

*Spring 2012 new course offering*

***Imagining Haiti: Tragedy and Triumph (English 192-02)***



Instructor: Natalie Leger

Time: Block 2, Wednesday 9:00AM – 11:30AM

**Course Description:**

Plagued by poverty and unrest, Haiti has long been synonymous with heart wrenching tragedy. And yet while that is so, its past revolutionary triumph continues to inspire artists and thinkers the world over just as it did following its national independence in 1804. The American William Faulkner, Frenchman Victor Hugo, Englishman William Wordsworth, German Georg W.F. Hegel, Martinician Maryse Condé and the St. Lucian Nobel Peace Prize winner Derek Walcott (among many others) were all artistically moved by the nation's unprecedented 1791-1804 slave led revolution. In this course, we will explore the rich literature sparked by Haiti's triumphs and tragedies.

Thematically progressing through key issues shaping popular perception of the nation, we will look closely at what writers of the African-American and Caribbean literary tradition have to say about Vodou, the Revolution, poverty and the nation as a signifier of disaster and contagion. In doing this, we will gain greater insight into a nation that is far more than simply, "the poorest country in the Western hemisphere." This course fulfills the post 1860 requirement.