



COURSE OUTLINE

UNIT TITLE: EXPLORING KITTITIAN HISTORY

UNIT CODE:

LEVEL: Pre-University

SEMESTER: Two

NO. OF CREDITS: None

PRE-REQUISITES: Working knowledge of Caribbean history and the ability to express oneself orally and in writing and to work collaboratively.

UNIT DESCRIPTION/RATIONALE

There has been an increased interest in local history for the following reasons:

- Greater demand for local material in the schools to satisfy the CSEC and CAPE requirements and the expressed need for teachers to become more familiar with local/Kittitian history
- In its continuing effort to promote St. Kitts & Nevis as a heritage destination the tourism industry is also creating a demand.

The course is designed for persons who are already familiar with Caribbean history and who would like to explore Kittitian history in greater detail. Participants will be guided through significant events in the history of St. Kitts and will explore themes that are relevant to the Kittitian story. These themes will be explored within the regional and global context. Participants will be expected to read original records and extract information from them.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course students will be able to

- Critically study original sources
- Understand the present through a critical examination of the past
- Develop an understanding of one's own identity through the study of the nation's historical experience.

CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY (TWO SESSIONS)

This topic relies heavily on what is available in St. Kitts. The resources and how to use them will be explained. Students will be encouraged to watch the programme *Who do you think you are?* **Students must come prepared with information about their own family tree.**

Using Church Records
Using Government Records
Interpretation of records
Building a family tree
Other resources: wills, newspapers

2. THE KALINAGO (ONE SESSION)

The Island Environment
Life of the Kalinago
Kalinago Hospitality

3. CONTACT (ONE SESSION)

The First Colonists
Conflict with the Kalinago
Spanish claims
17th Century Demography

4. THE PLANTERS (ONE SESSION)

The following will be covered in this unit:

- Origins of planter class
- Reasons for migration to West Indian colonies
- Life in the colonies

5. SUGAR (TWO SESSIONS)

Why Sugar?
Operating a plantation
Wealth and Absenteeism
Sugar in the 19th Century
Struggle for 20th Century survival

6. ENSLAVEMENT AND RESISTANCE (TWO SESSIONS)

Origins of the enslaved

Finding plantation labour
Conditions in the islands
Resistance to enslavement
Emancipation

7. RELIGION (ONE SESSION)

Anglicans, Catholics and Hueguenots
African Retentions
The Non-conformists

8. EDUCATION (ONE SESSION)

Before and after emancipation
Educating the masses
20th century diversity

9. ARCHITECTURE (TWO SESSIONS)

Images to show the evolution of architecture in St. Kitts

Architecture as a depository of information about a people, their social practices,
culture and traditions.

Sources of information about the historic architecture of St. Kitts.

A brief overview of the history of architecture of St. Kitts, post 1600.

10. ARCHEOLOGY (ONE SESSION)

What is Archeology?
Archeological work conducted in St. Kitts
Emergence of new stories

11. MIGRATION (ONE SESSION)

Labour in the post emancipation period
Incoming - Indentured Africans, Madeirans, Indians
Outgoing – to Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Bermuda, US, UK

12. THE LABOUR MOVEMENT (TWO SESSIONS)

Socio-economic conditions
First Union
The Workers League and the Trade and Labour Union
Challenge to Middle Class leadership
Labour in Government

13. TOURISM AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIGATE BAY

Tourist facilities before 1968
Why Frigate Bay?
Southwell's vision
Stumbling blocks

14. CULTURAL PERFORMANCE (ONE SESSION)

The different types of performance
Class and performance
Decline and survival

15. CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ONE SESSION)

Early conflicts with the Metropole
Crown Colony
Demand for representation
Suffrage and Responsible government
Independence

ASSESSMENT

Assignment #1 15%

Short essay relating to family history (500 words) and including a family tree

Assignment #2 to #4 15% for a total of 45%

Document Analysis using prescribed forms to extract and record information

Role play #5 to #6

Recreation of a character from history and his/her feeling about what is happening around him/her eg. A Kalinago child, Mrs Warner, a former enslaved worker, a young person watching the 1935 riots.

Web search and report 10%

Group discussions 10%

REQUIRED TEXT

Brian Dyde *Out of Crowded Vagueness: A History of the islands of St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla*

OTHER RESOURCES

The Drake Manuscript available at

<http://www.themorgan.org/collections/works/drake/introduction.asp>

Lois Allaire, "Agricultural societies in the Caribbean: The Lesser Antilles" in *General History of the Caribbean*. Vol. 1

Douglas Hall *Five of the Leewards 1834-1870* (Caribbean Universities Press, 1971)

Neil L. Whitehead, "Native society and the European Occupation of the Caribbean Islands and the coastal Tierra Firme 1492-1650" in *General History of the Caribbean* Vol. 2

Dan Hicks *The garden to the World: a historical archaeology of sugar landscapes in the Eastern Caribbean*

Dan Hicks and Mark C. Horton. *An Archaeological Landscape Survey, Building Survey and Evaluative Excavation at Wingfield Estate, St. Kitts, Eastern Caribbean. Interim Report. Summer 2001. Bristol: University of Bristol, 2001.*

Richard S. Dunn – *Sugar and Slaves: the rise of the Plantation class in the English West Indies, 1624-1713* (1972)

Richard B Sheridan – *Sugar and enslavement: An economic history of the British West Indies 1623-1775* (1974)

Michael Cranton, “Forms of resistance to slavery” in *General History of the Caribbean* Vol. 3

Negro education: Copy of report from CJ Latrobe Esq. To Lord Glenelg, on Negro Education in the Windward and Leeward islands; Schedule showing the Appropriation in Detail of the sum of 30,000l voted by Parliament in 1837 for the promotion of Negro education; Report of the Trustees of Lady Mico's Charity

Howard A Fergus, *History of education in the British Leeward Islands 1838-1945*

Sir Probyn Innis, *Methodism in St. Kitts*

Sir Probyn Innis, *Forty years of Struggle: the Birth of the St. Kitts Labour Movement*

Sir Probyn Innis, *Whither Bound St. Kitts and Nevis?*

Glen Richards, “Race, labour and the Colonial State in St. Kitts-Nevis, 1897-1922” in *Beyond Walls: Multidisciplinary perspectives, Vol. 1 St. Kitts and Nevis*

Victoria Borg O’Flaherty, *Towards Universal Suffrage*

Acworth, Angus Whiteford. *Treasure in the Caribbean, a First Study of Georgian Buildings in the West Indies.*, The Georgian Handbooks. London: Pleiades Books, 1949

Hobson, Daphne. *The Domestic Architecture of the Earliest British Colonies in the American Tropics: A Study of the Houses of the Caribbean Leeward Islands of St. Christopher, Nevis, Antigua and Montserrat. 1624-1726.* Atlanta: Georgia Institute of Technology. 2007.

Leech, Roger, *In What Manner Did They Divide the Land.* 2007.

Morris, Elaine et al, “...the old Stone fort at Newcastle...” *The Redout, Nevis, Eastern Caribbean.* 2007. *Post- medieval Archaeology* 33 (1999). 194-221.

www.historicbasseterre.com

Selections from newspapers