The Taino period
1492 Columbus
1625 “marauding bands”
1697 Rijswick (French-Spanish treaty)
1783-1789 Production doubles due to massive slave imports... the colony marches towards its doom
1791-1804 Haitian Revolution; conventional & unconventional war

Slave labor and French capital
$L’exclusif$ = Dependence on the metropolis – no free trade
Sugar and coffee

500,000 slaves = “black” (North) [2/3 born in Africa in 1791!!!]

- nèg kreyòl | esklav kay (domestic)
- nèg basal | esklav espesyalize (skilled)
- nèg mawon | esklav jaden (field)

40,000 colonists = “white” (North)
- governor general = military leader
- grands blancs = wanted some free trade
- petits blancs and “blan mannan”

30,000 affranchis = “yellow, brown and black” (South) = RED
- Mulatto affranchis versus black affranchis
- (In 1791 much of the South and its slaves was owned by affranchis).

Causes and conditions: “the racial prejudice of the whites led to color prejudice on the part of the mulattoes”

Types of colonial slavery:
A) “Paternalistic” / small-scale slavery in Hispanic societies
B) “Industrial slavery” in Saint Domingue (Haiti’s former name) =
- The prevailing philosophy was that cruelty and torture increased productivity in the context industrial slavery.
Haitian Culture and Society

**Take turns with a partner reviewing these questions:**

1. Describe “slaves.”
2. Describe the “whites.”
3. Describe the “affranchis.”
4. Describe the “maroons” [mawon] and marronage.
5. Columbus’ encounter with the Tainos.
6. The concept of forced conversion and Roman Catholic complicity in slavery.
7. The use of torture by the French.
8. The buccaneers and *flibustiers*.
9. Describe how slavery grew in Haiti, especially between 1750-1791.
10. What was the role of poison in Saint Domingue?

**Surprise questions:**

11. How did the notion of “propriertorship” develop among the enslaved population?
12. Who was the *commandeur*?
13. What were some of the characteristics of white society?
14. What was *petit marronage*?

From Castaldo 2006:38-39; Miller 2008:28:

**Code Noir, 1685**

1. “... [we] enjoin all of our officers to chase from our said islands all the Jews who have established their residence, to whom, as to the declared enemies of the Christian name [*du non chrétien*], we command to leave from them within three months of the publication of the present, at risk of having bodies and wealth confiscated.”
2. “All the slaves who will be on our islands will be baptized and instructed in the Roman Catholic and Apostolic religion. [...]”
3. “We ban all public exercise of any religion except the Roman Catholic and Apostolic religion. We wish that the infractors be punished as rebels and disobedient to our commandments [...].” [My translations].

Haiti’s earthquake

Please give to Médecins Sans Frontières (http://www.msf.org/) for Haitian relief.


Arthur 45-68

Dessalines 1804 – 1806
- War hero turned ruthless dictator
- Hated all whites of French descent and he rounded them up for execution
- State-run agriculture; plantation life and serfdom.
- His egalitarianism and land redistribution angered mulattoes.
- Assassinated, in part, because he threatened to redistribute land seized by mulattoes.

Henri Christophe 1807 – 1820
- The Northern Kingdom
- Black dominated government and elite
- Citadelle La Ferrière built with forced labor and huge death rate
- Committed suicide

Alexandre Pétion 1806 – 1819
- President of the South
- Rejected forced labor on plantations
- Mulatto dominated government and elite
- Distributed state land for political purposes (10,000 recipients)
- Presided over the foundation of the Haitian peasantry = LAND
• This involved the dissolution of the plantation society

Jean-Pierre Boyer 1820 – 1844
• Unified the island or Invaded Spanish territory?
• Agreed to “repay” France in payment for Haiti’s independence. France demanded exorbitant payments.

