

8/15/18

**Caribbean Studies Concentration  
Departments of English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures**

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## **Caribbean Studies Concentration**

### **Departments of English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures**

**Executive summary:** This proposal envisions the creation of an interdisciplinary concentration in Caribbean Studies to be earned in conjunction with the individual Ph.D. requirements for the Departments of English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures. The centering of the concentration in these Ph.D. programs stems from the number of Caribbean-focused faculty in English, History, and MLL, as well as the frequency with which they offer Caribbean-focused graduate seminars. Ph.D. students pursuing the concentration would take a minimum of two Caribbean-focused courses (6 credit hours) within their home department, and a minimum of two Caribbean-focused courses (6 credit hours) outside of their department.

#### **Why a Caribbean Studies Concentration?**

This initiative aims to strengthen the current interdisciplinary efforts of the Departments of English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures in Caribbean Studies. The scholarly study of the Caribbean has developed as a particularly interdisciplinary field, and Caribbean-focused faculty members in these departments are committed to bringing interdisciplinary perspectives to bear in their own scholarship and in the training of Ph.D. students. Graduate students working on the Caribbean already enroll in seminars and reading courses with faculty in other departments, gaining valuable historical, literary, and social scientific perspectives on their own fields of study. In providing a more formal structure for this interdisciplinary pedagogy, the Caribbean Studies concentration will:

- a) Enhance the ability of participating departments to recruit strong Ph.D. students working on the Caribbean;
- b) Enable participating departments to better prepare Caribbean-focused graduate students as both scholars and teachers;
- c) Make participating students more competitive on both the academic and “alt-ac” job markets.

#### **Administration of the Proposed Concentration in Caribbean Studies**

Modeled after the successful Early Modern Studies concentration, the Caribbean Studies concentration would be coordinated by a Caribbean-focused faculty member from English, History, or Modern Languages and Literatures in conjunction with the Directors of Graduate Studies in each department. **No additional faculty lines** will be required for the concentration as there is already a strong cluster of Caribbean-focused humanities and social sciences faculty teaching in the College of Arts and Sciences as well as in other schools and colleges. **Nor will new courses need to be developed.** See Appendix A for a listing of current Caribbean-related graduate courses offered in English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures. The list of eligible courses will be updated each year and students can request that graduate courses in other departments be considered for inclusion. The concentration is designed to provide students with

a rigorous training in Caribbean Studies, and one that is also tailored to their particular research interests and areas of specialization.

**Budget**

- a) One two-year Holmes “add-on” fellowship for an incoming student working on the Caribbean in each department;
- b) One Summer Research Fellowship awarded to an ABD student working on the Caribbean;
- c) One essay prize in Caribbean Studies awarded annually.

## **Proposal for a Caribbean Studies Concentration**

### **Departments of English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures**

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#### **Departmental Strengths in Caribbean Studies**

The University of Miami is recognized internationally for its interdisciplinary strength in Caribbean Studies. Our faculty stands at the forefront of the field, with a particular interest in transcultural and transnational connections across the hemisphere and the Atlantic world.

In the **Department of English**, faculty publish and teach on Caribbean literary and intellectual histories of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; literatures of immigration and diaspora; globalization; feminist thought; sexuality, national identity, and citizenship; popular cultures; and

the contemporary visual arts. The department's additional strengths in American, African American, and African literary studies, as well as in Early Modern literature, British and Irish literatures, and postcolonial studies foster a rich climate for the study of Caribbean literatures and cultures transnationally. In addition, the department supports the publication of *Anthurium*, a bi-annual, peer-reviewed, open access journal of Caribbean Studies that publishes original works and critical studies of Caribbean literature, theater, film, art, and culture in electronic form. Graduate students in English have the opportunity to apply for an RA-ship to work as assistant editors on the journal.

**Department of History** faculty members work on cultural, intellectual, political, and social histories of the Caribbean and Atlantic world from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. They study histories of colonialism, slavery, revolution, capitalism, emancipation, indenture, empire, nationalism, labor mobilization, the Cold War, neocolonialism, and globalization, through focal points such as law and religion, migration and travel, material cultures and consumption, medicine and healing, gender and sexuality, performance and sport. The department's additional strengths in African, African diasporic, African American, Early Modern, Latin American, and United States histories encourage transatlantic, transnational, and interdisciplinary perspectives on Caribbean history, culture, and society.

