English 8020: Caribbean Women’s Fiction  
Professor: Dannabang Kuwabong, PhD

B. Title: Caribbean Women Writers

C. Code: Ingl.8020

D. Credit Hours: 45 hours/3 credits

E. Prerequisites: Graduate Standing

F. Course Description: Using as a starting point a search for feminist discourse within feminist and gender literary criticism, the narrative works of Caribbean women writers will be analyzed and placed within and at the margin of tradition that has been established in 20th century West Indian literature. The fiction of women writers as different in generation, ethnicity, location, ideological positioning, and style will be explored for differences and similarities to understand the contribution of women toward the construction and consolidation of a Caribbean aesthetic.

G. Course Objectives:

By the end of the course students will:

1. develop comprehensive knowledge of the topics being discussed as well as an understanding of how it relates to the overall study of Caribbean literatures and cultures

2. gain a better understanding of women’s narrative theory and practice through the introduction of topically based study of selected narratives.

3. understand how historical context, cultural values, and sites of difference (i.e., race, class, gender, sexuality, environment, spirituality, location, exile, family, etc.) intersect to influence perceptions and interpretations in these narrative fictions.

4. develop familiarity with the growing corpus of contemporary narrative voices by women writers of the Caribbean.

5. develop/enhance critical thinking and reading skills by considering a range of theoretical perspectives on significant cultural/social issues related to the study of
Caribbean narrative fiction.

6. develop a better understanding of cultural praxes and the history of ideas as well as the commentary on and contribution of Caribbean women’s narratives and interpretations.

7. gain a better sense of current trends and topics of interest in Caribbean women’s narratives.

8. strengthen research, oral presentation, and writing skills in the field of study.

H. **Course Outline: Weekly Schedule**

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<th>Weeks</th>
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<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>II.</td>
<td>Readings on theoretical perspectives on Caribbean Women’s fiction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>Readings on theoretical perspectives on Caribbean Women’s fiction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>V.</td>
<td>Chaney, Myriam J. A. <em>Spirit of Haiti</em>.</td>
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<td>VI.</td>
<td>Powell, Patricia. <em>Me Dying Trial</em>.</td>
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<td>VII.</td>
<td>Palmer, Opal Adisa. <em>It Begins with Tears</em>.</td>
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<td>VIII.</td>
<td>Silvera, Makeda. <em>The Heart Does not Bend</em>.</td>
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<td>IX.</td>
<td>Espinet, Ramabai. <em>The Swinging Bridge</em>.</td>
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<td>X.</td>
<td>Melville, Pauline. <em>The Ventriloquist Tale</em>.</td>
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<td>XI.</td>
<td>Brand, Dioone. <em>At the Full and Change of the Moon</em>.</td>
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<td>XII.</td>
<td>Hopkinson, Nalo. <em>Salt Roads</em>.</td>
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<td>XIII.</td>
<td>Kincaid, Jamaica. <em>My Brother</em>.</td>
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<td>XIV.</td>
<td>Eastern Caribbean Conference in St Marteen</td>
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<td>XV.</td>
<td>Final Papers</td>
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Total Number of Hours: 45hrs./3credit hours
I. Teaching Strategies: The pedagogical strategies to be used will primarily include: 20% lecture, 80% seminar.

J. Required Resources: Access to all UPR library facilities, electronic search and on-line access, and internet access. When necessary, TV/VCR/DVD will be used for some class sessions.

K. Methods of Evaluation.

The following evaluation criteria will be used:

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<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
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<td>Weekly response papers of 2 pages, typed, double space to the required reading</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Term Paper I of not less than 8-10 pages (2000-2500 words)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper of not less than 12-15 pages (3000-3750 words)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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L. Grading System: A, B, C, D, F

M. Required Texts

Required Primary Texts: Students must try to acquire these texts by themselves. Without the texts, Your success in the course will be put in jeopardy.

1. Chancy, Myriam J. A. *Spirit of Haiti*
4. Kincaid, Jamaica. *My Brother.* (Compare with Patricia Powell’s *A Small Gathering of Bones*)
6. Powell, Patricia. *Me Dying Trial*
7. Palmer, Opal Adisa. *It Begins with Tears.*
8. Espinet, Ramabai. *The Swinging Bridge*
9. Silvera, Makeda. *The Heart Does not Bend*

Recommended Complementary Primary Texts:

2. Warner-Vieyra, Myriam. *Juletane*
10. Gilroy, Beryl. *Inkle and Yarico*.
12. Powell, Patricia. *A Small Gathering of Bones*

**Selected Bibliography:**

The Following Strongly Recommended Reading list is available in the English Department’s Richardson Seminar Room. (Please Make use of these Texts as Theoretical Material to Read and write about the Novels. There are many more you can find on your own.)


Beckles, Hilary. *Centering Woman*


**Important Point to Note:**
It is paramount that literary journals are searched for relevant secondary material, either through the University Library’s on-line services, or by physically locating them in the library’s Caribbean Special Collection on the ground floor, or through inter-library loan facilities. It is required that each student at the end of August (30/08/07), provide me with 15 relevant journal articles on Caribbean women’s fiction, and by the middle of September (13/09/07), provide me with at least, 15 titles of journal articles and books titles that they wish to engage in their first term paper. The same is expected by the end of October (26/10/07) toward their final paper. Without the critical engagement of secondary theoretical material, the student cannot hope to pass the term papers.

Here are titles of some Journals that either on-line through Lazaro or can be found in the Library.

- Callaloo
- Small Axe
- La Torre
- Kunapipi
- Journal of Caribbean Studies
- Sargasso
- Ariel
- Canadian Literature
- Bridgewater Journal
- Review of Contemporary Fiction
- Modern Fiction Studies
- Hypatia
- Contemporary Literature
- Anthurium
- Canadian Ethnic Studies
- Canadian Women’s Studies
- Meridians
- Journal of Canadian Studies
- Open Letter
- Yale French Studies
- Journal of West Indian Literature
- University of Toronto Quarterly
- The Missouri Review
- Essays on Canadian Writing
- Lambda Book Report
- Melus
- New Literatures in Review
- Jouvert
- World Literature Today
- Wasafiri
- Narrative
- College English
- World Literature Written in English (Journal of Postcolonial Literature)

Etc.