

Intersession in the West Indies



with a remarkable cultural ethos that is begging for close study. A significantly multi-racial community, West Indian culture reflects the intermingling of cultures from India, China, Europe, Africa, and America. It is a cauldron of ethnic groupings that have so effectively co-mingled that they now form a distinctive cultural matrix. Beginning with the native peoples of the Caribbean — the Arawaks and Caribs, the islands have been populated by a large influx of Africans who arrived here as slaves, Europeans who functioned largely as slave owners and exploiters, and Indians and Chinese labourers who were brought in after the emancipation of the slaves.

The combination of these groupings produced what is now understood to be West Indian society. Students of literature will be able to examine the works of important West Indian writers in the environment that produced the writers. Those interested in the music of the region will see and hear this popular music as it functions as an elemental part of the society. This will give a particularly refreshing dimension to the study of the music in the islands. A look at the cultural and social roots of the region will be enhanced by the possibility of visiting historical sites, and listening to experts in the field who reside in the islands. There will be an uncanny hands-on encounter with the anthropology of at least some of the islands.

In the month of May, 1992, the Faculty of Arts at the University of New Brunswick, through the Department of Extension, will be sponsoring a three-week "intersession" program of studies on location in the West Indies. Students will have the opportunity to learn about West Indian literature, music, and anthropology.

Three courses, each counting for 3 credit hours, will be taught by regular UNB faculty members, with the co-operation of counterparts at the University of the West Indies in Cayenne Hill, Barbados, and UWI and the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College in St. Austries, St. Lucia. Various performances, special screenings, and field trips will be arranged.

The cost of the program is \$2850. This includes tuition fees for any two of the three courses being offered; airfare, departure taxes, and transfers; accommodation based on double occupancy; and for the St. Lucia portion, two meals a day. (In Barbados, for the same cost, students may opt for dormitory-style accommodations and have three meals a day included.) Upgrades to single accommodation or reductions for triple or quadruple occupancy and families can be arranged.

The Co-ordinator of the program is Dr. Wendy Robbins, a professor in the department of English, who is a specialist in Canadian and Commonwealth literature. She will team-teach English 3963, "Studies in West Indian Literature," with her colleague, Prof. Anthony Boxill, Chair of the Department of English, who was born and raised in the West Indies and has published numerous works on West Indian writers, including V.S. Naipaul and Derek Walcott. Their course will explore the work of George Lamming, Derek Walcott, Jamaica Kincaid, Jean Rhys, and others, with special emphasis on recurrent themes such as home and homelessness, exile, identity, and race relations.

Prof. Gail Pool, will teach Anthropology 3614, "the Caribbean," which examines the cultural and social roots of several of the islands, primarily during the colonial period. Topics will include slavery, indentured movements, peasant development, and migration. The reactions of Caribbean peoples to colonialism will be emphasized and readings from Caribbean writers, singers, and story-tellers will provide students with insights into the meaning of oppression and strategies for overcoming poverty and dependence.

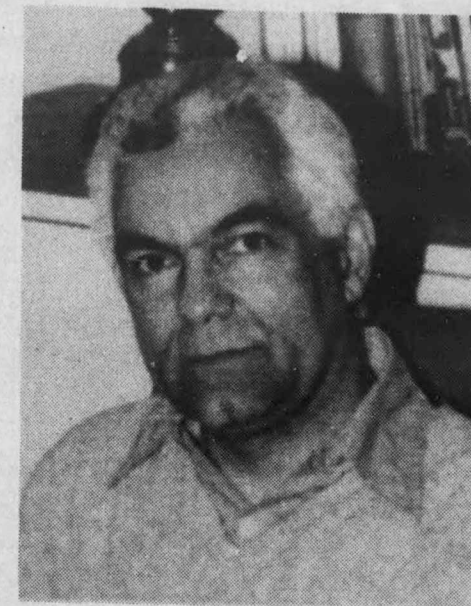
Prof. Dexter Noel, who hails from Trinidad, has developed a new course especially for the intersession program: Third World Studies 3901, "Music of the West Indies," will investigate the ethno-cultural roots of West Indian music and examine the emergence, development, and scope of the more dominant forms such as calypso and reggae.

For further information and registration forms, contact:
Department of Extension and Summer Session
University of New Brunswick
Box 4400
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 5A3
(506) 453-4646
(FAX) 453-3572.



Professor Anthony Boxill:

"I think it's important for people of New Brunswick to know about people in other parts of the world. There is a relationship. We know ourselves better by knowing other people. There has been a traditional connection between Canada, especially Atlantic Canada with the West Indies. They're extremely important trading connections, regular shipping route between Halifax and the Caribbean."



"New Brunswick and Canada, like Barbados, are parts of the Commonwealth. There are racial differences, I suppose, but they're parts of the new world. This idea is important this year, especially when the whole issue of Columbus is being explored. In a very practical way, Canadians can't afford to be insular and have to find out what's going on in the rest of the World."