Major areas of faculty focus in the **Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**, include Caribbean digital humanities; Caribbean and Latinx performance and theater studies; nineteenth through twenty-first century literatures of the Francophone and Hispanophone Caribbean; sociolinguistics of the Hispanophone Caribbean; literatures of immigration and diaspora; globalization and transnational studies; colonial and postcolonial studies; transnational feminisms; and cultural policy. The department supports the publication of the *Cuban Theater Digital Archive*, an online resource for research, teaching, and learning in Cuban theater and performance as well as in related fields. Graduate students in MLL have the opportunity to apply for an RA-ship to work as assistant editors on the digital archive. Additional strengths in Africana, Arabic, Brazilian, Iberian, early Spanish American, and Latin American cultural and literary studies; as well as in Early Modern studies, gender studies, immigration studies, indigenous studies, and queer studies further enrich the study of Caribbean literature and culture in the department.

Beyond the Departments of English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures, students pursuing the concentration would be able to take relevant Caribbean-focused graduate courses in other departments. In the **Department of Anthropology**, for example, faculty scholarship and teaching on the Caribbean encompasses family and kinship; the cultural politics of race, sexuality, and gender; health, medicine, and human security; Black feminist and queers of color theory; violence and marginalization; and ethnographic methodology and writing. In the **Department of Art and Art History**, faculty work on Caribbean and Latin American modernisms, the work of Caribbean women artists, nineteenth century Caribbean portraiture, and Caribbean art in the global imaginary. In the **Department of Musicology** (part of the Frost School of Music) faculty study Caribbean music transnationally, with reference to wider African diasporic histories and cultures, and the contemporary forces and circuits of globalization. Areas of research and teaching focus include religion and healing; identity construction and

nationalism; industry and audience; and cultural politics and policy. Students can also request that graduate courses in the **Latin American Studies Program** count towards the concentration.

The University of Miami is part of the **Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics**. Our graduate students can take team-taught seminars hosted by the institute that combine the face-to-face quality of traditional classrooms with online collaboration, enabling students throughout the Americas to communicate and work together online. Students can also participate in the Hemi's Caribbean Performativities Working Group as well as in the *Encuentros* and the Hemi Graduate Student Initiative. As a member institution, we also have access to the Hemispheric Institute Digital Video Library (HIDVL), which includes over 900 hours of videos of performance practices in the Americas.

### **UM Libraries Resources in Caribbean Studies**

UM Libraries are internationally recognized for their extraordinary Caribbean-related holdings.

The **Cuban Heritage Collection (CHC)** collects, preserves, and provides access to primary and secondary sources on Cuba and the Cuban diaspora from the sixteenth century to today. It is the most comprehensive Cuban research collection in the United States and includes rare and contemporary books, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, journals, and other print publications. The CHC also houses important collections of personal papers and organizational records and other primary sources that include historical and literary manuscripts, letters, photographs, maps, posters, sound and video recordings, interviews, objects, ephemera and "born digital" materials. While the CHC actively acquires materials and receives donations in all scholarly subject areas, the highlights of its holdings emphasize history, literature and literary criticism, politics, popular culture, religion, theater, and the arts. CHC Digital Collections include the ***Cuban Theater Digital Archive***, encompassing diverse information and research materials on theater and performance in Cuba and the Cuban diaspora, as well as the ***Cuban Rafter Phenomenon: A Unique Sea Exodus***, encompassing photographs, interviews, artifacts, and related materials. The Goizueta Foundation Graduate Fellowship Program provides assistance to doctoral students who wish to use the research resources available in the CHC in support of dissertation research.

The Caribbean-related rare books held by **Special Collections** include examples of early printing, private press publications, art books, collectible books, fine press printings and fine bindings. This collection is remarkable for its combination of breadth and depth. The holdings include all but three of the dozens of books published in or about Jamaica between its conquest by England in 1655 and the end of plantation slavery in the British Empire in 1834. In addition, accounts in various languages discuss the events leading to the 1804 Haitian Revolution. Travel diaries and other first-hand accounts describe the societies and histories of the Caribbean islands; there are also rare titles on Guyana and Suriname, countries on the South American mainland that are historically, culturally, and economically part of the Caribbean. The **Pan American World Airways Collection (Pan Am)** provides insight into the history of commerce and tourism in the Caribbean. Travel brochures, photo albums, scrapbooks, audiovisual material, newspaper and magazine clippings, press kits, bilateral agreements, research reports, and internal newsletters document the first aerial passage through the Caribbean Basin and the relationship between the U.S.-flag-carrying airline and the Caribbean from 1928 to the 1990s. Graduate

students working in the Pan Am Collection are eligible to apply for the Dave Abrams and Gene Banning Pan Am Research Grant. Special Collections also holds the **Eastern Airlines Archive**, comprised of correspondence, tens of thousands of photographs and slides, labor files, business records, newsletters, print and video travel advertisements, posters, memorabilia, and artifacts. Special Collections' holdings also include recent acquisitions of the papers and records of individuals and organizations from the Caribbean diaspora, as well as the creation of new oral history projects such as the **Caribbean Diaspora Oral History Collection** and the **Haitian Diaspora Oral History Collection**. Special Collections is also now one of the two permanent South Florida homes (with Miami Dade College) of the renowned **Jay I. Kislak Foundation Collection**, one of the most important concerning the history of the early Americas and with a particular focus on the Caribbean and Florida.

