

## Welcome Letter for Spanish Caribbean

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Hello and welcome to Spanish Caribbean!

This course will provide an overview of the history of the Spanish Caribbean (Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico), focusing on several themes that have shaped these countries: race and slavery, sugar plantations, national identity, colonialism, authoritarianism, U.S. imperialism, revolution. The objectives will be to develop critical thinking and analytical skills by reading and writing about the topics presented, and to enhance the student's abilities to acquire information independently.

### Texts

Findlay, Eileen Suarez. *Imposing Decency: the Politics of Sexuality and Race in Puerto Rico, 1870-1920*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999.  
Julia Alvarez ' *In the Time of the Butterflies*, Penguin Group (USA) Incorporated, 1995 (ISBN-13: 9780452274426)  
Lauren Derby - *The Dictator's Seduction*  
Louis Perez, Jr. - *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*  
Other books TBA

### Grading

Weekly Summary Papers: 60% Book Review (two): 20 Final exam: 20

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**Good luck and have fun in the course! N. Zeller**