PARADISE OR HELL:
THE WEST INDIES IN THE 17th and 18th CENTURIES
OLLl at UNLV PARADISE CAMPUS
FALL SEMESTER, 2019
BEGINs: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019
PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A 10-WEEK COURSE OFFERING
CLASS ENDS: NOVEMBER 19, 2019
TIME: 9:00 A.M.-10:45 A.M.
INSTRUCTOR: AMELIA HIPPERT—hemet079@yahoo.com

This is a new course offering on the history and development of the Islands of the West Indies in the 17th and 18th centuries, with emphasis on its English colonies. While we carefully study the development of the Americas following European discoveries and conquest, this part of our hemisphere is frequently overlooked. It is easy to forget that colonists to the West Indies were members of the same migration that sent men and women to the colonies of New England and Virginia, however, the settlements could not have been more different. Was Jamaica a blessed paradise "Where gold is more plentiful than ice, silver than snow, and pearls than hail stones" as one planter desperate for labor argued to this countrymen still in England. Or, as a visitor to the Island wrote in 1698, Jamaica is "Hot as Hell and is Wicked as the Devil. It is a Giant cesspit, the Dunghill of the Universe." First tobacco and cotton sustained the colonies but once the English learned how to grow and process sugarcane, they turned their small islands into amazingly effective sugar-production machines, manned by armies of African slaves and they became far richer than their cousins in the North American wilderness. For more than 200 years, the West Indies was the strategic center of the Western world and its turbulent and dramatic history merits attention.
SYLLABUS

WEEK 1. September 17, 2019—It all started with Columbus, or did it?

WEEK 2. September 24, 2019—The scramble for New World Territory: Portugal (Brazil), Spain, France, England, and Holland.

WEEK 3. October 1, 2019—Pirates, Privateers, Buccaneers at home in Port Royal, Jamaica “The Wickedest City in the West.”


WEEK 10. November 19, 2019—The Legacy of Slavery