



INSPIRE 3EL3 – Experiential Learning Opportunities CO4 – Topics in the Black Caribbean and its Diasporas Interession 2021

COURSE OFFERING

Term: Interession 2021

Mode of Delivery: Online delivery – Virtual classroom

Online Delivery Method: Combination of synchronous (virtual group meetings) and asynchronous (individually completed)

Platform of Instruction: Microsoft Teams (MS Teams)

Class Dates: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 11am-1pm, EST. Please note that the Spring 2021 session runs from May 3 – May 28, for a total of four (4) weeks.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Name: Stacy Ann Creech

Email: creechs@mcmaster.ca

MS Teams Handle: Stacy Creech

Office Hour: Every Friday, 2-3pm, on MS Teams. Please schedule appointments using Calendly link: <https://calendly.com/creechs>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary course will introduce students to topics that evince the Caribbean region's rich and nuanced Black histories and cultures. Focusing on short, contemporary cultural productions—including written and spoken-word poetry, short stories, music, and news publications created by Afro-Caribbean artists—this course will offer a grounding in the rich geographies, multi-linguistic traditions, and socio-political landscapes of the Black Caribbean and its diasporas in Canada, the United States, and England. This course will stimulate critical engagement with cultural texts from Afro-Latin American/Latinx Caribbean countries, including Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico, from Black Anglo-Caribbean nations like Jamaica, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Barbados, Guyana, and Antigua, as well as from Black francophone locales like Haiti and Martinique. As we map out Black Caribbean identities through short cultural pieces produced in these insular and continental spaces, we will begin to piece together the ways in which Black thought and art enact resistance to and remake colonial and imperial legacies. Additionally, given the interdisciplinary nature of the course, students will have the opportunity to engage with the archival collections of Jamaican writer Louise Bennett-Coverley (Miss Lou) and Barbadian writer Austin Clarke—which are housed at McMaster University Library—in order to explore topics in reflective, creative ways.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS AND FORMAT

- Microsoft Teams (MS Teams): for synchronous classes (once per week), group discussions/assignments, questions, and general class announcements.



- Avenue to Learn (A2L): for general class announcements, course content/materials, assignment submission folders, grades.
- Email: feel free to contact me via email with any questions and/or concerns (see email policy below).

The Spring 2021 Term will take place in an exclusively remote teaching (i.e., online/virtual) format, combining both synchronous (virtual group meetings) and asynchronous (individually completed) instruction. The breakdown of how this will work throughout the term is as follows:

- **Asynchronous instruction:** In consideration of varying levels of access to the internet, most of the course materials will be made available on **Avenue to Learn** via short, pre-recorded lectures (i.e., video or audio with slides) twice per week, at the assigned lecture time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 11am-1pm, EST. Once the materials are available, you are expected to engage with them on your own schedule. Since these pre-recorded lectures are designed to introduce content and discuss Black Caribbean cultural productions, I suggest that you complete the weekly readings and engage with audio/visual content before watching and/or listening to the pre-recorded lectures, which will help you to benefit from my instruction in generative ways. To this end, your engagement with class content and pre-recorded lectures will need to be thoughtful, detailed, and in-depth. In order to foster accessibility and to ensure your effective engagement with pre-recorded class lectures, each video lecture will have available captions, and each audio file will be accompanied by a transcript.
- **Synchronous instruction:** We will be using **MS Teams** for real-time/live lectures. You can access this program at no additional cost through your McMaster University account: <https://office365.mcmaster.ca/>. If you have not yet used this program, I encourage you to start familiarizing yourself with it by exploring the Microsoft Teams Help & Learning Center: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/teams>. You will be added to the main class team as well as a corresponding group work/study group channel, at the beginning of the term.
Lectures: We will meet as a class on MS Teams for live lectures every Thursday at the assigned class time, from 11am-1pm, EST. **During Week 1, however, our first synchronous lecture will take place on Wednesday, May 5, at 11am, EST., on MS Teams, since Myron Groover (McMaster Library Archives and Rare Books Librarian) will join us to talk about the Archives Assignment.** From Weeks 2-4, we will meet synchronously (live) every Thursday. These synchronous meetings will occur once at the end of each week. During these real-time class meetings, I will go over important aspects of the week's content, and you will have the opportunity to join in-class discussions and/or ask questions; you will be encouraged to participate in writing as well, using the chat bar. In this sense, I recommend that you use this time to pose specific questions/comments about the content and/or class assignments, as there will be a portion of the live class dedicated to answering your queries. Note that each of these four live sessions will be recorded and made available to you through the university's Office 365 Hub, as well as on A2L, in case you want to go back later and review some of the things that were discussed. Each recording will include captions.



COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce students to key socio-historic, geographic, cultural, and political aspects of the Black Caribbean region.
2. To familiarize students with the rich, multi-linguistic traditions that co-exist within Black Caribbean locales, including English, Spanish, French, as well as Creole (Kwéyòl) and Patois (“Patwa”).
3. To examine the ways in which Black Caribbean intellectual thought and cultural productions reimagine and remake colonial traditions.
4. To develop critical, reflective, and analytical skills through the study of short cultural texts related to topics in the Black Caribbean and its diasporas.
5. To increase students’ engagement in online/virtual teaching-learning spaces, through the design and delivery of a brief oral presentation on topics in the Black Caribbean and its diasporas.
6. To develop reading and writing skills through critical, affective, and cognitive engagement with class materials.
7. To enhance students’ research skills through archival work.

COURSE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

All required readings and course materials are available on Avenue to Learn, under the corresponding weekly module.

ASSESSMENT AND COURSE DELIVERABLES

Please note that this is a graded 3-unit course.

Assessment Type	Brief Information & Due Date	Length	Percentage Total
Reflections on Weekly Content	Four (4) per term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fri. May 7. • Fri. May 14. • Fri. May 21. • Fri. May 28. Submitted to corresponding A2L folder, by 11:59pm, EST.	500-600 words each.	40% total, @ 10% each.
A2L Weekly Question Response	Four (4) per term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs. May 6. • Thurs. May 13. • Thurs. May 20. • Thurs. May 27. Due on Thursdays, by 11:59pm, EST.	4-6 sentences-1 paragraph per post.	20% total, @ 5% each.
Weekly Participation	Synchronous and/or asynchronous; open-ended deadline, from May 3 – 28.	N/A	10% total
Archives Assignment	Engagement with primary source of students’ choice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written report: Wed. May 26 (A2L, by 11:59pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written report: 1-2 pgs. 	15% total, @ 10% for written report and 5% for



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini oral presentation: Thurs. May 27 (during live class) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral presentation: 5-7 mins. 	oral presentation.
Final Project/Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes creative and reflective/critical options; due on Mon. May 31 (A2L, by 11:59pm) Submitted to corresponding A2L folder, by 11:59pm, EST. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 600-650 words. 	15% total
			Total: 100%

Notes:

- There is **no exam** for INSPIRE 3EL3 – CO4: Topics in the Black Caribbean and its Diasporas.
- Further assignment details (e.g., guidelines, descriptions, rubrics) will be available on the A2L course page.

POLICY ON MISSED WORK, EXTENSIONS, AND LATE PENALTIES

Standard McMaster policies pertaining to missed work (e.g., MSAFs) will apply. Understanding this, extensions and late penalties will be considered and addressed on a case-by-case basis. See below regarding academic accommodations, missed work, and related issues.

E-MAIL POLICY AND MEETINGS

E-mails must originate from a valid McMaster account, and be sent to the instructor’s McMaster email. Please do not use the Avenue messaging function. You must use your McMaster email account to message the instructor. Any email originating from another provider will be deleted (we cannot confirm that the email has come from you).

I look forward to getting to know you and to support your learning this Term! In general, brief, logistical questions may be handled via e-mail; please use the course code (i.e., INSPIRE 3EL3-C04) in the subject line, and I will do my best to reply within twenty-four (24) hours, but please note that I will not answer student e-mails on weekends.

If you have a concern about a grade you have received, please wait twenty-four (24) hours before making an appointment to meet with me. When asking for the appointment, please write a short explanation (100-250 words in length) as to why you believe you deserve a different grade. In the interest of reducing what could possibly become a large number of e-mail messages between us, you may contact me on MS Teams as well—to book an appointment, to ask brief questions, etc.

STUDENTS WITH ACCOMMODATIONS (SAS)

Please discuss your accommodations with the instructor early in the term so that accommodations can be in place before they are needed.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities Policy.

