

Graduate History Seminar

African Diaspora H439

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W, 10:00-13:00

Description: This heavy readings course examines major recent works in the African Diaspora. It is conceptual and methodological, not narrative. Its three aims are: to expose you to some of the most important writings; to prepare you for comprehensive examinations in the field; and, to encourage you to think conceptually and methodologically about your own research interests.

Reviews: You are responsible for FOUR book reviews of at least THREE pages in length. The book review should identify who the author is, what the argument is, how the book is organized, the sources used, and an overall evaluation. It is not a book report. Hard copies should be placed in the boxes of classmates and myself before 5:00pm on Tuesday evenings. At our Wednesday meeting, I will introduce the topic, after which the reviewer will have five minutes to present, followed by questions and points from other class members. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NON-REVIEWERS COME WITH PREPARED QUESTIONS FOR THE REVIEWER. I will review those titles followed by the parentheses (jkr). By the course end, you should have a large file of book reviews that should help you with comprehensive exams as well as future research interests and teaching preparation.

Final: You will write a review essay of at least TWENTY pages on EITHER one of the weekly topics OR in your own research area. This review essay must draw upon at least ten books/articles and show some sense of the evolution of the topic, its current status, and future directions. This is not a research paper; rather, it is a review of the historical literature on the topic. The objective is to get you to think about the ways in which scholars have offered different interpretations of a topic in the African Diaspora. Students will present at the final class meeting. Two recent examples of topical review essays are Sylvia Frey's review of religion in *Slavery & Abolition* 29:1 (Mar. 2008), 83-110; and the "Symposium on African-American Historiography," in *The Journal of African-American History* 92:2 (Spring 2007). For model review essays, see entries in the journal *Reviews in American History*.

Readings: You are responsible for obtaining Common readings as well as books under Reviews. This has two aims. First, it cuts down on your book expenses. Second, it encourages you to seek out repositories on campus, in the District, beyond etc., that should prove useful for future research endeavors. I will provide those readings marked with an asterisk *.

Grading: Your overall grade will be based upon the 4 book reviews, class contribution, and the final review essay.

Schedule:

Jan. 13: Introduction

Jan. 20: Diaspora I: Classics

Common:

(Each student to pick one and provide an oral report)

C. L. R. James, *Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution* (1938)

M. J. Herskovits, *The Myth of the Negro Past* (1941)

G. A. Shepperson, *Independent African: John Chilembwe and the...Nyasaland Native Rising of 1915* (1958)

F. M. Snowden, *Blacks in Antiquity* (1970)

J. E. Harris, *The African Presence in Asia: Consequences of the East African Slave Trade* (1971)

- W. Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (1972)
 C. A. Diop, *Civilization or Barbarism: An Authentic Anthropology* (O.P. 1981; trans. 1991)
 J. E. Harris, *Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora* (1982)
 C. J. Robinson, *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition* (1983)

Jan. 27: Black Atlantic Critique

Common:

Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness* (1993)

Reviews:

- W. J. Bolster, *Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail* (1997)
 H. L. Gates & W. L. Andrews, eds., *Pioneers of the Black Atlantic* (1998)
 A. Pettinger, *Always Elsewhere: Travel Writings of the Black Atlantic* (1998)
 P. Linebaugh & M. Rediker, *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves...Revolutionary Atlantic* (2000)
 Van Gosse, "...African American Politics in the British Atlantic World..." *AHR* (Oct. 2008)
 T. Falola & K. D. Roberts, eds., *The Atlantic World* (2008)

Feb. 3: Diaspora II: New Directions

Common:

Patrick Manning, *The African Diaspora: A History through Culture* (2009)

Reviews:

- D. C. Hine, J. McCleod, *Crossing Boundaries: Comparative History of Black People in the Diaspora* (1999)
 I. Okpewho, C. Boyce Davis, A. A. Mazrui, eds., *African Diaspora* (1999)
 K. A. Appiah and H. L. Gates, eds., *Africana* (2000)
 "Rethinking the African Diaspora," *African Studies Review* (April 2000): 1-68
 S. de Jayasuriya & R. Pankhurst, eds. *The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean* (2001)
 L. M. Heywood, ed., *Central Africans and Cultural Transformations in the American Diaspora* (2002)
 J. Sweet, *Recreating Africa: Culture, Kinship, and Religion in the African-Portuguese World* (2003)
 T. Falola & M. D. Childs, eds., *The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World* (2004)
 J. L. Matory, *Black Atlantic Religion: Tradition... in the Afro-Brazilian Candomble* (2005)
 G. Thomas, *The Sexual Demon of Colonial Power* (2007) (jkr) *
 "Reconceptualizations of the African Diaspora," *Radical History Review* 103 (Winter 2009)