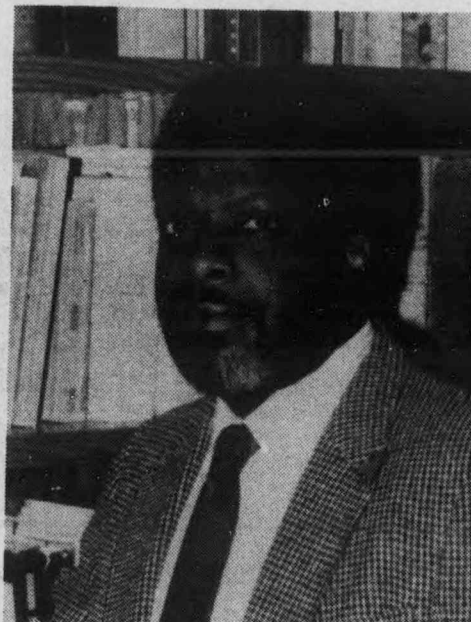
"There are a series of books, poems and plays that students will be asked to read and which we will discuss, and the opportunity to observe at first hand a society about which the books were written. Down there, the experience will be first hand, whereas when I teach it up here, it's second hand, or I have to describe it or explain it. The writers who we will be discussing are important today and have important things to say - about living in the modern world - people like Derek Walcott, and Jean Rhys - who has serious and important things to say about being a woman in colonial society."

Professor Dexter Noel:

"The music to me is a mirror of the people, the music says much more than what any dry sociological study would."

"Because from the music, especially from the lyrics, you can not only tell things about the Caribbean, but also about world, because Caribbean music does reflect what's going on in the world."

"I don't think that anyone really can understand the Caribbean, if they do not understand why they make the music they do. Because the music and the dance that comes with the music is a reflection of the general attitudes towards everyday life, toward the world. Music is also an escape for many Caribbean people, because annual festivals give people an opportunity to, what we call, "free up" one's self."



"I will be using audio tapes and video tapes that show calypso being performed - because it's also a performance art. It's oral literature."

"It's not a fad - it's something that has been there and it's always going to be there. Caribbean music evolves, but it doesn't change so much so that it can't be recognized. So it is a constant in the society - taking a bit from here and there, from other cultures, from other types of music, but the basic music never changes."

Professor Wendy Robbins:

"This course is beautifully balanced between men and women - there are four novels, two of them by women."

"In the West Indies Poetry section, there's a fair representation of both men and women. It has a special section about women's experiences in poetry, a semantic orientation and anthology."

"With women, the identity problem is doubled, they have to struggle both with race and with gender."



ENGLISH 3963 Studies in West Indian Literature

This course will explore the work of Anglophone writers from the West Indies. A selection of poems, one play, and four novels will be studied. All works will be examined in both their socio-historical and literary context with special emphasis on recurrent themes such as home and homelessness, exile, identity, and race relations.

READINGS:

West Indian Poetry, ed. Kenneth Ramchand and Cecil Gray (selections).

Derek Walcott, *Dream on Monkey Mountain*

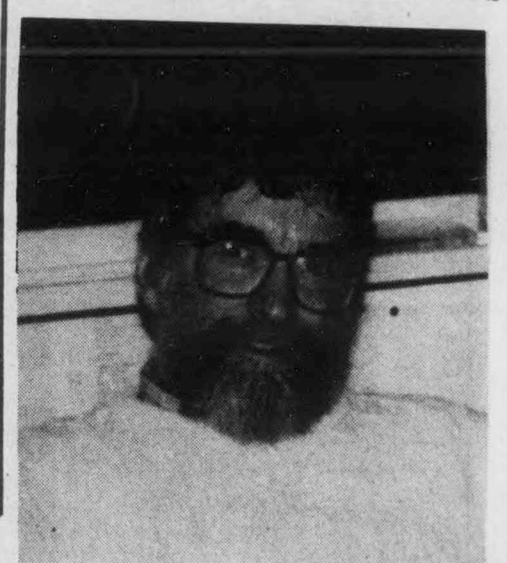
Geoffrey Drayton, *Christopher*

Jamaica Kincaid, *Annie John*

George Lamming, *In the Castle of My Skin*

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Prof. Anthony Boxill & Prof. Wendy Robbins, Dept. of English, UNBF, 453 - 4676, ext. 7394 & 7411.



Professor Gail Pool:

ANTHROPOLOGY 3614 The Caribbean

This course will examine the cultural and social roots of selected Caribbean islands, primarily during the colonial period. Topics will include slavery, indentured movements, peasant development, and migration. The reactions of Caribbean peoples to colonialism will be emphasized and readings from Caribbean writers, singers, and story teller will provide students with insights into the meaning of oppression and strategies for overcoming poverty and dependence.

READINGS:

A Caribbean Reader, ed. Gail Pool

Prof. Gail Pool, Dept. of Anthropology, UNBF, 453-4975, ext. 7994.

THIRD WORLD STUDIES 3901 Music of the West Indies

This course will investigate the ethno-cultural roots of West Indian music and examine the emergence, development, and scope of the more dominant forms such as calypso and reggae. Special emphasis will be placed on their socio-political and literary and performance values.

READINGS:

Keith Warner, Kaiso: *The Trinidad Calypso: A study of the Calypso as Oral Literature*

Raymond Quevedo, *Atilla's Kaisa: A Short History of Trinidad Calypso*

Prof. Dexter Noel, Dept. of Spanish, UNBF, 453 - 3571, ext. 7469.

If you want to really learn a language, go and live in the country in which the language is spoken. You are guaranteed that with a little effort you will have a remarkable grasp of the language at the end of a few months. A number of academics in the Arts Faculty at UNB have decided to apply this principle to the study of West Indian literature and culture. This exercise is not one in language immersion, but a effort in cultural immersion which will allow UNB students to examine the literature, music, history, politics and sociology of the Caribbean while living in the Caribbean. At the end of the three-week "intersession" in the Caribbean students will receive 3 credit hours towards their academic degrees.

West Indian culture is a remarkably rewarding subject of study particularly because of its colourful history and peculiar socio-political structure. Apart from their appeal as tourist havens, the islands of the West Indies have provided the world