I assume that all of us learn in different ways, and that the organization of any course will accommodate each student differently, especially in a remote teaching and learning setting such as ours. For example, you may process information best through real-time interactions, so that some of the pre-recorded lectures may be difficult to absorb. Please feel free to reach out to me as soon as you can about your individual learning needs, including any Student Accessibility Services arrangements, and how we can work together in this course to best accommodate you within the limits of current conditions. Even if you do not have a documented disability, I am always glad to consult about your learning processes and to help you identify McMaster University virtual resources; a useful writing resource is the Writing Support department of McMaster's Student Success Centre:

<https://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/academic-skills/writing-support/>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COURSE POLICIES

Your registration and continuous participation to the various learning activities of *INSPIRE 3EL3* will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture or through other communication vehicles. It is your responsibility to read this course outline, to familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly. Lack of awareness of the course policies cannot be invoked at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand. The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work."



CLASS STRUCTURE/SCHEDULE

<p><u>Week 1</u> May 3-7 Tues. May 4, Wed. May 5, Thurs. May 6 Each day: 11am-1pm, EST. <i>Theme: Introduction to the Black Caribbean Region</i></p>		
Format	Reading(s) and/or Audio/Visual Content	Assignments Due
<p><u>Tuesday:</u> Asynchronous - Welcome video - Pre-recorded lecture Synchronous: - Online activity</p> <p><u>Wednesday:</u> Synchronous: - Live Lecture #1: Myron Groover (Guest), McMaster’s Archives and Research Collections (ARC), at 11am, EST. Asynchronous: - A2L activity</p> <p><u>Thursday:</u> Asynchronous: - Pre-recorded lecture - Online activity: Reflection #1 // Archive Assignment (Louise Bennett-Coverley and Austin Clarke)</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis R. Hidalgo, “Introduction of Africans in the Caribbean.” (5 pgs) • David Lambert, “An Introduction to the Caribbean, Empire and Slavery.” (5 pgs) • Nathaniel Samuel Murrell, from <i>Afro-Caribbean Religions...</i> (5 pgs) <p><i>Total no. of pgs. this week: 15.</i></p> <p><u>Images:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Images from the Caribbean,” from the <i>National Archives UK: Collections</i> website. (For online activity) <p><u>Website browsing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From <i>Caribbean and Indigenous Endangered Languages</i> website. (For online activity) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post a comment on A2L Welcome Thread (by Fri., May 7) • A2L Weekly Question Response #1 (by Thurs., May 6, 11:59pm) • Reflection #1 on weekly content (by Fri., May 7, 11:59pm)



Week 2

May 10-14

Tues. May 11, Wed. May 12, Thurs. May 13

Each day: 11am-1pm, EST.

Theme: Afro-Latin American/Latinx Caribbean

Tuesday:

Asynchronous

- Pre-recorded lecture

Synchronous:

- Online activity

Wednesday:

Asynchronous:

- Pre-recorded lecture
- A2L activity

Thursday:

Synchronous:

- Live Lecture #2, at 11am, EST.

Asynchronous:

- Online activity:
Reflection #2

Readings:

- Mayra Santos-Febres, selected poems. (5 pgs)
- Dixia Ramírez D'Oleo, "Expanding the Dialogues: Afro-Latinx Feminisms." (3 pgs)

Total no. of pgs. this week: 8.

Images:

- Juan Roberto Diago, "The Pasts of this Afro-Cuban Present." From *the Cooper Gallery Exhibition* website. (For online activity).

Website browsing:

- Henry Louis Gates, Jr., "Black in Latin America" project website. (For online activity)
- "Caribbean Folklore and Stories," from *Key Caribe Magazine*. (For online activity)
- *Artístico RD*, from "La Ciguapa: Mythical Being in Dominican Folklore." (For online activity)

Spoken word poetry:

- Elizabeth Acevedo, "Hair," and "Afro-Latina."

Music:

- Vicente García, "She Prays," and "Bachata en Kingston."

- Sign-up for Archives Assignment (by Wed., May 12)
- A2L Weekly Question Response #2 (by Thurs., May 13, 11:59pm)
- Reflection #2 on weekly content (by Fri., May 14, 11:59pm)



