PHIL XXXX: Caribbean Philosophy

Instructor & Course Developer Information
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Course Description: The course examines the rich intellectual tradition of the Caribbean oriented around issues of colonization, decolonization, resistance, emancipation, and identity. As such, it takes its point of departure to be an interdisciplinary transnational study of ideas forged in and through the Caribbean, which in this context includes its diaspora. Students will consider the meaning of the Caribbean as a geopolitical space, identities forged in the Caribbean, social and political problems that emerge as a result of colonialism and globalization. In doing so, they will be introduced to major figures as well as philosophical problems around ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.

Suggested Course Readings by Topic: In what follows I provide a series of suggestions of texts that can be used under umbrella topics that are generally found throughout the philosophical literature of the Caribbean. Note: they are not separated by colonial regions (e.g. Spanish, French, British) rather, they are compiled by objects of philosophical concerns that stretch beyond national post-colonial boundaries. However, this is not to suggest that these texts take up identical concerns, but rather that they share in topical orientation and as such those links should be highlighted.

Metaphilosophical Reflections


Colonization & Decolonization


Glissant, E. Caribbean Discourse. 1989


Politics and the Caribbean


Rodriguez Acosta, O. La Vida Manda. 2016.


Retamar, R. F. “Caliban and Other Essays” (Minneapolis 1989).


La Fountain Stokes, L. Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora. 2009.


**Philosophical Literature**

Diaz, J. Brief and Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao. 2007

