

Geographies of Freedom: Race, Space, and Gender in the Caribbean (AFAM S312)
AFAM S312E/AMST S310E/ER&M S312E/WGSS S312E

Professor Fadila Habchi

Summer 2024

Dates: Session A, May 27 - June 28

Meeting Times: TTh 1.00-4.15

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. Final paper proposal 2 doubled-space pages due Week 3 class 1
4. Presentation of your final project during our last class
5. Final Paper of 6 to 8 doubled-space pages due Week 5 class 2

Assignments and Evaluation

Participation	10%
In class Presentations	10%
Midterm proposal	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*: Introduction. Canvas pdf.
Shakespeare's *The Tempest*
- Week 2** **Imperial Conquest**
Césaire's *The Tempest*
Tinsley, *Thieving Sugar* (Chapter 1 and 3 **ebook on Orbis**)
- Week 3** **Plantation Landscapes**
Safiya Sinclair, *Cannibal*
Yale librarian visit and workshop final paper proposal
- Week 4** **Oceanic Geographies**
Glissant, *Poetics of Relation* (excerpts) Online in Orbis
Derek Walcott, "The Sea Is History" Canvas pdf
Hartman, "Venus in Two Acts" Canvas pdf
Tinsley, "Black Atlantic, Queer Atlantic" Canvas pdf
Rinaldo Walcott, "The Middle Passage" Canvas pdf
- Week 5** **Geographies of Freedom**
McKittrick, "Plantation Futures" Canvas pdf
Final project presentations and concluding conversation