Rapid rise and fall of presidents in the 19th and 20th centuries

U.S. Occupation 1915 – 1935
Death of the 19th century Haitian military tradition
The spawning of the new military, arbiter of political control

Lescot – Estimé – Magloire –
François Duvalier 1957 – 1971... Jean-Claude Duvalier 1971 – 1986

The Duvalier’s presidential militia, the Tonton Makout, eventually exceed the military in membership, influence and acts of violence in Haiti

• The Haitian left still calls elements of the right makout and makoutis to this day

Topics for discussion:

1. Discuss how the urban elite has made its money over the centuries.
2. How can one explain/understand Haiti’s persistent race problems?
   Reaction: “Yes what can be more absurd than such [anti-black racism from mulattos] pretention and prejudice, when, but two generations removed, their mothers were African slaves” - St. John, 1884.
3. Discuss Christophe’s kingdom and his accomplishments. At what costs?
4. Graham Greene’s impressions of Haiti (60-61).
6. How did Duvalier “tame the Vatican”?
7. What are key events in the history of the Haitian army and the “Garde”?
9. How is political power established and removed in Haitian history?
Plaçage versus Marriage: Examples of Peasant and Elite Practices

Haitian elites are sensitive over marriage because of inheritance: money and land. Individuals are concerned about jeopardizing family status/prestige.

_Placage_ extramarital unions of respectable people
Requires no civil or religious formality

_Placée_ (common law wife) has complete control of farm in husband’s absence. But, the man chooses his wife, owns the land, and prepares land when he pleases...

Man and woman in Haiti are _economic partners in a struggle for existence_

Women outnumber men in Haiti – today 6 women to 4 men...

Elites marry; peasants use _plaçage_ = an important split
5 generations of marriage in the family.
Parental consent needed for marriage.
Certificate of civil marriage required before a religious marriage.

**Status of women in the Haiti of the 1940s**
Women had to receive consent from husbands to buy and sell land.
Could not vote or hold public office.
It is tabou for elite women to do manual labor.
Husband freer in sexual life
Law specifies that adultery is a cause for divorce for men; but only for women _if_ “he shall bring his concubine into the common dwelling” (192)
Religion in the early history of Haiti:

**Dessalin**:  
- The state allows NO DOMINANT RELIGION  
- ALL CHILDREN ARE LEGITIMATE (in or outside of wedlock)  
  *Real family values*  
- Freedom of DIVORCE established

**Pétion**:  
- Recognizes the Catholic Church in his CONSTITUTION of 1806… but:  
  - Article 37: “If in the course of time other religions are introduced, *no person shall be hindered*, so long as he conforms to the laws, in following the cult [religion] he [or she] has chosen.”  
- These are ENLIGHTENED and TOLERANT LAWS… but:  
- He repealed Dessalines’ laws protecting ‘illegitimate’ children and divorce on MORAL GROUNDS

**The schism**:  
- Provides Vodou with room to grow…  
- 70 (non-Roman) Haitian Catholic priests in 1840  
- *Pè savann* occupation takes off  
- Assured the independence of Haitian Catholicism till this day  
- Methodists and Baptists earliest Protestants  
- Boyer (and the entire political class) strive to heal the Haiti-Rome conflict:  
  - Recognition by Rome meant LEGITIMACY

  - President Soulouque the Vodouist president 1847 – 1859  
  - President Geffrard overcomes the schism in 1860  
  - In 1930, 70 years after the CONCORDAT, Haiti has 206 priests (8 Haitian), 105 Brothers and 366 Sisters for 2,652,290 Haitians…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authoritarian, Haitian influence</th>
<th>Aristocratic, French influence...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Nationalist s’ (but still + French</td>
<td>Parliamentary / ‘Liberals’</td>
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<td>Noiriste</td>
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<td>Dessalines</td>
<td>-Pétion</td>
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<td>Christophe</td>
<td>-Boyer (1818-43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souloque (1847-59)</td>
<td>-Geffrard (1859-67)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Questions for sharing from Arthur 69 – 85.

1. How does the excerpt portray smugglers?
2. Describe the modern elite; how did it view Aristide?
3. What factor has changed the traditional power struggle between landowners and the merchant capitalists? How did this new group damage landowners?
4. What is an oligarchy?
5. What kind of relationship did the “monopolist faction” have with the Duvalier dictatorship?
6. What did the Aristide government demand from the business elite?
8. What was a major setback for Haitian peasants in the early 1980s?
Questions from 80-100 [Quiz on Friday]

