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| **ECS 3431 Economics of the Caribbean Basin**  **Summer B 2025: June 23 – August 1, 2025**   |  | | --- | |  | | **GENERAL INFORMATION** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Instructor:** | Dr. Irma Alonso | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Department of Economics Phones:** | (305) 348 – 2317  (305) 348 – 2316  (305) 348 - 3284 | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Department of Economics Office:** | MMC DM-316  [Please be aware that I do not have an office on campus] | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Department of Economics Fax:** | (305) 348 - 1524 | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Office Hours:** | All communications will take place online. Please contact me through Canvas messages. | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **E-mail:** | Please use Canvas Course Messages | |  |  | | --- | |  | | **COURSE DESCRIPTION** |   **ECS 3431 - Economics of the Caribbean Basin**  The objective of this course is to introduce the student to the unique characteristics of the Caribbean Basin economies. These are small open economies that, although located in the same area, are different in terms of their history, culture, language, and population, as well as their social, political, and economic conditions. The students will learn about the Caribbean Basin region by sharing knowledge. It is intended to involve the students in an active learning experience to include many of the features that describe the Caribbean Basin area. Students will be required to participate in class discussions, work collaboratively with other classmates in group projects, as well as write individual essays and reports.  The Caribbean islands can be grouped into various classifications. By size, the Greater Antilles include Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico, while the other islands could be counted among the Lesser Antilles. By language, English, Spanish, Dutch, and French are among those found. By political status, some of these nations are independent while others are colonies or territories of the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, and the United States. Except for Cuba, all the other countries have some kind of democratic government. The common characteristic found is that all are small open economies. All these differences and similarities make the Caribbean an interesting area to study. As expressed by Dennis Pantin (2005), the study of “Caribbean Economics” started in 1950, with the paper “The Industrialization of the British West Indies” written by W. Arthur Lewis.  This course is offered during Summer B 2025 and all the work of a regular semester lasting 16 weeks has to be squeezed into 40 days. For this reason, some of the assignments are due during weekends and/or national holidays. If you want to avoid working during those days, you are free to submit your work ahead of time. As group work is required for this course, it is very important that you coordinate with your team how work and responsibilities are to be divided. You will affect others in the team, and you will be affected by others in the team. Clear communication is necessary for the team to work properly. Remember that your grade in the course is your responsibility: if others do not submit their work you will have to take charge as it is your grade that is going to be affected. If you are not willing to work cooperatively then this course is not right for you.  Countries to be analyzed are:   1. Anguilla 2. Antigua and Barbuda 3. Aruba 4. Bahamas 5. Barbados 6. Bonaire 7. British Virgin Islands 8. Cayman Islands 9. Cuba 10. Curacao 11. Dominica 12. Dominican Republic 13. Grenada 14. Guadeloupe 15. Haiti 16. Jamaica 17. Martinique 18. Montserrat 19. Puerto Rico 20. St. Kitts and Nevis 21. St. Lucia 22. St. Vincent and the Grenadines 23. Trinidad and Tobago 24. Turks and Caicos Islands 25. US Virgin Islands   These 25 countries will be divided into 10 groups as follows:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **CLASS SUB-DIVISIONS:**  The class will be divided into ten groups to study the selected Caribbean countries. Data collection and research reports on the topics assigned will be prepared by each group. On a first-come, first-served basis, students will select to which group they want to belong to. There will be a maximum of 4 students per group. Essays and reports will be submitted for evaluation to turnitin.com, using the Assignment Dropbox. | | | | |  | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Group 1** | Cuba, Cayman Islands | | **Group 2** | Dominican Republic, Turks & Caicos Islands | | **Group 3** | Jamaica, British Virgin Islands | | **Group 4** | Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands | | **Group 5** | Haiti, Guadeloupe, Martinique | | **Group 6** | Trinidad & Tobago, Anguilla, St Kitts & Nevis | | **Group 7** | Bahamas, St. Lucia | | **Group 8** | Barbados, Antigua & Barbuda | | **Group 9** | Grenada, Dominica, Montserrat | | **Group 10** | St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao | |  |  | | --- | |  | | **COURSE OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES** |   Through assignments to be submitted, students will be able to:   1. Identify an important geographical area, by listing, describing, and locating countries belonging to the Caribbean Basin 2. Classify the countries of the Caribbean Basin by different levels of social, economic, and political circumstances. 