

Slavery, slave trading and slave emancipation in Africa: an introduction to the literature

We all know that the slave trade to the Americas constituted a major event in modern history, with far-reaching political and economic (as well as moral) implications. But slave trade and slavery in Africa were not limited to the transatlantic trade. In fact, the interaction between the transatlantic trade and slavery within African societies poses many questions. Ironically, the ending of the transatlantic trade after 1807 gave a boost to the East African one. Under colonialism, official anti-slavery rhetoric clashed with the self-interests of colonial regimes and led to new contradictions.

Given the drama and complexity of the topic, it is unsurprising that it has attracted some of the most accomplished historians of Africa. This seminar is intended to give you an introduction to the vast and challenging literature on slavery, slave trading and slave emancipation in Africa. It is reading-intensive and focused on students' presentations to their classmates.

Assessment:

There will be five parts to your mark in this class.

Participation	20%
Presentation in class	25%
Annotated Bibliography/draft	25%
Final paper	30%

More on the assignments:

Participation includes more than showing up in time for every class. You will be assessed on the frequency and quality of your contributions to class. That said, no question whose answer may help you understand the subject better is 'stupid'.

The *presentation in class* will be kept short (shoot for 15 minutes, don't exceed 20) to ensure sufficient time for discussion. You will be asked to present an article or a book chapter, the latter in context with the overall argument of the book (if any). Keep background on the author minimal, focus on argument and evidence and how both relate to class discussion so far.

The *annotated bibliography and draft* will be your chance to get feedback for your final paper. You will be expected to select a topic based on your readings so far, to identify research questions and possibly a tentative thesis, and to briefly discuss at least a dozen sources you intend to use. There is a four-page limit for the draft part; no limit for the bibliography.

The *final paper* should be 1800-2500 words in length, excluding the bibliography (length does not denote quality). It does not need to contain primary sources. It will be assessed on the clarity of your arguments, the appropriate and extensive use of secondary sources, and the quality of your writing, including spelling and grammar.

General introductory texts/online resources:

Paul Lovejoy, *Transformations in slavery*

Patrick Manning, *Slavery and African life*

Orlando Patterson, *Slavery and social death*

John Iliffe, *Africans: the history of a continent*

www.slavevoyages.org: Database on over 33,000 slave ships b/w Africa and the Americas

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/history/hislavery.html> is a directory of primary and secondary sources on the history of slavery.

Topics week by week: (Note: the readings given represent a choice; we will allocate one per person.)

Wednesday May 6, Introduction: sources and questions

Paul Lovejoy, *Transformations in Slavery*, Introduction

Olaudah Equiano, *The interesting narrative of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African*

Friday May 8, Who is a slave? Problems of definition

Claude Meillassoux, *Slavery in Africa: the belly of iron and gold*

Suzanne Miers and Igor Kopytoff, *Slavery in Africa*, introduction

Paul Lovejoy, *Transformations in Slavery*, Introduction

Wednesday May 13, Numbers and Origins of slaves; methods of enslavement

Philip Curtin, *The Atlantic slave trade: a census*

Paul Lovejoy, 'The volume of the Atlantic slave trade: a synthesis', in *JAH* 23, 1982, 473-501.

David Eltis and David Richardson (eds), *Routes to slavery: direction, mortality and ethnicity in the transatlantic slave trade, 1595-1867*

Friday May 15, The impact of the slave trade in Africa

Patrick Manning, *Slavery and African life*, especially chapter 1.

Paul Lovejoy, 'The impact of the Atlantic slave trade on Africa: a review of the literature' *JAH* 30, 1989, 365-94.

Philipp Curtin, *Economic change in precolonial Africa: Senegambia in the Era of the Atlantic Slave Trade*

John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*

Ralph Austen, *African economic history*, relevant chapters

Shane Doyle And Henri Medard, *Slavery in East Africa*, Introduction.

Wednesday May 20, DOUBLE SESSION

1, The 'plantation complex': where did exported slaves go?

Philip Curtin, *The rise and fall of the plantation complex: essays in Atlantic history*

David Birmingham, *Trade and empire in the Atlantic, 1400-1600*

David Eltis, *The rise of African slavery in the Americas*

2, Regional/local studies of slave exportation

Joseph Miller, *Way of Death*, on Angola

Paul Lovejoy and David Richardson, 'This horrid hole: royal authority, credit and commerce at Bonny, 1690-1810'. *JAH* 45, 2004, 363-94, on Nigeria

James Searing, *West African slavery and Atlantic commerce*, on Senegal

Friday May 22 NO CLASS – I will be attending a conference on slavery in Africa in Toronto.

Wednesday May 27, Regional studies of slavery within Africa: West Africa

James Searing, *West African slavery and Atlantic commerce*, various chapters

Paul Lovejoy, 'Plantations in the economy of the Sokoto Caliphate', *JAH* 19, 1978, 341-68.

Richard Roberts et al, *Slavery and colonial rule in Africa*, various chapters

Friday May 29, Regional studies: East Africa

Frederick Cooper, *Plantation slavery on the East Coast of Africa*, various chapters

Jonathon Glassman, *Feasts and riot*, various chapters

Shane Doyle and Henri Medard (eds), *Slavery in East Africa*, various chapters

Wednesday June 3, Women, gender and slavery DRAFT/BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS

Claire Robinson and Martin Klein (eds), *Women and Slavery in Africa*, especially introduction

Marcia Wright, *Strategies of slaves and women*, various chapters

David Eltis, 'The volume, age/sex ratio and African impact of the slave trade', *JAH* 31, 1990, 484-92.

Friday June 5, Resistance to slave trading in Africa and abroad

Gad Heuman (ed), *Out of the house of bondage; runaways, resistance and marronage in Africa and the New World*, various chapters

Gwyn Campbell (ed), *Resisting Bondage in Indian Ocean Africa and Asia*, various chapters

James Searing, 'No Kings, No Lords, No Slaves': Ethnicity and Religion among the Sereer-Safèn of Western Bawol (Senegal), 1700-1914," *Journal of African History* 43, 2002, 407-29

Richard Rathbone, 'Resistance to enslavement in West Africa' in *Slavery and Abolition* 6, 1985, 9-23.

Wednesday June 10, Struggling to escape the shadow of slavery

Jan Georg Deutsch, *Emancipation without abolition in German East Africa*, on Tanzania

David Robinson, *Paths of accommodation: Muslim societies and French authority in Mali and Senegal, 1880-1920*

Laura Fair, *Pastimes and politics*, on Zanzibar

Carolyn Brown, 'Testing the boundaries of marginality: twentieth-century slavery and emancipation struggles in Nkanu, Northern Igboland, 1920-29', *JAH* 37, 1996, 51-80

Friday June 12, DOUBLE SESSION

1, The legacy of slavery

Patrick Manning, *Slavery and African life*, conclusion

'Roundtable on reparations' in *African Studies Quarterly*

Paul Lovejoy, *Transformations in slavery*, Conclusion

2, Conclusion: open questions.