

**WOMENSST 393C - Caribbean Women Writing: Resistance, Identity and Politics  
Spring 2007**

Instructor: Carol Bailey

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Office Hour Tuesdays 11-12 and by appointment

Meeting Place: Bartlett Hall room 109

Meeting time: TuTh 2:30PM - 3:45PM

This course examines the representation of issues related to identity and various forms of resistance in the works of selected Caribbean women writers. We will read prose fiction and poetry, paying attention to how each writer treats postcolonial concerns such as language, history, color, class, and gender ideologies. As we read each of these works we will consider how resistance, identity and politics intersect with each other. We will also focus on how women are impacted by, and implicated in the concerns we explore, and consider how the writers' stylistic choices are linked to resistance and identity. Our texts will include works by canonical figures Louise Bennett and Jean Rhys, well-known writers such as Erna Brodber, Nancy Morejan, and Lorna Goodison, as well as works by newer writers such as Oonya Kempadoo.

Courses Requirements

- Attendance and participation (10%)
- Two response Papers (20%)
- One mid-term Paper (20%)
- One final term Paper (40%)
- At least one oral presentation (10%)

Required Texts (all available at the Textbook Annex)

- Merle Hodge. Crick Crack Monkey
- Oonya Kempadoo. Buxton Spice
- Marlene Nourbese. Philp. Harriet's Daughter
- Lakshmi Persaud. Butterfly in the Wind.
- Jean Rhys. Wide Sargasso Sea

Course Pack that includes short fiction and poems.

Critical material on e-Reserve

**Expectation**

As a member of this community for learners, your preparation and participation are vital. I expect you to play your part and speak with me when your circumstances prevent you from doing so. Assignments will be due any day of the week stated on the syllabus. That should give you ample time to submit them on time. Again, if this is not *possible*, you should speak with me in advance.

**Week 1**

1/30: Introduction, discussion of syllabus and Defining Key Terms

2/1: Extending definitions and an overview of Caribbean feminist writings

**Week 2**

2/6: Jamaica Kincaid. "Girl"

2/8 Jean Goulborune. "Upon Seeing, For Coloured Girls" Maryse Conde. "Three Women In Manhattan"

**Required critical Reading:**

Carol Boyce-Davies and Elaine Savory Fido. "Women and Literature in the Caribbean : An Overview."

**Week 3 (paper one due)**

2/13: Jean Rhys. Wide Sargasso Sea

2/15: Jean Rhys. Wide Sargasso Sea

**Week 4**

2/20: Louise Bennett. "Colonization in reverse"; No Likkle Language"

2/22 : Louise Bennett.

**Week 5**

2/27 –Nancy Morejon. "I Love my Master"; "Persona" "Black Woman"

**Required Critical Reading.** Conrad James. "Patterns of Resistance in Afo-Cuban Women's Writing"

3/1: Nancy Morejon

**Week 6 (paper two due)**

3/6: Merle Hodge. Crick Crack Monkey

3/8: Crick Crack Monkey

**Week 7**

3/13: Olive Senior. "Ballad"; "Do Angels Wear Brassiers"; "The Two Grandmothers"

3/15: Olive Senior.

**Week 8**

No Class Spring Break

**Week 9 (mid term paper due)**

3/27-Marlene Nourbese Philip. Harriet's Daughter

3/29: Harriet's Daughter

**Week 10**

4/3: Harriet's Daughter

4/5: Aida Cartagena Portalatín. "They Called Her Aurora (A Passion for Donna Summer)

**Week 11**

4/10: Lakshmi Persaud. Butterfly in the Wind

4/12: Butterfly in the Wind

**Week 12**

4/17: no class Monday Schedule

4/19: consultations, no class meeting

**Wee 13**

4/24: Lorna Goodison. "Jah Music"; "Garden of Women Once Fallen"

4/26: Selections from Fool Fool Rose

**Week 14**

5/1: Oonya Kempadoo. Buxton Spice

5/3: Buxton Spice

**Week 15**

5/8-5/10: TBA

**Week 16**

5/15 Review

**\*Final Paper due date TBA**