3. Interpret statistics of the different Caribbean countries 4. Compare and contrast Caribbean countries by different levels of achievements. 5. Evaluate the successes/failures of different occurrences affecting the Caribbean Area 6. Collaborate with classmates in data collection. 7. Write individual and/or group research reports on the topics assigned.  |  | | --- | |  | | ***MAJOR & CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES TARGETED*** |   This course serves as an elective in the major of Economics and it could be used to satisfy the Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. It also could be used as a free elective.   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | | | **TEXTBOOKS** | | | **The following books will be useful for the course:**  Griffith, Ivelaw Lloyd. (2024). **Challenged Sovereignty: The Impact of Drugs, Crime, Terrorism, and Cyber Threats in the Caribbean**. Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield: University of Illinois Press.  Palmer, R.W. (2009). ***The Caribbean Economy in the Age of Globalization***. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN-13: 978-0-230-60380-6  Pantin, Dennis (Editor). (2005). ***The Caribbean Economy: A Reader***. Kingston, Jamaica: Ian Randle Publishers. ISBN: 976-637-110-5 (paperback).  Rhodd, Rupert, et. al. (2007). ***Contemporary Issues in the Development of Caribbean Economies***. Lauderhill, FL: Garai Books. ISBN: 978-1-58736-786-1 (paperback).  **Some very suitable sites and important sources of information/reference are:**  The FIU Library has the Digital Library of the Caribbean available at: [www.dloc.com](http://www.dloc.com). Anyone can instantly register for myDLOC.  BIGS (The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics), available at: <http://www.ibge.gov.br/paisesat/main.php>  Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), available at: [Home | Caribbean Development Bank (caribank.org)](https://www.caribank.org/)  CARICOM Secretariat (2005) CARICOM: Our Caribbean Community, Kingston, Jamaica: Ian Randle Publishers  CARICOM Secretariat Regional Statistics. Available at: <http://www.caricomstats.org/>  CARICOM, available at: [CARICOM – Caribbean Community](https://caricom.org/)  Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The World Factbook, available at: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>  Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The World Factbook: Central America and the Caribbean, available at: [Central America and the Caribbean (cia.gov)](https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/central-america-and-the-caribbean/)  CEPAL, available at: [Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (cepal.org)](https://www.cepal.org/)  CEPAL: https://www.cepal.org/en  https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/dashboard.html?theme=1&lang=en  Digital Infrastructure and Development in the Caribbean (2022): [Caribbean Quarterly Economic Bulletin: Volume 10: Issue 3, January 2022: Digital Infrastructure and Development in the Caribbean | Publications (iadb.org)](https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Caribbean-Quarterly-Economic-Bulletin-Volume-10-Issue-3-December-2021.pdf?j=679922&sfmc_sub=9917340&l=2500_HTML&u=12631511&mid=100028582&jb=1005)  Eastern Caribbean Central Banks, available at: [Home | Eastern Caribbean Central Bank - Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (eccb-centralbank.org)](https://www.eccb-centralbank.org/)  Government Development Bank of Puerto Rico, available at: [Nuestro Banco (pr.gov)](https://www.bde.pr.gov/BDE/PRED.html)  Government Development Bank: <https://www.bde.pr.gov/BDE/PRED.html>  Human Development Reports available at: [Human Development Report 2021-22 | Human Development Reports (undp.org)](https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2021-22)  Human Development Report, 2023-24: <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2023-24reporten.pdf>  Interamerican Development Bank. (2021). Latin American and Caribbean Macroeconomic Report: Opportunities for Stronger and Sustainable Post-pandemic Growth. Available at: [2021-Latin-American-and-Caribbean-Macroeconomic-Report-Opportunities-for-Stronger-and-Sustainable-Postpandemic-Growth (1).pdf](file:///C:\Users\alonsoi\Downloads\2021-Latin-American-and-Caribbean-Macroeconomic-Report-Opportunities-for-Stronger-and-Sustainable-Postpandemic-Growth%20(1).pdf)  Inter-American Development