<p><u>Week 3</u> May 17-21 Tues. May 18, Wed. May 19, Thurs. May 20 Each day: 11am-1pm, EST. Theme: Black Francophone Caribbean</p>		
<p><u>Tuesday:</u> Asynchronous - Pre-recorded lecture Synchronous: - Online activity</p> <p><u>Wednesday:</u> Asynchronous: - Pre-recorded lecture - A2L activity</p> <p><u>Thursday</u> Synchronous: - Live Lecture #3: Dr. Arturo Victoriano (Guest), on Haitian and Dominican histories and the writings of Edwidge Danticat, at 11am, EST. Asynchronous: - Online activity: Reflection #3</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edwidge Danticat, from <i>Krik? Krak!</i> and <i>Everything Inside: Stories</i>. (20 pgs) • Marlene L. Daut, from <i>Tropics of Haiti...</i> (3 pgs) • Aimé Césaire, from <i>Notebook of a Return to the Native Land</i>. (2 pgs) • Keith Q. Warner, “Creole Languages and National Identity in the Caribbean.” (2 pgs) <p><i>Total no. of pgs. this week: 27.</i></p> <p><u>Images:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “An Interactive Map and Timeline of the Haitian Revolution,” from <i>Mapping the Haitian Revolution</i> website. (For online activity) <p><u>Website browsing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlene L. Daut, <i>Fictions of the Haitian Revolution</i> website. (For online activity) <p><u>Music:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bohio Music, “Kriye.” • Bélé Music (with video) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A2L Weekly Question Response #3 (by Thurs., May 20, 11:59pm) • Reflection #3 on weekly content (by Fri., May 21, 11:59pm)



Week 4

May 24-28

Tues. May 25, Wed. May 26, Thurs. May 27

Each day: 11am-1pm, EST.

Themes: Black Anglophone Caribbean // Course Conclusion: Topics in the Black Caribbean and its Diasporas

<p>Tuesday: Asynchronous - Pre-recorded lecture Synchronous: - Online activity</p> <p>Wednesday: Asynchronous: - Pre-recorded lecture - A2L activity</p> <p>Thursday: Synchronous: - Live Lecture #4: Linzey Corridon (Guest), on Black Anglo-Caribbean Literatures, at 11am, EST. Asynchronous: • Online activity: Reflection #4</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dionne Brand, from <i>No Language is Neutral</i> (5 pgs) • Canisia Lubrin, from <i>Voodoo Hypothesis</i> and <i>The Dyzgraphxst.</i> (5 pgs) • M. NourbeSe Philip, "Letter to Haiti," and "Afrofest: We Will Not Be Moved." (5 pgs) • Stuart Hall, "Cultural Identity and Diaspora." (3 pgs) <p><i>Total no. of pgs. this week: 18.</i></p> <p>Documentary film:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Roots, Reggae, Rebellion." Dir. James Hale, <i>BBC</i>. (For pre-recorded lecture) <p>Website browsing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kamau Brathwaite, "Bread," from <i>Poetry by Heart</i> website. (For online activity) <p>Podcast episode:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Juanita De Barros (Guest), "Reproducing the British Caribbean..." for <i>New Books in Caribbean Studies</i> series. (For pre-recorded lecture) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A2L Weekly Question Response #4 (by Thurs., May 27, 11:59pm) • Reflection #4 on weekly content (by Fri., May 28, 11:59pm) • Archives Assignment: Written report due on Wed., May 26 by 11:59pm; oral presentation due on Thurs., May 27 during live class on MS Teams.
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NOTES:

- The Final Project/Essay is to be submitted to the corresponding A2L folder on Monday, May 31, by 11:59pm.



- In the event of lecture cancellations, students will be notified on Avenue to Learn, on Microsoft Teams (main team section), and via e-mail. It is your responsibility to check these platforms for any such announcements.

ABSENCES

Frequent, unexplained absences from synchronous lectures will have a negative impact on your grade. These are challenging times due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 and its still-unfolding global effects, and I do not wish to make assumptions about uninterrupted student access to the hardware and software resources needed in order to keep up with this class. Nor do we want to make assumptions about your physical, mental, and emotional health, so I encourage you to get in touch with me about absences or upcoming/missed deadlines. If you will be absent from synchronous meetings, make sure to communicate with the instructor via e-mail to let me know beforehand. In the case of emergencies, please do your best to get in touch with me regarding your absence within forty-eight (48) hours of the missed meeting. If this is not possible, please be in touch as soon as you are able.

VIRTUAL COURSE DELIVERY

To follow and participate in virtual classes it is expected that you have reliable access to the following:

- A computer that meets the performance requirements [found here](#).
- An internet connection that is fast enough to stream video.
- Computer accessories that enable class participation, such as a microphone, speakers and webcam when needed.

If you think that you will not be able to meet these requirements, please contact uts@mcmaster.ca as soon as you can. Please visit the [Technology Resources for Students page](#) for detailed requirements. If you use assistive technology or believe that our platforms might be a barrier to participating, please contact [Student Accessibility Services](#), sas@mcmaster.ca, for support.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>



The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g., A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., online search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ONLINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use online elements (e.g., email, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster email accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses online elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g., use of Avenue 2



Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.