

## LEHIGH IN MARTINIQUE

### January 1st- January 15, 2011

With its unique position as a key site of the Atlantic World economy in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, its tradition of influential literary figures and colonial theorists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and its status as an official department of France in the middle of the Caribbean, Martinique presents a whole range of fascinating issues for Lehigh students. This intersession study abroad program in Martinique will be organized around the theme of colonial and postcolonial identity. The course of study will be interdisciplinary, incorporating literary, historical and sociological perspectives, and taking Martinique as a case study for broad trends in Caribbean history and the postcolonial world in general.

### No knowledge of French is required.

Students accepted into the program will take a series of pre-departure classes on campus during the fall semester. They will be assigned short historical and sociological readings as well as a novel of historical fiction (*Texaco* by Patrick Chamoiseau, 1992). Topics discussed will include the European discovery of the island by Columbus, establishment of the French colonial system, 19<sup>th</sup> century imperialist ideology, the destruction of the city of St. Pierre by a volcanic eruption, Aime Césaire and the *Négritude* movement, Frantz Fanon and anticolonialism, *Creolite* and *Antillanite* in literature, the anthropology of French tourism, and society and identity in contemporary Martinique.

In Martinique students will attend lectures given by faculty of the Université of Antilles Guyane at the Fort-de-France campus. Personalities met by students on past trips include (now deceased) world famous poet Aimé Césaire, contemporary novelist Raphael Confiant, head of Martinican Independence movement Alfred Marie Jeanne, president of Martinican Women's Union Rita Bonheur.

Excursions will also be integral to the curriculum.

## COURSE ACTIVITIES

- Visits and excursions may include:

Restored sugar plantations and slave quarters Hike on Mount Pelée volcano  
Empress Josephine's birthplace (*Domaine de la Pagerie*) Botanical Gardens (*Jardins de Balata*)

Boating Tour of Caravelle peninsula with local fisherman  
Sugar Museum/Banana Museum

Underwater sightseeing "*aquabulle*" trip  
Guided tour of rum distillery  
Coastal marsh "*mangrove*" kayak trip  
Conseil Régional of Martinique  
Visit to St. Pierre, the city destroyed by the eruption of Mount Pelée in 1902  
Guided hike of Mount Pelée  
The Departmental Museum of Archeology and Prehistory

## **Pre-requisites and Requirements**

Student must be in good academic standing and have a 2.0 grade point average. Interdisciplinary in nature, I course wishes to attract a heterogeneous group of students from all three of Lehigh's colleges. While French is of course recommended, it is not required. **All participants are REQUIRED to attend scheduled class meetings in October and November and the post trip session in January.** These class meetings will provide an important foundation prior to the arrival of the group to Martinique, and will allow us to discuss essential readings.