

SEA SEMESTER:

Documenting Change in the Caribbean

A Social Science and Humanities-Intensive Semester
Offered by Sea Education Association



The Caribbean Islands have seen enormous changes in the last five centuries. Europeans brought devastating diseases that decimated native populations, and transported millions of enslaved Africans into the islands to work plantations of newly introduced crops. Early naturalists described amazing new species of plants and animals as they were being exterminated and replaced by species introduced intentionally or accidentally. Today, the dynamic mix of cultures and biota bears little resemblance to the islands encountered by Christopher Columbus. As a tourist destination in the 21st century, the Caribbean continues to change as new demands are placed on limited resources. In this semester we explore how we can document these changes using the source materials and methodological approaches of both the humanities and sciences.

On Shore in Woods Hole

During the six-week shore component students take two concurrent classes, team-taught by SEA faculty. *Maritime History and Culture* explores political, cultural, and demographic changes in the Caribbean from the arrival of Europeans to the present. *Marine Environmental History* traces the role of ships and sailors as agents of environmental as well as social and economic change. Students will approach both courses from the perspectives of science, maritime studies, and navigation.



For more information
800-552-3633 x 770 admission@sea.edu www.sea.edu

At Sea in the Caribbean

Onboard the S.S.V. *Corwith Cramer*, students become members of both the sailing crew and the scientific team. As scientists, they conduct sampling surveys of the Caribbean biology, geology, chemistry, and physics using state-of-the-art equipment and laboratory facilities. As crew members, they apply their nautical science skills to operate and navigate the vessel. At stops ashore in Jamaica, Hispaniola, and the Leeward Islands, the class explores the natural, historical, and cultural landscapes.



Courses and Credit Structure

A total of 17 credits are issued through Boston University upon successful completion.

Shore Component:

Maritime History and Culture, 4 credits; Marine Environmental History, 4 credits.

Sea Component:

Nautical Science, 3 credits; Oceanography I and II, 3 credits each.