

History of the Caribbean

This course will discuss the history of countries, cultures, and the spread of religion in the Caribbean. We will discuss the history of countries such as the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and other countries.

We will discuss the how triangle trade, particularly the slave trade has formed the identify of countries and cultures in the Caribbean, and the mix of natives, European countries, and Africans have shaped the population that either makes up the population of the Caribbean today, or the population that has migrated to America (particularly Newark) and the origin of the cultures that have influenced us.

We will discuss the religious aspects of the Caribbean, specifically the influence of Christianity, voodun (known as voodoo),and animism (native/taino religions) and other religions from Africa, have come influence the Caribbean, and many people who are Caribbean, and their religion.

We will discuss the influence of European nations over various islands, and how the culture of the areas were influenced in these areas. We will discuss the cultures of the Caribbean, how the culture was before colonization, how it was affected after it has left, and how it has influenced American culture, (particularly in Newark) in this day and age.

The history of the Caribbean aims to show students how alike our cultures are, as well as learn more about other cultures (as well as ours). All topics will be compared to topics today, such as racism, classism, and religion.

The objective of this course is to learn about the similarities of our own culture, in comparison to the countries in the Caribbean, learn about how Europe, with slavery and colonization has changed the Caribbean as well as the world, and to dispel any myths/ learn new facts about Caribbean history and culture

Outcome: students will have a newfound respect for Caribbean countries cultures, and history, as well as an understanding about our own culture, and how the Caribbean has influenced it.

Questions to consider when choosing this course:

1. How is the history of America similar to the history of the Caribbean? How has slavery, and the movements of Africans the same and/or different than our own?
2. What is our perception of people from the Caribbean, and the people from the Caribbean? Is the perception an accurate one?
3. How has Caribbean culture affected our own?