Among the growing number of Caribbean digital collections accessible through UM Libraries are audiovisual recordings of public presentations and interviews from the **Caribbean Writers Summer Institute (CWSI)**, hosted by the University of Miami English Department from 1991 through 1996. In addition, an interdisciplinary faculty group worked on an exhibition entitled *Antillean Visions* that showcased extraordinary maps of the Caribbean from Special Collections and the Cuban Heritage Collection. The exhibition opened at the **Lowe Art Museum** in February 2018, and a digital database of all the Caribbean maps in the Library's holdings was created.

### **Other Resources, Opportunities, and Networks in Caribbean Studies at UM and in Greater Miami**

Beyond the strengths of these CAS departments and the UM Libraries in Caribbean Studies, other university resources plus our location in Miami make UM an ideal site for this concentration. Graduate students would have the opportunity to take part in the work of **Hemispheric Caribbean Studies**, currently a faculty research area of the **University of Miami Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas (UMIA)**. This collective of faculty and graduate students across diverse fields is a new university hub for exchange and collaboration, building on the long and distinguished history of Caribbean-focused programming across CAS departments, programs, and centers. Graduate students participating in the concentration would also have the chance to take part in lectures, workshops, symposia, and conferences sponsored by the **Center for the Humanities** and its interdisciplinary research groups in Animal Studies, Atlantic Studies, Digital Humanities, Early Modern Studies, Modernities, Queer Studies, and Theater and Performance Studies. The **Programs in Africana Studies, American Studies, Latin American Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies** further enrich Caribbean-related programming and opportunities at UM. In addition, graduate students have the chance to take advantage of the rich permanent collections of the **Lowe Art Museum**, with impressive strengths in Latin American and Caribbean visual art.

Through the College of Arts and Sciences' **UGrow (Graduate Opportunities at Work) Program** graduate students have the opportunity to apply for nine-month placements in non-teaching units at the university or in off-campus organizations, in place of their regular teaching assistantship assignments. These placements provide training and experience in fields that will appeal to future employers both inside and outside academia, including librarianship and archive

management; museum curation and collection development; and data analysis and digital humanities. Since 2015, students have worked on Caribbean-focused projects in the **University of Miami Libraries** and at **HistoryMiami Museum**. In addition, Caribbean-focused graduate students have interned on important projects in UM's **Office of Civic and Community Engagement** that have culminated in exhibitions and publications.

UM faculty members maintain close and collaborative relations with Caribbean-focused colleagues at institutions across the circum-Caribbean and at other South Florida universities. These include: the **Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development (IIRAD)**; the **Université d'État d'Haïti**; the **University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras**; the **University of Puerto Rico, Utuado**; the **Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe**; the **Universidad del Turabo** (Puerto Rico); the **University of the West Indies, Mona** (Jamaica); the **University of the West Indies, St. Augustine** (Trinidad and Tobago); the **University of the West Indies, Cave Hill** (Barbados); and Cuba's **Casa de las Américas, Instituto Superior de Arte, Consejo Nacional de las Artes Escénicas**, and **Universidad de La Habana**. Since 1999, **UM Caribbean Literary and Cultural Studies** has been a key institutional partner on the annual **West Indian Literature Conference**, which it hosts every five years. In addition, faculty in English have a long history of collaboration with the **Small Axe Project**, convening international symposia at UM and Columbia University that culminate in the publication of essays in *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism*. A current collaboration between the two campuses and the Small Axe Project centers on a cross-disciplinary re-assessment of pivotal decades in modern Jamaican history.

Graduate students from UM, Florida Atlantic University, and Florida International University jointly co-organize the **Annual South Florida Latin America and Caribbean Studies Graduate Student Conference**, rotating among the three campuses. Our graduate students are also eligible to take courses at FIU — extending the Caribbean-focused offerings available to them — and to take advantage of FIU's rich library resources.