Bank, available at: iadb.org  International Monetary Bank (IMF). <https://www.imf.org/en/home>  OECD (2023). Health at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/health-at-a-glance-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-2023_532b0e2d-en>  Pan American Health Organization, available at: <https://www.paho.org/en>  United Nations, Millennium Development Goals, available at: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml>  United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Human Development Reports, available at: [Home | Human Development Reports (undp.org)](https://hdr.undp.org/)  United Nations Statistical Division. Available at: [UNSD - Welcome to UNSD](https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/)  United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals, available at: [The Sustainable Development Agenda - United Nations Sustainable Development](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/)  UNICEF for every child: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/unicef-annual-report>  World Bank. Socio-Economic Database for Latin America and the Caribbean, available at: [Socio-Economic Database for Latin America and the Caribbean | Data Catalog (worldbank.org)](https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/search/dataset/0040207)  World Bank – World Development Indicators. [World Development Indicators | DataBank (worldbank.org)](https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=World-Development-Indicators)  Other sources will be added throughout the semester, as needed. |  | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  | |  | | **COURSE PREREQUISITES** |   This course has a pre-requisite of Principles of Economics, or instructor’s approval.  For more information about prerequisites, [click here](http://cas.fiu.edu/~asadvctr/).  **(Note to Developer: Use this for CAS)**   |  | | --- | |  | | **COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR** |  * **E-mail:** Contact your instructor via Canvas messages, if needed, to discuss private matters related to course material. Expect a reply within 48 hours (if not sooner). * **Discussion Forum:** It will be used for class discussions and other postings of general interest that are directly related to the course. Everyone can read Discussion Forum postings; therefore, do not post private information that you don’t want others to read. * **Announcements**: To provide information to all students at the same time. These announcements will be submitted to the personal email that each student has provided to FIU.  |  | | --- | |  | | **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES** |   **A. The Meaning of Letter Grades.**   * "A" is given only for excellent work. * "B" is awarded for good work. * "C" is fair or satisfactory work. * "D" is given for poor work. * "F" is unsatisfactory or failing.   **B. Assignment Values**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **REQUIRED GRADED ASSIGNMENTS** | **POINT VALUES** | **MAXIMUM USABLE POINTS** | | **Introduction (1 required)** Introduce yourself and welcome others in the Open Forum discussion board conference during the 1st week of the course and join a study group.  Introduce yourself to your Instructor (1 required)  **Due by June 25, 2025** | 1. **@  5 pts**   1 @ 5 points | **5**  **5** | | **Syllabus Quiz (1 required)** **Take during the 1st week of class as directed.**  **Due by June 25. 2025**  **Join a Group and submit your Group Agreement** | **1 @ 5 pts**  **1 @ 10 points** | **5**  10 | | Evaluation of a video of your choice dealing with a Caribbean social/economic issue  Due by **June 25,, 2025** | 1 @ 20 pts | 20 | | M2A1: Data collection to fill Tables 1-2-3-4-5-6-7  Due by June 30 for the data and July 1 for Quiz 1 | 5 points for data collection/collaboration/submission to the Discussion Board by each group  5 points for data compilation for the 25 countries by each student  Quiz # 1 (15 points) | 35  35  15 | | Data collection per Group for M3A1, M3A2, M4A1, M4A2  Data collection for the 25 countries for M3A1, M3A2, M4A1, M4A2 | 5 points each  5 points each | 20  20 | | M3A3 Essay evaluating the article by W. Arthur Lewis  Due July 5, 2025 | 30 points | 30 | | **Essays evaluating social and economic conditions:**  **Reports 1, 3, 5, and 7 – for the Group countries (10 points each)**  **Reports 2, 4, 6, and 8 intended to compare Group countries with other Caribbean countries (15 points each)** | | **40**  **60** | |  | |  | | **MAXIMUM TOTAL USABLE POINTS IN THIS COURSE =** | | **200** |   Your grade will be based on your performance on the course requirements. Points are earned based on the values for each course requirement stated above. Grading Criteria are used to evaluate these activities.  **C. The following grade scale will be used to determine your semester grade.