1. How would you describe Haitian agriculture? [smallholdings]
2. What percentage depend on it? [70%]
3. How does the book describe Haiti’s climates? [microclimates]
4. What is a madan sara/revendeuse, what is her importance?
5. Describe a successful peasant’s typical land holdings. Why is this significant? [dispersed/promotes plasay]
6. What is a great threat to Haiti? [deforestation, desertification]
7. What was a major setback for Haitian peasants in the early 1980s?
8. What is a kòve ‘corvée’ / konbit ‘combite’ and who is the sanba ‘samba’/simidò ‘simidor’
9. Describe women’s work in Haiti. How do they augment the family’s income.
10. What is plentiful [labor] and scarce [capital] in Haiti’s labor market?
11. What conflict exists in Haiti’s coffee trade? What are speculators? What was the Duvalier link to coffee?
12. Why is land invasion so common in Haiti?
13. What is the story of the pig > goat > cow > chicken and human beings in Haiti? (Anglade)

Questions for group discussion

1. What are the roots of the Haitian people?

2. Why was and is Haiti independent but divided?

3. What is the new interior and why is it new? What should everybody know about Haitian topography/geography and how it relates to Haiti’s evolution as a nation?
4. Why is Haiti struggling with deforestation?

5. What are some problems between the D.R. and Haiti?

6. What exciting technological changes are bringing Haiti closer to the rest of the world?

7. Describe the slave trade according to James.

8. What was the only exposure to literacy that the slaves received?

Quiz: Rural Haiti (Arthur 80-100)

1. Madan Sara is a:
   a. woman who sells  
   b. man who sells  
   c. type of soldier

2. A ‘konbit / coumbite’ is:
   a. voluntary collective labor  
   b. compelled / required collective labor  
   c. labor union

3. Successful peasants own:
   a. tiny and widely-dispersed plots.  
   b. large and concentrated plots.  
   c) plantain trees

4. Haiti was stripped of this valuable tree in the 19th century:
   a. Live Oak  
   b. Teak  
   c. Mahogany

5. A major set-back for farmers in the 1980s was
   a. a drought  
   b. yellow fever  
   c. U.S. occupation  
   d. African swine fever

6. The singing leader of a konbit / coumbite is the ____________:
   a. lambi/lanbi  
   b. corvée/kòve  
   c. simidor/simidò

7. In Marbial, Haiti (1957), women did not carry out day to day maintenance of the fields:
   a. True  
   b. False

8. Girls are forbidden from going to the market place:
   a. True  
   b. False

9. Who does not want road improvements in Haiti’s coffee business?
   a. Growers  
   b. Speculators

   Chose the animal that best reflects the livestock and size of land holdings of the given period:

10. 1880:
    a. Goat  
    b. Chicken  
    c. Pig

11. 1920s:
    a. Goat  
    b. Chicken  
    c. Pig

12. 1980s:
a. Goat  b. Chicken  c. Pig

13. ‘Behind mountains there are ________________
   a. still        b. mountains   c. pastor     d. ‘witchdoctor’/Vodou priest   e. soldier
14. ‘The ________ is dancing; he’s looking in his bag’
   a. still        b. mountains   c. pastor     d. ‘witchdoctor’/Vodou priest   e. soldier
15. Money never goes to the ___________ house to return’
   a. still        b. mountains   c. pastor     d. ‘witchdoctor’/Vodou priest   e. soldier
16. ‘Staying ________ is the body’s medicine.’
   a. still        b. mountains   c. pastor     d. ‘witchdoctor’/Vodou priest   e. soldier
17. ‘Better to be a ___________ in paradise than a chief in hell.’
   a. still        b. mountains   c. pastor     d. ‘witchdoctor’/Vodou priest   e. soldier
18. What kind of farming did French & Spanish colonists employ in Hispaniola?
   a. polyculture   b. monoculture  c. hunter/gatherer
19. Percentage of Haiti covered by forest in 1986:
   a. 100%  b. 23%   c. 7%   d. 1.5%
20. This is the economic activity of the last resort:
   a. pig-raising   b. forestry    c. charcoal   d. re-selling

Arthur 111 – 131 ~ Poverty

Prior to the earthquake!
-Lowest school enrollment
-Only 138/1,000 who start primary
school also complete secondary ed.  
Using a minority language among a majority! Ex.: German in the U.S.
-High illiteracy (approx. 50%)
-Population growth + medical science (longevity + overcrowding)
-Rural exodus... Jan 12th 2010... Port-au-Prince exodus
-Deforestation > drought > hunger > foreign dependency
- Potable water shortages [But see “Water for Life”
-‘Bidonvil yo,’ e.g. Cité Soleil where 8 people per room live & have sleeping shifts
-The rural exodus: more and more food gets imported, more and more Haitians survive on remittances

