

ENGL 3396 - Novels of the Caribbean Diaspora

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Course Description:

The Caribbean, which was forged on the basis of forced and coerced migrations remains today a site of intra- and extra- regional migration. The routes to these migrations crisscross Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. The region's writers have been grappling with notions of home, dislocation, exile, diaspora and return from the beginning of the literary tradition. This course investigates these issues which are treated in the novels of Caribbean writers located in the US, Britain and Canada. Some of the questions that will be examined are: does the Caribbean constitute a diaspora? How are notions of home constructed in adopted homelands? How are notions of identity adjusted, resisted and metamorphosed in the context of the adopted homelands? What differences and/or similarities are evident in the experiences of migration among the various locations of origin and of migration? We will read the following novels as we examine these themes:

- US: Edwidge Danticat – *Breath, Eyes, Memory*
 Cristina García – *Dreaming in Cuban*
 Michelle Cliff – *No Telephone to Heaven*
- UK: Sam Selvon - *The Lonely Londoners*
 Jean Rhys - *Voyage in the Dark*
 Caryl Phillips – *In Falling Snow*
- Canada: Ramabai Espinet – *The Swinging Bridge*