

FW22 AP/HIST 2731 3.0A Introduction to Caribbean History

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Expanded Course Description (expanded from course calendar description):

This course examines the historical development of the Caribbean. It begins with an examination of the region's Indigenous societies and assesses the role and impact of the arrival of, and colonization by, Europeans. The course explores the transformation of the region resulting from the introduction of plantation economies, within which the labour of enslaved Africans was exploited for the benefit of their enslavers and various European imperial powers. It enquires into the reasons for, and effect of, the abolition of the trade in enslaved Africans and the emancipation of enslaved workers, as well as the impact of the arrival of Asian indentured immigrant labour to the region. The course analyses the different paths of economic, social and political development in the region, along with the Caribbean's cultural creations and characteristics. It also examines the increased influence of the United States in the Caribbean, labour unrest in the twentieth century, the impact of the world wars and, attempts at regional federation and collaboration, as well as movements towards political independence. The course concludes with a discussion of the contemporary challenges facing these historically important, although relatively small societies, in the context of the Atlantic World.