Questions for discussion on “Poverty and Urban Life”:
1. What is a restavèk? Why does this issue upset so many Haitians and commentators?
2. What are micro versus macro-enterprises?
3. What is the unemployment rate in Haiti?
4. How was Haiti negatively stereotyped in the early 1980s?
5. What might we conclude about Aristide’s political outlook?
6. What are some sanitation problems that trouble poor Haitians? Do wealthy Haitians have to deal with the same problems?
7. What is the link between Mickey Mouse and Port-au-Prince?
8. What is a bouretye?
9. What are some problems in Haiti’s health care?
10. Why does P.J. O’Rourke call the French “mysterious savages”?
11. What do we learn about Erzulie (Èzili)... and dominoes from Wilentz?
12. What problems are common for workers on the job in Haiti and other developing countries?
13. What types of ‘work’ do the most desperate children resort to in Haiti?
Identification Quiz: Please identify in one, short sentence [2 pts each].

**Arthur 130-138**

Questions for group discussion:

1. Describe the life of a street child in urban Haiti.
2. What are some of the problems that beset Haitian hospitals?
3. What are key issues in family planning in Haiti? What are male and female attitudes toward birth control? What are some of the struggles that women confront in Haiti?
4. How has Haiti suffered misinformation regarding AIDS? Who is responsible and what were the consequences?
5. Describe public and private education in Haiti. What kind of schools are there and how can they be classified?
6. What are neighborhood committees? How are they organized, how do they function? What is their advantage?

**Arthur, 139 – 149. Questions for discussion**

1. What are examples of grassroots organization in Haiti?
2. How do the Haitian masses see the state?
3. Who were the *piquets* and the *cacos*?
4. What happened to Daniel Fignolé and his supporters? Is the event unique in Haitian political history? Why was he seen as a spoiler? Why was he vulnerable?
5. What is the *Ti Legliz* in Haiti?
6. How was Jean-Claudes rule (1971-1986) different from his François Duvalier’s (1957-1971)?
7. What kind of positions did Aristide take?
1. Describe the communist movement. Who tried to snuff it out? Why?
   What was the international context?
2. What does peasant resistance typically struggle over?
3. Give an example of a grassroots group in Haiti.
4. Describe the rise and fall of Radio Soleil.
5. What is the place of Gonaïves in the events of 1985-6.
6. What was the goal of Peasant Movement of Milot?
7. Why were Christians like Aristide attracted to socialism?
8. Was the dechoukaj successful? What is 1986-1990 know as?
9. Discussion on popular movements like “Têt Kole” (see 162-165)
10. Who tried to block the rise of Aristide in 1991? How long did Aristide last?

Refugees and the Diaspora, Arthur 176-198
   Duval-Carrié

- Refugees from the Haitian war of independence, 1791-1803
  -- Louisiana Creole [Dictionary]
- The Haitian-Cuban Diaspora, 1915-1929
- The Dominican Republic
  -- The Haitian Occupation of the 19th century, Boyer
  -- The migration of Haitians to the D.R. in the 20th century
  -- Trujillo, 1937
  -- The vyewo’s zafra on the batèy
- Bahamas, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Martin, French Guyana
- Cheap labor is welcome in good times, deported in the bad
- The United States and Canada
  -- The northeast (1960 – 1980)
  -- Florida (1980 – present)
-- The boatpeople

**Why?** Political, economic, and human-created environmental turmoil

And now... the EARTHQUAKE: the expansion of Haitian internal and external immigration

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zEeP068L94
Questions from the homework for communicative pair work:

1. Describe how Haitians got to Cuba during the expansion of that country’s sugar economy. Why did Haitians disappear from the Cuban workforce in the 1930s?
2. Why did Trujillo and the Dominican frontier population engage in the massacre of Haitian civilians in the D.R.?
3. What are some of the major struggles faced by Haitians in the D.R.? Is a child of Haitian decent born in the D.R. recognized as a Dominican?
4. What do the words kongo and vyewo refer to?
5. What kinds of abuse and corruption are reported on the Dominican batèy? What is the “incentive” pay? (191)
6. Why are Guadeloupians comfortable with abandoning low-paid jobs?
7. What is the “wet food, dry foot policy”?
8. What kind of reception do Haitians receive in the U.S.?

