**Geographies of Freedom: Race, Space, and Gender in the Caribbean (AFAM S312)**

AFAM S312 (CRN: 30322) WGSS S312

Professor Fadila Habchi

Summer 2022

**Dates: Session A, May 30 - July 1  
Meeting Times: TTh 9.00-12.15**

**Course Description**

An examination of configurations of space and place in Caribbean thought. We will explore how space and place have been represented, constructed, and imagined in literary and theoretical texts. We will focus on issues concerning the transatlantic slave trade, colonization, and the postcolony, with particular attention to race, gender, and sexuality. Main topics include imperial conquest, the plantation, the slave ship, the Black Atlantic, the ocean, fugitivity, the urban, indenture, nature, tourism, and diaspora.

**Course Requirements**

1. Class participation. Students are expected to come to class prepared to actively engage with the course materials
2. One class presentation of up to 10 minutes
3. Midterm paper of 5 to 7 pages due Week 3
4. Presentation of your final project during our last class
5. Final Paper of 10 to 12 pages due Week 5

**Assignments and Evaluation**

Participation                       10%

In class Presentations          10%

Midterm paper                    30%

Final Presentations             10%

Final Essay                     40%

**Attendance:** Attendance is required for all classes.

**Note on Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students should consult <https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/writing/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism> to be acquainted with the proper way to use sources. If you have questions, come talk to me or consult the Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning.

This course will meet twice per week for a total of 10 meetings.

Course Outline

**Week 1 Introduction: What are Black geographies?**

McKittrick and Woods, eds., *Black Geographies*: Intro

Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*

**Week 2 Imperial Conquest**

Césaire’s *The Tempest*

Helen C. Scott, *Shakespeare’s Tempest and Capitalism* (excerpts)

**Week 3 Plantation Landscapes**

Safiya Sinclair, *Cannibal*

Tinsley, *Thiefing Sugar* (excerpts)

**Week 4 Oceanic Geographies**

Glissant, *Caribbean Discourse* (excerpts) and *Poetics of Relation* (excerpts)

Derek Walcott, “The Sea Is History”

Hartman, “Venus in Two Acts”

Tinsley, “Black Atlantic, Queer Atlantic”

Rinaldo Walcott, “The Middle Passage”

**Week 5 Geographies of Freedom**

McKittrick, “Plantation Futures”

Final project presentations and concluding conversation