Fall 2008
Spanish 368: The Caribbean: Race, Gender and Cultural Politics
Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:30 – 2:50 pm
Professor: K Rauch, Ph.D.
(rauch@kutztown.edu) (Ext. 34435)
Office: DeFrancesco 15A
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:00-2:00 pm
Mondays/Fridays 1:00 -2:00 pm
Thursdays 12:00 – 1:00, or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: a study of the cultural politics of identity and nation formation in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, particularly in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Areas of focus will include: the textual and cinematic representations of slavery and of the Afro-Caribbean experience, from anti-slavery works through la poesía negra to the more recent manifestations of Afrocentrism; the Taíno revival; and Pan-Caribbeanism. The class is primarily discussion with some lecture. (In Spanish).
PREREQUISITE: SPA 212 or permission of instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
In this course the student will:
- Gain a greater understanding of the three Spanish-speaking islands of the Caribbean;
- Develop critical thinking skills through class discussions, debates and written exercises;
- Acquire a fundamental knowledge of the elements of textual analysis.
- Increase proficiency in the L2 through discussions, debates, films, essays and presentations.

Required Texts:
Cartagena Portalatin, Aida. Escalera para Electra
Gómez de Avellaneda, Gertrudis. Sab.
Manzano, Juan Francisco. Autobiografía de un esclavo

Final Grade:
Attendance and participation..........................10%
Exams (3, including the cumulative final).........45%
Author Presentation.......................................10%
Poetry Presentation........................................10%
Five-minute papers......................................10%
Research paper ..........................................15%
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=100%

Grading Scale:
100-90........A
89-80........B
79-70........C
Responsibilities of the student:

1) Attendance and participation: Attendance is your most fundamental responsibility in this course. Your attendance forms the base number for your participation grade. I begin with the percentage classes attended. If you miss 20 of the 40 classes, for instance, your base participation grade (your highest possible grade) would be 50% (20/40). Only medical excuses and emergencies constitute valid reasons to miss class. In certain cases, I may ask you to provide an excuse written and signed by the proper authority. Please be aware that frequent tardy arrivals eventually equal a class missed.

In general, a good participation grade comes from volunteering answers and always speaking in Spanish. Excellent participation also means executing the reading assignments on time, preparing conscientiously for class, and taking responsibility for your own learning. If you do this, your overall performance will be enhanced, e.g. you will earn better grades. It is also expected that you contribute to an environment that is conducive to learning for all members of the class. If you are disruptive and inconsiderate of others in the classroom (myself included), I reserve the right not only to take the appropriate official action, but also to give you a "zero" for this portion of your grade.

2) Exams: Make-up exams may be scheduled only if you inform me prior to the exam date or if a legitimate emergency prevents you from sitting for the exam. Please note that the final exam is cumulative.

3) Author presentation: Students will prepare and share with the class a PowerPoint presentation (10-15 minutes) on an author. The presentation must include basic biographical information, a list (partial if there are many) of his/her works and their genres, an explanation of general themes in his/her work and an assessment of the author's corpus and of his/her contribution to the history of literature. The presentation must contain: a title slide with the presenter’s name, at least four other slides with bullet lists and at least one image of the author and one of a major work. The professor will present a model in class on Thursday, August 28.

4) Poetry analysis presentation: In pairs, students will be responsible for analyzing a poem. The professor will assign both the pairs and the poem. The format will be distributed and discussed in class. There will be practice session during the first few classes.

5) Five-minute papers: At the beginning of class, I may ask you to write a response to one question based on the previous day's reading. If you haven't done the reading, your grade will be a zero. The lowest score on these mini-papers will be dropped when I average your final grade

6) Research/analysis paper: Each student must produce an original piece of critical work, an analysis of either a literary text, a film or a work of popular culture (music, postage stamps, etc.) The paper must by typed, using New Times Roman font (12 point) and contain 4-6 pages of text, plus a list of works cited. Please follow the guidelines provided by the Modern Language
Association while writing your paper. Topics must be approved by the professor. In addition, a rough draft, which constitutes 4% of the grade on the paper, must be submitted.

**Plagiarism and cheating:** In cases of cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic dishonesty, either I, any other academic officer of this University, or another student may initiate the informal resolution process, which may result in failure of this course, or the formal resolution process through the Office of Judicial Services, which may result in university suspension or dismissal. Please refer to the Kutztown University Undergraduate Catalog for a full explanation of this institution's Academic Honesty policy.

**Final Note:** The goal of the University is to provide the qualified student with disabilities the education necessary to function as a self-sufficient individual. The Office of Human Diversity provides many services for students with disabilities and will work with faculty and students to coordinate reasonable accommodations. If you are a student with a documented learning disability that might affect your performance in this class, please inform the professor privately during the first week and schedule an appointment with the Office of Human Diversity, if it has not already been done (215 Stratton, 610-683-4108).

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**Plan de estudios**

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<th>La República Dominicana/el Romanticismo</th>
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<td>Jueves, 28 de agosto</td>
<td>Salomé Ureña. Cómo analizar un poema.</td>
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<td>Aída Cartagena Portalatín: Escalera para Electra. Capítulos 1-10</td>
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<td>Martes, 28 de octubre</td>
<td>El triunfo de la revolución</td>
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<td>Martes, 4 de noviembre</td>
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<td>Jueves, 6 de noviembre</td>
<td>Take home exam on Cuba due. Puerto Rico:</td>
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<td>Martes, 11 de noviembre</td>
<td>Poesía puertorriqueña</td>
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### JUEVES, 13 DE NOVIEMBRE
Poesía

### MARTES, 18 DE NOVIEMBRE
Cuentos de Ferré, Vega y Sánchez

### MARTES, 25 DE NOVIEMBRE
Cuentos

### JUEVES, 27 DE NOVIEMBRE
Luis Rafael Sánchez. *Quintuples*

### MARTES, 2 DE DICIEMBRE
Luis Rafael Sánchez. *Quintuples*

### JUEVES, 4 DE DICIEMBRE
Repaso para el examen final

### JUEVES, 11 DE DICIEMBRE,
11:00 - 1:00
Examen final

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### INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES


Flores, Juan. *From Bomba to Hip-Hop: Puerto Rican Culture and Latino Identity.* Columbia UP.


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