Courage de femme

1. Describe the existence of the woman in the film.
2. How many children depend on her?
3. Do the children do their fair share?
4. Is she married?
5. What are her living conditions?
6. What is the solution?

Questions for discussion from Arthur, 198-208

1. What exodus does the reading refer to?
2. What are the conditions of the exodus?
3. Describe some of the travails of Edwidge Danticat.
4. How do Haitians in Miami shine and equal or surpass their peers?
5. How do people without papers survive in Miami?
6. Who is Abner Louima? What did he reveal about life in NYC?
7. How did Wyclef impact Haitian youth in the 1990s?

Questions for discussion from Arthur 209 – 227

1. Give several examples of foreign interventions in Haiti.
2. How did Haiti inaugurate the phenomenon of “Third World debt”?
3. What immigrant group became important in the late 19th century? How did they pose a threat? How did they survive?
4. Who was FRAPH?
5. What was the corvée? How did Americans obtain labor?
6. What are the lessons on U.S. occupation that Haiti provides?
7. What are the contradictions that Péralte points out in his letter?
8. How did Bauxite mining impact the Miragoâne region from 1957 – 1993?

Cautions and Council, Turnbull Chapter 1

Communicative and presentation activity
• Read the proverbs with your partner
• Select one or two that you are interested in
• Prepare an interpretation of the proverb
• Be prepared to present your proverb and presentation to the class.

**Example:** *Dèyè mòn gen mòn*
• ‘Behind mountains there are mountains’
• ‘There’s a hidden meaning to what is being said’
• Just when you thought you had surpassed one difficulty you are faced with the next
• Life is up and down. Life is a complex, difficult terrain

**Key notions & themes**
Lapriyè - prayer
Grangou - hunger
Pasyans – patience
Manyòk, zanmòrès, berejèn (p. 6) – tropical foods
Plimen poul – rural life
Lougawou – evil witch/shape-shifter/werewolf
Vagabon – wretch
Gwo dlo – mystical powers
Ginen – West Africa/place of ancestors & spirits in mythology (p. 17)
Bouki & Timalis – nèg sòt & nèg lespri... the fool and the sly fox
Lavi se tè glise – fragility of life
Port-au-Prince – city of deception (p. 24)
Expressions and communication, chapter 2

Take turns explaining these proverbs for your partner:

1. “Don’t know” never goes to jail (54)
2. Creole is spoken; Creole is understood (57)
3. It’s on the road that you know what’s happening in the bedroom (59)
4. A man (or woman’s) business is a myster (60)
5. Telling is selling (63)
6. What remains in my heart allows me to sleep at home (63)
7. There’s no prayer that doesn’t have an amen (67)
8. Words in the stomach don’t rot the intestines (69)
9. You’re asking the cemetery if it doesn’t need the dead (70)
10. You must know how to eat words to have friends (71)
What was your favorite proverb in the reading?
THE HAITIAN PROVERB QUIZ SHOW:
family, friends and relationships (chapter 3)

1. A good husband should be ____ and a good wife should be ____ [deaf... blind]
2. A pumpkin never bears ______ [gourds]
3. The dirt that is on the roof is what falls into the _____ [cistern]
4. Love must heal ___________ [love]
5. The child who cries in the house and the one who cries at the door are _____ ___________ [the same]
6. All veins touch the ___________ [heart]
7. Cutting sugar cane for your friends to _______ [suck]
8. The mouth that caresses a _________ is the one that ____ ____ ____ [woman... puts her out]
9. A _______ in the family is hard to recognize [werewolf]
10. A friend is a ___________ [sheet]

11. Children are the ___________ of the poor [wealth]
12. Comrades get you _________ [hung]
13. The way you come is how you are _____________ [received]
14. It is when you are _____ that you know if you have friends. [sick]
15. Money is made to be ___________ [counted]
16. The donkey bears foal so its ____ can _____ [back...rest]
17. When you have no children, you are a _____ [dog]
18. Your mother in law doesn’t beat you, but she _____ you in your food bowl [fixes]