**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Grade** | **Points** | |  |  | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | A | 200-190 | | A- | 189-180 | | B+ | 179-174 | | B | 173-166 | | B- | 165-160 | | C+ | 159-154 | | C | 154-140 | | D | 139-120 | | F | 119-0 | |  |  | | --- | |  | |  | | **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES** |   As a college, we care about and enforce the Policies and Procedures as they are important to the quality of the education we are providing to you. Details on FIU Policies can be found at:  <http://online.fiu.edu/wct_files/Policy/Policies_Requirements.html>   |  | | --- | |  | |  | | **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** |   As a college, we care about students with special needs. To receive these services it is required from the student to self-identify as a student with a disability and to present required documentation. For further information and to register at the Disability Resource Center, you can visit the DRC at the MMC in Graham Center, Room 190 or at the BBC in Wolfe University Center Room 131. To make an appointment you have the following options: call MMC at 305-348-3532, or send an email to: [drcupgl@fiu.edu](mailto:drcupgl@fiu.edu); at the BBC you can call 305-919-5345 or send an email to: [drcbbc@fiu.edu](mailto:drcbbc@fiu.edu)   |  | | --- | |  | | **FIU LIBRARY SUPPORT** |   The FIU library provides a number of services to distance learning students. For example:   * Students can request a chat session in Canvas for an explanation on how to access library resources. * Students can request detailed instructions on how to access library resources. * One-on-One assistance from the Distance Learning Librarian.   Don't struggle through your library research alone! Help is available. For further information, contact Sarah Hammill, Distance Learning Librarian, via email at [hammills@fiu.edu](mailto:hammills@fiu.edu). Always you can visit the FIU Library at: <http://library.fiu.edu/>   |  | | --- | | **ASSIGNMENTS** |   Each Module has specific assignments, as indicated for each Activity, with specific due dates. All assignments are to be evaluated by turnitin.com as they are submitted to the Assignment Dropbox. The Assignment Dropbox is linked to the Gradebook, and this is the only way in which grades are counted. Work submitted by emails will not be accepted as they are not evaluated by turnitin.com   |  | | --- | |  | | **EXPECTATION OF THIS COURSE** |   This is a fully online course, meaning that all coursework (100%) will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in fully online courses are the same as for traditional courses; in fact, fully online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.  Fully online courses are not independent study courses. You will be expected to interact online with the professor and your fellow students; to do assignments; to meet deadlines; and in many classes, to work in virtual groups.  Tips for Success in your online course, [click here](file:///C:\alonsoi.AD\Local%20Settings\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\wct_files\Policy\tips_for_success.html).  It is very important that **online etiquette** be followed at all times. You should be aware of the common rules of netiquette and employ them at all times. In particular, follow the following rules: (1) do not use all CAPITAL LETTERS for a message, (2) always practice good grammar, (3) use spell check and proofread your messages before posting, and above all, (4) be respectful and considerate with your classmates. For additional information on Online Etiquette, [click here](file:///C:\alonsoi.AD\Local%20Settings\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\wct_files\Policy\online_etiquette.html).   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | | | | | | | | **COURSE CALENDAR: June 23 – August 1, 2025** | | | | | | | | **Dates** | **Modules and Topics** | | | |  | | | June 23-25 | M1A1: Introduction  Review and fully familiarize yourself with the course and site.  Print and read the course syllabus and course calendar.  Introduce yourself to the class including your picture.  Introduce yourself to your Instructor  Take the practice quiz and the syllabus quiz.  Submit your evaluation and analysis of a video of your choice from YouTube dealing with a Caribbean social/economic issue.  Select a group you want to belong to and submit your Group Agreement. | | | |  | | | June 26-July 1 | **M2A1: Getting to know the Caribbean region**: Location of the countries, capital city, territorial extension, language, total population, overall GDP, currency, , population by gender, population urban/rural, population density, birth rate, mortality rate, life expectancy, literacy rate, historical aspects.  Take Quiz # 1 | | | |  | | | July2- | M3A1: Social Indicators | | | |  | | | July | M3A2: Economic Indicators | | | | | July 8-11 | M3A3: W. Arthur Lewis and the Industrialization of the Caribbean Economies | | | | July 19-25 | M4A1: Millennium Development Goals 1,2,3 | | July 26-Aug 1 | M4A2: Millennium Development Goals 4,5,6 | | |
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