There is also a long history of UM faculty and graduate student collaboration with institutions in greater Miami such as the **Black Archives History & Research Foundation, HistoryMiami Museum, Little Haiti Cultural Center, Pérez Art Museum Miami**, and the **Wolfsonian-FIU**. Miami is often described as a Caribbean city, and students pursuing the concentration will find that their opportunities for study and research extend well beyond campus borders.

#### **Already Existing Sources of Support for UM Graduate Students in Caribbean Studies**

In addition to the support provided by the concentration and by their own departments, graduate students would be eligible to seek research funding from these internal sources:

University of Miami Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas: UMIA Field Research Grants; UMIA Distinguished Fellowships

College of Arts and Sciences: Academic Year Dissertation Award; Max and Peggy Kriloff Student Travel Scholarships; Summer Research Fellowships



Center for the Humanities: CH Dissertation Fellowships.

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### **Appendices**

#### **Appendix A: Current Graduate Course Offerings in Caribbean Studies in English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures<sup>1</sup>**

##### **English**

ENG 658: Studies in Transatlantic Literature

ENG 665: Studies in African American Literature

ENG 666: Caribbean Literature

ENG 667: Caribbean Popular Culture

ENG 668: Studies in Race and Diasporic Literatures

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Caribbean-focused graduate courses in other UM departments can count towards the concentration as well.

ENG 686: Theories of Gender and Sexuality

ENG 687: Studies in Literature and Culture since 1950

ENG 688: Studies in Latino/a Literatures and Cultures

ENG 689: Comparative Americas Studies

### **History**

HIS 602: Africa and the African Diaspora

HIS 602: Africa in Cuba / Cuba in Africa

HIS 652: Race in Latin America

HIS 652: Travels through Latin America

HIS 654: Afro-Caribbean Religion: Healing and Power

HIS 654: Haiti in History

HIS 654: Caribbean Intellectual History and Social Movements

HIS 662: Slavery and Capitalism

HIS 669: Black Protest Thought

HIS 669: Rethinking African-American Culture

HIS 669: History of Global Slavery

HIS 708: Slavery in the Atlantic World

HIS 708: Atlantic Histories

### **Modern Languages and Literatures**

FRE 775: Topics in Francophone Studies

MLL 702: Bilingualism

MLL 703: Topics in Critical Studies of Language

MLL 721: Atlantic Crossings: Literature and Immigration in the Age of Globalization

MLL 727: Topics in Caribbean Studies

SPA 733: Topics in Colonial Literature

SPA 735: Topics in 19th Century Latin American and Caribbean Literature

SPA 736: Topics in 20th Century Latin American and Caribbean Literature

**Appendix B: English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures Faculty Who Teach Graduate Courses in Caribbean Studies**

**English**

**Donette A. Francis, Associate Professor, Director of American Studies, and Senior Editor of *Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal*:**

Caribbean literary and intellectual histories, American immigrant literatures, African diaspora literary studies, globalization and transnational feminist studies, and theories of sexuality and citizenship.

**Patricia J. Saunders, Associate Professor and Senior Editor of *Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal*:**

The relationship between sexual identity and national identity in Caribbean literature and popular culture; the intersection of Jamaican dancehall culture with global flows of capital, violence and culture.

**Tim Watson, Professor and Chair:**

Nineteenth and twentieth century Caribbean and British literatures; postcolonial studies; literature and anthropology.

**History**

**Edmund Abaka, Associate Professor:**

Africa and the African diaspora; commodities and trade in West Africa; Cuba and Africa; slave forts and the Atlantic slave trade; W. E. B. Du Bois and Africa.

**Eduardo Elena, Associate Professor:**

Nineteenth- and twentieth-century Latin American and Caribbean history; the history of the Cold War, capitalism, global consumer society, race and nation, travel and tourism in the Americas.

**Scott Heerman, Assistant Professor:**

Slavery and emancipation in the nineteenth century U.S. and Atlantic World; western expansion and empire in U.S history; legal history.

**Isadora Moura Mota, Assistant Professor:**

Comparative slavery, transatlantic abolitionism, African Diaspora, race in Latin America, modern Brazil.

**Kate Ramsey, Associate Professor:**

Religion, law, and performance in the Caribbean and the Atlantic world; Caribbean intellectual history, artistic production, and social movements; histories of medicine and healing.

**Donald Spivey, Professor:**

Nineteenth- and twentieth-century America, with specialization in African-American history, sport, labor, protest thought, music, and education.

**Ashli White, Associate Professor:**

Early American and Caribbean history; connections between North America and the larger Atlantic World; the political, social, and cultural history of the age of revolutions; the circulation of material culture.

