

# The Course & The Place

## Lecture One

203, 203 H

The Caribbean

12 10:14 PM

# What You Need To Know

- Check the 203 web site for course requirements and regulations many of which are mandated by the University of Arizona.
- Changes to the course requirements will be announced in class and posted on the web site.

# Class Culture

- Class attendance is not required, but there is a positive association between attendance and performance.
- Once in class you agree to being a productive member of the class thus producing a positive learning environment for all attending.
- It helps to read your required materials before class, but intellectual free riders are still welcomed.
- We will not all agree on every point discussed in class, but we will try to listen with open minds to the opinions of others.
- Try to separate personal opinions (however derived) from information that has been established by research.

# Class Notes

- These are my notes. You still need to make your notes.
- Sometimes, like this lecture, my notes will be on the web before class in which case some people like to print them out as powerpoint slides with a space for notes near by.
- Still, my notes are just an outline.

# The Caribbean

- The notion that there are facts about the Caribbean (its nature, culture, society, and history) is disputed by many. Some say the Caribbean is so many stories that no generalizations can apply.
- Still, if this point is true, what are we left with but a myriad of observations that add up to nothing but rum and sun.
- So we will try to generalize (not essentialize, see <http://www.english.emory.edu/Bahri/Essentialism.html>) the place, the people, and their history.

# 100 Caribbean Facts: “Interesting”

- I created this portion of the web page so the class will have somewhere to share *eureka moments*. In the process of learning I have found these to be where we read, hear, or see something that is non-intuitive; and we go **WOW**. When you get a wow send it along to the instructor and we will add it to the *100 Caribbean Facts* on the web.

# Caribbean Facts “True”

- It should be noted again, that the truth is hard to find. So our *Caribbean Facts* seem generally **true to us**. We need to provide an authority source for each fact. It could be a TV show, what my mom learned on her trip to Jamaica, or a peer reviewed book on the topic.
- If the class does not believe the *Caribbean Fact* to be true, then they can argue for an contra-fact to be presented next to it on the web, or vote it off the island.

# Caribbean Facts “Scale”

- Caribbean Facts can vary by scale so it is good to specify what area the fact applies to. The more general the fact's application the more difficult it will be to keep it from being voted off the island. Areas of application are:
  - **Culture Area** – societies in the Caribbean were formed out of slavery and other forms of unfree labor.
  - **Regional Area** – After 1832, thousands of people from Africa bound for slave-based countries were freed by the British and sent to the Bahamas.
  - **Local Area** – Barbados was one of the most densely populated places in the world in the 1600s.
  - **Ideosyncratic** – Mr. xxx went to study abroad at Oxford and became a famous writer, but 95% of the other students from his settlement did not finish high school. So it is not true that because he was a success anyone can be a success.

# Some of My Caribbean Facts Nature

- From volcanoes to flat limestone banks the topography and the presence of natural materials varies so much that in the 1960s a nice gift to a friend in Barbados was a river rolled stone from a volcanic island. Barbados is a coral limestone island with no hard stone.

# Some of My Caribbean Facts Culture

- **Code Switching** is what many people in the Caribbean do as they move from one social situation to another. With multiple versions of the same language and culture to draw upon, code switching is common, subtle, and often confusing to outsiders.

# Some of My Caribbean Facts Society

- Most people in the Caribbean belong to and participate in rigid hierarchal colonial-based social structures and fluid egalitarian local-based social structures. The terms “**respectibility**” and “**reputation**” are used to describe these two social systems.
- While there are social divisions defined by race, class, and gender, many have argued that the latter is the more rigid and difficult to over come.

# Some of My Caribbean Facts History

- Europeans were looking for a new route to the Far East, but found a formerly unknown 1/3 of the planet. So initial goals of trade with the east were soon replaced with moving the agricultural products of the Far East to the Caribbean. The Caribbean thus came to serve as the tropical kitchen gardens of Europe. The East Indies were replanted as the West Indies.

# Basic Concepts

- This is a starter list of concepts.
- We will add new ones each class period.
- Concepts come from the readings and the lectures.
- Students can add concepts they feel are useful.
- If you do not know a concept consult a electronic library source like an encyclopedia  
<http://www.library.arizona.edu/search/reference/diction.html>
- If you are not certain you have the correct meaning for a concept then ask in class or email the TA or instructor.

# Some Basic Concepts

- Culture
- Society
- Nature
- History
- Kitchen Gardens of Europe
- Colonialism
- Mercantilism
- Archipelago

# Some More Essential Concepts

- Culture area
- Identity (culture area, regional, local)
- Bi-culturalism
- Peasants or Counter Culture Rebels?
- Global-Local Market/Culture Penetration
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Nature-Human Co-adaptation
- Resilience

# More Concepts

- Non-intuitive Knowledge - a foundation of ethnography
  - Code Switching - linguistic and cultural
  - Respectability and Reputation
  - Colonization – Decolonization
- <http://www.english.emory.edu/Bahri/Intro.html>

# Snoop Dogg

<http://www.snoopdogg.com/>

- This is mostly for fun, but points can be had.
- Map Test Replacement Points – Can only be used to replace points lost on the map test.
- For 5 Points, Answer the question: How do Snoop Dogg's efforts to create a new language reflect a basic dimension of African-Caribbean history, society, and culture?