Baptist Witness in Trinidad: 1816–2016* . Port of Spain, Trinidad, 2016.

NOTES (Kindle): Kirton-Roberts, Winelle J. *Created in Their Image: Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados, 1834-1914*, 2015. ISBN: 9781504900997

NOTES: Glazier, Stephen D. *Marchin the Pilgrims Home: A Study of the Spiritual Baptists of Trinidad*. Shefeld Publishing Company, 1991. ISBN: 978-1879215054

BOOKSTORE: Lovelace, Earl. *The Wine of Astonishment* 1st reprint ed. Hodder Education Group, 2021, c1986. ISBN: 9780435988807

Forker, Wilbert, and Wilbert Forker. *Born in Slavery : The Story of Methodism in Anguilla and Its Influence in the Caribbean*. Edinburgh: Dunedin Academic Press, 2003. Print. Available in the Smathers library of Latin America at the University of Florida. Also at **Florida Gulf Coast University**

PDF Marina, Peter. *Chasing Religion in the Caribbean: Ethnographic Journeys from Antigua to Trinidad*. Palgrave Macmillan US, 2016. ISBN: 9781137561008.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Evaluate, contrast and analyze the religious cultures of the Caribbean.
- Evaluate, contrast and analyze the wide variety of Christian denominations, behavior and attitudes towards race and slavery in the Caribbean.
- Demonstrate professional or scholarly writing regarding the Caribbean.
- Identify, compare and contrast Catholic, Protestant and Pentecostal religious expressions in the Caribbean.

Expectations of this Course

This is a hybrid course, meaning half of the coursework will be

conducted in class, on campus, with the remaining half conducted out of class, including in this Canvas course. Expectations for performance in hybrid courses are the same as in a traditional course. Hybrid courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact online** with the instructor and peers;
- **review and follow the course calendar** and weekly outlines;
- **Attend class sessions** in person as scheduled;
- **log in** to the course 5 **times** per week;
- **respond to discussions** by the due date specified;
- **respond to emails** within 3 **days**;
- **submit assignments** by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- **log in** to the course **5 times** per week;

- **respond to emails** within **24 hours**;
- **grade assignments** and/or provide feedback within **2 days** of the assignment deadline.

Assignments & Assessments

Discussion Forums

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Discussion Forum Expectations:

- Provide clear guidance on the expectations and requirements
- Available dates (unlimited or for a specific time)
- Criteria for evaluating the originality and quality of students' comments and grade credit expected (Rubric is highly encouraged)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades.

Assignments

- Provide clear guidance on the expectations and requirements
- Provide due dates and late assignment policies

- Define if it is an individual or group assignment (groups: Let the students know how the groups will be formed)
- Specify and describe how to submit assignments
- State the criteria for evaluation (Rubric or list of criteria)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades

Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the Practice Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

- List all assessments (i.e. graded or practice)
- Provide the dates and times when assessments will become available (i.e. From Monday 10:00 am – Tuesday 11:59 pm)
- Provide assessment duration (i.e. 30 minutes, 1 hour)
- Provide details for results
- When will students be able to see the results (i.e. Immediately after the exam, after the availability period has ended, or not at all)
- What will they be able to see the results (i.e. Total score only, all of the questions and answers, etc.)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Discussion Forums	10	20	200	20%
In-class discussions	10	10	100	10%
Book Report Presentation	1	100	100	10%
Topic selection	1	100	100	10%
Research Question	1	100	100	10%
First Paragraph & Outline	1	100	100	10%
Final Research Project	2	200	200	20%
Research Presentation	1	100	100	10%
Total	**10**	**—**	**1,000**	**100%**

Letter Grade Distribution

Table

Letter Grade	Sample Range %
A	__ to 100o
A-	__ to __
B+	__ to __
B	__ to __
B-	__ to __
C+	__ to __
C	__ to __
C-	__ to __
D+	__ to __
D	__ to __
D-	__ to __
F	0 to __

Proctored Exams

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our Student Proctored Exam

Instructions webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Schedule of Topics

Readings (in chronological order):

PDFP Bartolome de las Casas, *A short introduction to the destruction of the Indies*.

PDF Edmonds and Gonzalez, *Caribbean Religious History*, New York University Press (2010) ISBN:

PDF Katherine Gerbner, *Christian Slavery: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World.* University of Pennsylvania Press (2018) 9780812250015.

HARD COPY Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Development of Christianity in the Latin Caribbean*. Erdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1969).

PDF Kristen Block, , *Ordinary Lives in the Early Caribbean: Religion, Colonial Competition, and the Politics of Profit* University of Georgia Press (2012) ISBN: 9780820338675, 0820338672.

PDF Sensbach, Jon F. *Rebecca's Revival*. Boston: Harvard University Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780674043459.

NOTES (Kindle): Morrison, Doreen, Slavery's Heroes: George Liele and the Ethiopian Baptists of Jamaica 1783 -1865, 2014.

NOTES: Shannon, David T. Sr. *George Liele's Life and Legacy: An*

Unsung Hero (The James N. Griffith Endowed Series in Baptist Studies). Mercer University Press, 2013. (photocopy)

NOTES (Kindle): Victor. Cadette, *Slaves, Soldiers and Saints: Two Hundred Years of Baptist Witness in Trinidad: 1816–2016* . Port of Spain, Trinidad, 2016.

NOTES (Kindle): Kirton-Roberts, Winelle J. *Created in Their Image: Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados, 1834-1914*, 2015. ISBN: 9781504900997

NOTES: Glazier, Stephen D. *Marchin the Pilgrims Home: A Study of the Spiritual Baptists of Trinidad*. Shefeld Publishing Company, 1991. ISBN: 978-1879215054

BOOKSTORE: Lovelace, Earl. *The Wine of Astonishment*

. 1st reprint ed. Hodder Education Group, 2021, c1986. ISBN: 9780435988807

Forker, Wilbert, and Wilbert Forker. *Born in Slavery : The Story of Methodism in Anguilla and Its Influence in the Caribbean*. Edinburgh: Dunedin Academic Press, 2003. Print. Available in the Smathers library of Latin America at the University of Florida. Also at **Florida Gulf Coast University**

PDF Marina, Peter. *Chasing Religion in the Caribbean: Ethnographic Journeys from Antigua to Trinidad*. Palgrave Macmillan US, 2016. ISBN: 9781137561008.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via **the Canvas Inbox**. Check out the Canvas Guide to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using the Canvas Inbox.

I will respond to all correspondence within 2 days.

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas, which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies, such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Statement
- Nondiscrimination Statement

- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

- Reference the Zoom Student Tutorials to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.
- Access the Zoom Test Meeting Room to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the FIU Canvas Help Team. Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights (OCR)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.

Syllabus Desclimer

This syllabus may be subject to change without prior notice. The latest changes will be announced via Canvas announcement.