

ENP11020 *Caribbean Literature*

Module type	Optional (approved module: MPhil in Modern and Contemporary Literary Studies)
Term / hours	Michaelmas / 22
ECTS	10
Coordinator(s)	Dr Melanie Otto (ottom@tcd.ie)
Lecturer(s)	Dr Melanie Otto
Cap	Depending on demand

Module description

Beginning with a discussion of foundational writers like Édouard Glissant and contemporary engagements with race, we will study a range of authors from the Caribbean, from well-known modernist writers such as Jean Rhys to contemporary poet Kei Miller. Focusing primarily on prose and poetry, texts include Anglophone Caribbean writing as well as translations from Spanish and French to reflect current trends in scholarship on the literatures produced in the Caribbean and the Caribbean diaspora.

Assessment

The module is assessed through a 5,000-6,000-word essay.

Indicative bibliography

Week 1 (The Caribbean archipelago and the Atlantic world):

- Édouard Glissant in Conversation with Manthia Diawara
- Annalee Davis, "White Creole Conversations"

Week 2 (The Continental Imagination):

- Pauline Melville, "Erzulie", from *The Migration of Ghosts*

Week 3 (Creolization and Creole Poetics):

- Édouard Glissant, selected essays
- Patrick Chamoiseau, Raphaël Confiant, Jean Bernabé, "In Praise of Creoleness"

Week 4 (The Diasporic imagination):

- Jean Rhys, selected stories

Week 5 ("Woman version"):

- Jamaica Kincaid, *At the Bottom of the River*

Week 6 (The Caribbean and Latin America):

- Gabriel García Márquez, *Of Love and Other Demons* (novel)

Week 8 ("Caliban takes up his pen"):

- George Lamming, "A Monster, a Child, a Slave" in *The Pleasures of Exile*

- Roberto Fernández Retamar, “Caliban: Notes Toward a Discussion of Culture in Our America”, in *Caliban and Other Essays*

Week 9 (Queer Caribbean)

- Michelle Cliff, *No Telephone to Heaven*

Week 10 (Place and Belonging):

- Kei Miller, *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion*

Weeks 11 and 12 (“Fragments of epic memory”):

- Derek Walcott, *Omeros*

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- LO1 Identify central themes and concepts in Caribbean literature.
- LO2 Recognise and analyse themes, debates, and theories central to the study of Caribbean literatures and the literatures of the Caribbean diaspora.
- LO3 Examine the connection between historical, political, and aesthetic contexts of Caribbean literatures and the literatures of the Caribbean diaspora.
- LO4 Reflect and write critically on any topic in the areas studied.
- LO5 Develop academic written skills through essay writing.