Feb. 10: Islamic Slave Trade

Common:

Ronald Segal, *Islam's Black Slaves* (2001)

Reviews:

- A. Popovic, *The Revolt of African Slaves in Iraq* (1976; Eng. Trans., 1999)
 A. Sheriff, *Slaves, Spices, and Ivory in Zanzibar* (1987)
 M. Gordon, *Slavery in the Arab World* (1989)
 G. Clarence-Smith, ed., *The Economics of the Indian Ocean Slave Trade in the C19th* (1989)

- A. Gupta, ed., *Minorities on India's West Coast: History and Society* (1991)
- E. R. Toledano, *Slavery and Abolition in the Ottoman Middle East* (1998)
- S. E. Marmon, ed., *Slavery in the Islamic Middle East* (1999)
- R. B. Allen, *Slaves, Freedmen and Indentured Servants in Colonial Mauritius* (1999)
- J. Hunwick & E. T. Powell, *African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam* (2002)
- R. Davis, *Christian Slaves, Muslim Masters* (2003)
- E. A. Alpers, ed., *Sidis and Scholars: Essays on African Indians* (2004)
- W. G. Clarence-Smith, *Islam and the Abolition of Slavery* (2006)

Feb. 17: **Atlantic Slave Trade**

Common:

Robin Law, *Ouidah: The Social History of a West African Slaving 'Port'* (2004)

Reviews:

- "New Perspectives on the Atlantic Slave Trade," *WMQ* (Jan. 2001)
- S. A. Diouf, *Fighting the Slave Trade* (2003)
- E. R. Taylor, *If We Must Die: Shipboard Insurrections in the Era of the Atlantic Slave Trade* (2006)
- M. Rediker, *The Slave Ship: A Human History* (2007)
- E. Christopher, C. Pybus, M. Rediker, eds., *Many Middle Passages* (2007) (jkr)
- S. E. Smallwood, *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora* (2007)
- R. M. Adderley, "New Negroes from Africa": *Slave Trade Abolition and Free African Settlement* (2007)

Feb. 24: **Rice Worker Debate**

Common:

- Judith Carney, *Black Rice* (2001)
- David Eltis et al., "Agency and Diaspora in Atlantic History..." *AHR* 112:5 (Dec. 2007), 1329-1358.

Reviews:

- Converse Clowse, *Economic Beginnings in Colonial South Carolina, 1670-1730* (1971)
- Peter Wood, *Black Majority* (1974)
- Daniel Littlefield, *Rice and Slaves* (1981)
- Julie Smith, *Rice and Slaves in Lowcountry Georgia, 1750-1860* (1985)
- Lorena Walsh, *From Calabar to Carter's Grove* (1997)
- Walter Hawthorne, *Planting Rice and Harvesting Slaves* (2003)

Mar. 3: **New World Slavery**

Common:

Gwendolyn M. Hall, *Slavery and African Ethnicities in the Americas* (2005)

Reviews:

- N. A. T. Hall, *Slave Society in the Danish West Indies* (1992)
- J. J. Reiss, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil* (1993)
- D. B. Gaspar & D. C. Hine, eds., *Beyond Bondage: Free Women of Color in the Americas* (2004)

- A. Helg, *Liberty & Equality in Caribbean Columbia, 1770-1835* (2004)
 S. White & G. White, *The Sounds of Slavery* (2005)
 A. O. Thompson, *Flight to Freedom: African Runaways and Maroons in the Americas* (2006)
 D. R. Berry, *Gender and Slavery in Antebellum Georgia* (2007)
 A. E. Kaye, *Joining Places: Slave Neighborhoods in the Old South* (2007)
 K. Williamson, ed., *Contrary Voices: Representations of West Indian Slavery, 1657-1834* (2008)

Mar. 10: The Great Emancipators

Common:

Kerr-Ritchie, "The Great Emancipators: How Slaves Destroyed Slavery in the Americas," *

Reviews:

