

University College of the Cayman Islands

Course: Caymanian History, Culture and Politics

Course Summary

This course surveys key themes in Caymanian history. It also examines the political system of the Cayman Islands as well as the evolution of its economy and culture.

The course takes a multidisciplinary approach in examining such issues as European encounter in the 15thC, the nature of colonialism and the Caymanian experience, Caymanian migrations (in and out migrations) and the evolution of the society's social and economic institutions.

In exploring the interconnectedness of the island's history and the evolution of its economy, political system and culture, basic historical concepts such as cause and consequence, continuity and change are explored.

Course Objectives

1. To stimulate interest in and enthusiasm for the study of the past.
2. To examine the link between past and present human activity.
3. To expand students sense of cultural identity and historical groundings.
4. To locate the history of the Cayman Islands within the broader West Indian context.
5. To examine the constitutional /political framework of the Cayman Islands.
6. To assess reasons for the constitutional reform impulses and explore the areas of constitutional reform.
7. To trace the development of the Caymanian economy and how it has changed over time.

8. To integrate related literary pieces such as poems and prose extracts to enhance and reinforce themes in Caymanian history.

Required Texts

1. Craton, Michael and the New History Committee, **Founded upon the Seas: A history of the Cayman Islands and her People.**
2. Bodden, J. A., **The Cayman Islands in Transition: the Politics, History and Sociology of a Changing Society.**
3. Kieran, Brian, **The Lawless Caymanas.**
4. Goring, Kevin, **Caymanian Expressions: A Collection of Sayings & Phrases Used In The Cayman Islands.**

Additional readings will be provided as necessary

Course Outline

The nature and Meaning of History

History as an Academic Discipline

Why History

An overview o f the Early history of the Cayman Islands

- The period before permanent settlement
- European encounter and rivalry
- The nature of colonialism
- Permanent settlement / End of slavery
- The nature of slavery in the Cayman Islands- Bodden vs Williams

The Evolution of Caymanian society from the end of slavery to World War 1

- Caymanian migrations
- Caymanian Economic Survival
- Population Trends and Social Change
- Caymanian Churches and Schooling

An Overview of the Politics of the Cayman Islands

- The Government of the Islands prior to the first Commissioners
- The first Commissioners- Cardinal, Garrard, etc
- The 1930s and the birth of the modern Caribbean
- The independence Movement in the West Indies
- Early Political Parties in Cayman
- The Federal Experiment and the Caymanian Experience

Cayman's Political System since the end of Federation

- 1959 and the new constitution
- The attainment of universal adult suffrage and women's rights
- Voluntary Colonialism and Constitutional Modernization 1971 to present

Cayman Political System

- The nature of democracy
- The Westminster System
- The role of the Governor, Premier, Opposition Party, AG etc

The Evolution of the Caymanian Economy

- The economy before and after WW II
- How the Cayman Islands became a leading international financial center

The Evolution of Caymanian Culture and the challenge of diversity

- Examination of the concept “culture”
- Traditional Caymanian Culture
- Multi-ethnicity, globalization and changing patterns of Caymanian Culture