Texaco Wiki:
Engaging Undergraduates in Digital Research on Caribbean Literature and Culture

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About the *Texaco Wiki*

◎ Open educational resource facilitates undergraduate research on Caribbean literature and culture

◎ Sources: peer-reviewed scholarship & digital archives

◎ Iterative, emphasizes process of interpretation

◎ Students become authors
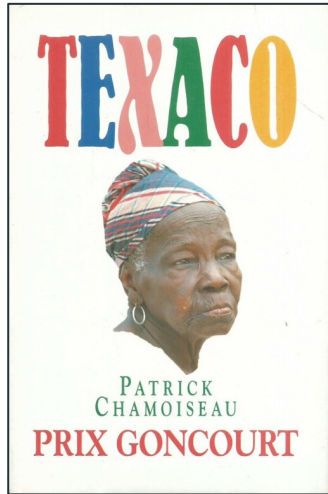
◎ Collaborative construction

1.
Project Genesis

Inspired by pedagogical challenges of teaching *Texaco* in a 1-credit (8-week) honors course on Globalization
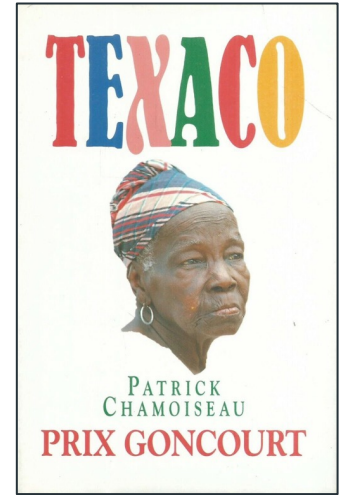
Pedagogical Challenges Inspired the Wiki

TEXACO

PATRICK CHAMOISEAU

PRIX GONCOURT

◎ Designing new course on globalization

◎ Afro-Caribbean culture and history is unfamiliar to many American undergrads

◎ Non-linear narration, unclear timespan

◎ Embedded and framing narratives

◎ Infused with French Creole language

Knowledge Production in the novel *Texaco*

TEXACO
PATRICK CHAMOISEAU
PRIX GONCOURT
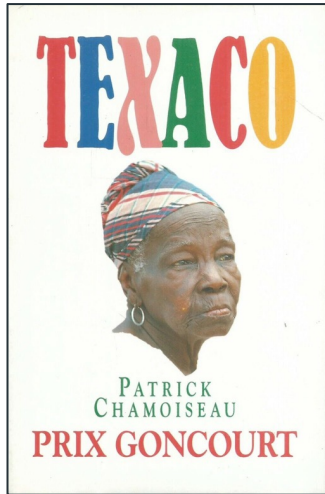
◎ Analog archives of the African Diaspora are incomplete & primarily written by colonizers

◎ *Texaco* dramatizes:

  ◎ Process and power of storytelling

  ◎ Transition from speech to writing

◎ Digital spaces provide hold the potential for liberation through producing new archives

2.

Why a Wiki?

Centering networks of identity and knowledge production

"Neither Europeans, nor Africans, nor Asians, **we proclaim ourselves Creoles**."

Bernabé, Jean, Patrick Chamoiseau, & Raphaël Confiant. "In Praise of Creoleness." Translated by Mohamed B. Taleb Khyar. *Callaloo* 13.4 (Autumn, 1990): 886-909. p 886
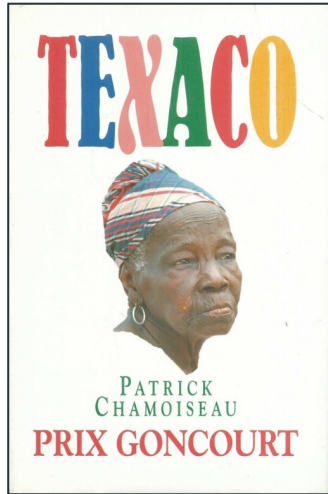
"Our history is **a braid of histories**. . . .

Because of its constituent **mosaic**, Creoleness is an **open specificity.** It escapes, therefore, perceptions that are not themselves open. Expressing it is not expressing a synthesis, not just expressing a crossing or any other unicity. It is expressing a **kaleidoscopic totality.**"

Bernabé et al., p 892

Ethical Instruction

◎ Represent complexity of the novel

◎ Recognize that knowledge production is a way of asserting power

◎ Model multiple entangled pathways to understanding

◎ Collaborative and communal construction, with all its tensions

◎ Acknowledge positionality

3.

Future Directions

Including More Voices

Future Directions

◎ Develop collaborations to get more teachers and students involved

◎ Make lesson plans available, with support from the Digital Library of the Caribbean

◎ Email me to get involved: jesshut@siue.edu

Acknowledgements

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