- L. Dubois, *A Colony of Citizens: Revolution and Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean* (2004)
 M. S. Bell, *Toussaint Louverture: A Biography* (2007)
 G. Mathews, *Caribbean Slave Revolts and the British Abolition Movement* (2006)
 J. R. Kerr-Ritchie, *Rites of August First: Emancipation Day in the Black Atlantic World* (2007)
 R. Blackburn, *The Overthrow of Colonial Slavery* (1988), esp. chapter XII
 P. Blanchard, *under the flags of freedom* (2008) (jkr)
 I. Berlin et al., *Slaves No More* (1993)
 J. R. Kerr-Ritchie, "Forty Acres, or, An Act of Bad Faith," *Souls* (Summer 2003): 8-22
 L. A. Figueroa, *Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico* (2005)
 A. Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898* (1999)
 G. R. Andrews, *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000* (2004)
 M. A. Klein, ed., *Slavery, Bondage, and Emancipation in Modern African, Asia* (1993)
 J. Rodriguez, ed., *Encyclopedia of Emancipation and Abolition in the Transatlantic World* (2007)

MAR. 13-21 SPRING RECESS

Mar. 24: Emancipation in Diaspora

Common:

K. D. Butler, "...Afro-Atlantic Identity," (1999) *; T. C. Holt, "...Diasporan Framework," (1999) *

Reports:

- W. Jeffrey Bolster, *Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail* (1997)
 J. W. Pulis, ed., *Moving On: Black Loyalists in the Afro-Atlantic World* (1999)
 H. A. Whitfield, *Blacks on the Border: The Black Refugees in British North America, 1815-1860* (2006)
 H. Beckles, V. Shepherd, *Caribbean Freedom: Economy & Society from Emancipation to the Present* (1996)
 M. J. Newton, *The Children of Africa: Free People of Color in Barbados in the Age of Emancipation* (2008)
 D. L. Eudell, *The Political Languages of Emancipation in the British Caribbean & the U.S. South* (2002)
 S. Hahn, *A Nation Under our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South* (2003) (jkr) *
 D. C. Penningroth, *The Claims of Kinfolk: African American Property & Community in the C19th South* (2003)
 S. A. Diouf, *Dreams of Africa in Alabama* (2007)

K. D. Butler, *Freedoms Given, Freedoms Won: Afro-Brazilians in Post-Abolition Sao Paolo & Salvador* (1998)

P. Scully & D. Paton, eds., *Gender & Slave Emancipation in the Atlantic World* (2005)

R. Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery* (2005)

Mar. 31: **Homelands**

Common:

TBA

Reviews:

C. Dixon, *African America and Haiti: Emigration and Black Nationalism in the C19th* (2000)

K. C. Barnes, *Journey of Hope: The Back to Africa Movement in Arkansas in the Late 1800s* (2004)

C. A. Clegg III, *The Price of Liberty: African Americans and the Making of Liberia* (2004)

J. T. Campbell, *Middle Passages: African America Journeys to Africa, 1787-2005* (2006)

K. S. Frost, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad* (2007)

S. A. Roger Hepburn, *Crossing the Border: A Free Black Community in Canada* (2007)

M. Tyler-McGraw, *An African Republic: Black & White Virginians in the Making of Liberia* (2007)

K. K. Gaines, *American Africans in Ghana: Black Expatriates and the Civil Rights Era* (2008)

D. S. Newman, *Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, & Black Founding Fathers* (2008)

Apr. 7: **Garveyism**

Common:

C. Grant, *Negro with a Hat: The Rise and Fall of Marcus Garvey* (2008)

Reviews:

R. A. Hill, ed., *The Marcus Garvey & UNIA Papers*, 10 vols. (1983-1994)

L. Brock and D. C. Fuertes, eds., *Between Race and Empire* (1998)

W. James, *Holding Aloft the Banner of Ethiopia* (1998)

R. Vinson, "The Garvey Movement in South Africa 1920-40," Howard diss. (2001)

U. Y. Taylor, *The Veiled Garvey: Life and Times of Amy Jacques Garvey* (2002)

J. U. Issa, "The UNIA in Louisiana," Howard diss. (2005)

M. G. Robinson, *Grassroots Garveyism: UNIA in the Rural South, 1920-1927* (2007)

Apr. 14: **Student Topics**

Apr. 21: **Student Presentations**