**Modern Languages and Literatures****B. Christine Arce, Associate Professor:**

Nineteenth and twentieth century Latin American and Caribbean literature and cultural studies; gender and women's studies; race and indigeneity; Mexican and Brazilian folklore.

**Christina Civantos, Professor:**

Nineteenth and twentieth century Spanish American and Arabic literatures and cultures; migration and diaspora; postcolonial studies; gender studies; translation.

**Viviana Díaz Balsera, Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies:**

Colonial Spanish America; early modern transcontinental epistemologies; magic and early modern natural philosophy; postcolonial studies.

**Elena Grau-Lleveria, Associate Professor:**

Latin American and Spanish literatures since 1800; women's studies; feminist theory; discourse and ideology.

**Andrew Lynch, Associate Professor:**

Sociolinguistics/language in society; bilingualism/language contact; heritage language acquisition and pedagogy; sociolinguistic, cultural, and ideological aspects of Spanish in the United States.

**Lillian Manzor, Associate Professor and Chair; Founding Director of the *Cuban Theater Digital Archive*:**

Caribbean, Latin American and Latinx cultures; theater in Cuba and Cuban theater in Miami; performance studies; digital humanities; gender studies; literature and the visual arts.

**Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, Professor and Weeks Chair in Latin American Studies:**

Colonial Latin American and contemporary Caribbean and Latino diasporic narratives; sexuality; trans studies; migration; comparative archipelagic studies; cultural studies; postcolonial theory.

**Aleksandra Perisic, Assistant Professor:**

Twentieth century literature of the Francophone Caribbean and Francophone Africa; contemporary Latin American fiction; the Black Atlantic; literature and immigration; globalization; transnational feminisms.

**Omar Vargas, Assistant Professor:**

Latin American and Caribbean literary and cultural studies with a focus on science and literary/cultural production.

**George Yudice, Professor:**

Cultural policy; globalization and transnational processes; civil society organization; role of intellectuals, artists, and activists in national and transnational institutions; national constructions of race and ethnicity.



April 6, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to endorse the proposal for the graduate Caribbean Studies Concentration with enthusiasm. The proposal received strong support from the English Department and underwent a thorough and thoughtful review process. Directors of Graduate Study and Chairs from all the participating departments were consulted during the initial drafting of this proposal. We have many graduate students who will opt for this concentration, and I know it will attract other excellent graduate applicants to our program. Our graduate students interested in Caribbean Studies will benefit greatly from this amazing intellectual and interdisciplinary concentration.

I strongly urge you to support this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Funchion  
Director of Graduate Studies in English  
Associate Professor of English and American Studies



April 8, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I write as chair of the Department of English to offer my strong and unqualified support for the proposal to create a Graduate Concentration in Caribbean Studies for PhD students in English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures.

This concentration builds on the great strength in all three departments in Caribbean Studies and will formalize and enhance our reputation in this field. The concentration will be of great benefit to current PhD students across the three departments and will allow us to better recruit the strongest students in Caribbean Studies at the admissions stage.

The concentration fits well with the University's stated goal of enhancing its reputation as a hemispheric university, and the English Department is happy to play a role in that development. I welcome this faculty initiative and note that this proposal was unanimously approved by the voting faculty of the English Department at our meeting of March 8, 2018.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Watson  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of English  
[watson@miami.edu](mailto:watson@miami.edu)  
(305) 284-3818



April 4, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Department of History, I offer this letter of endorsement for the Caribbean Studies Graduate Concentration. At a recent faculty meeting, my department voted unanimously in favor of the draft proposal circulated by the team of faculty responsible for this initiative in the College of Arts and Sciences. Having a concentration in Caribbean Studies will likely be of use in recruiting graduate students to our department, and it advances the university's goals of supporting interdisciplinary research and innovative teaching.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Elena  
Interim Chair & Associate Professor  
Department of History



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCES

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TO: Dean Leonidas Bachas

FROM: Dr. Lillian Manzor *L Manzor*

DATE: April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

RE: MLL endorsement for Caribbean Studies Graduate Concentration

CC: Dr. Tracy Devine Guzman, Director of Graduate Studies  
Dr. Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel

I am writing this letter of endorsement for the Caribbean Studies Graduate Concentration on behalf of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. The department discussed the draft proposal at its faculty meeting on December 14, 2017, and voted unanimously in favor of the proposal. This Graduate Certificate will facilitate the recruitment of graduate students in Modern Languages and Literatures, English, and History. It will also encourage interdisciplinary research and innovative teaching in support of the university's aspirations to become an excellent, relevant, hemispheric university.

