

HISTORY 100.04  
THE RISE AND FALL OF NEW WORLD SLAVERY

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Course time and location: TTH 8:00-9:50 a.m., ARH 131  
Office Hours: M, W 2:30-3:30; F 2:30-4:30; and by appointment

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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the study of history by examining New World slavery, as well as the social movements that abolished the institution. We will use our exploration of slavery as it developed in Brazil, the Caribbean, and mainland North America as a window on issues of power and exploitation, outsiders and insiders, the construction of race, the connections between freedom and slavery, the early stages of consumer-driven economics, and the promise and limitations of social reform.

This course is designed as an attempt to bring to life the creative processes of consuming and producing history. One of the main goals of the course is to provide you with an opportunity to experience the kind of curiosity about the past that compels people to write history books. Most of you will not go on to become historians, but all of you will benefit by gaining a better understanding of how historians go about their work.

How will you benefit? In our private and public lives, we are constantly challenged to figure out how something happened and to provide a cogent explanation based on the available evidence for how something came to be. It could be something as mundane as having to explain to your roommate why you did not do the dishes in the morning; or, something as serious as explaining why your country must make war on another country.

This course seeks to introduce you to the means by which professional historians explain the past. Throughout the course, you will be challenged to discover how historians examine evidence, how they pose questions, and how they reach answers. More significantly, however, the course is designed to facilitate your ability to be a discerning consumer of information, and to hone your capacity to participate in public life.

## BOOKS

- 1) T.H. Breen, and Stephen Innes, "Myne Owne Ground": Race and Freedom on Virginia's Eastern Shore, 1640-1676
- 2) David Brion Davis, Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World
- 3) James Walvin, Atlas of Slavery
- 4) John Arnold, History: A Very Short Introduction
- 5) Laurent Dubois and John D. Garrigus, Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1789-1804: A Brief History with Documents

## ASSIGNMENTS:

Participation: 20%  
Short assignments: 20%  
Film review: 5%  
Document analysis: 5%  
3-4 page paper 15%  
Review of book review 5%  
Book review 10%  
Footnote assignment 5%  
Annotated bibliography 15%

## INTRODUCTION

Thur., Jan. 28

Reading: John Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction*, ch. 1

## WHAT IS HISTORY?

Tue., Feb. 3

Reading:

John Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction*, chapters 2-4

Thur., Feb. 4

Reading:

Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction*, chapters 5-7

9-10:30 p.m., in the Cultural Education Center (CEC, located in the AV center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of ARH): Film "A Midwife's Tale." If you are unable to watch the film at this time, it is on reserve at Burling's Listening Room and the AV Center in ARH.

Tue., Feb. 9

**Assignment due:** Thesis statement of film review.

Discuss: "A Midwife's Tale"

Field Trip: Grinnell College Archives, with Catherine Rod, Special Collections Librarian and Archivist of the College, 9 a.m.

Thur., Feb. 11

**Assignment due:** Film Review of a "Midwife's Tale"

Reading: Jules R. Benjamin, Ch. 4, "How to Research a History Topic," in *A Student's Guide to History* (Course Documents)

Field Trip: Computer Lab in Burling Library, An Introduction to Databases for History Students, Catherine Rod, 9 a.m.

## OLD WORLD SLAVERY

Tue., Feb. 16

Reading:

- 1) Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*, Chapter. 2
- 2) Walvin, *Atlas of Slavery*, Chapters 2-4

## EUROPEAN EXPANSION

Thur., Feb. 18

Reading:

- 1) Alfred Crosby, "The Fortunate Isles," in *Ecological Imperialism: The Expansion of Europe, 900-1900* (photocopy)
- 2) Walvin, *Atlas of Slavery*, Chapters 5 and 10

Fri., Feb. 19

**Assignment due by 5 p.m. via email attachment:** Review of book review.

## AFRICANS IN THE MAKING OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Tue., Feb. 23

Reading:

- 1) Excerpts from Elizabeth Donnan, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade*

Thur., Feb. 25

**Assignment due:** Document analysis.

Reading:

- 1) Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*, ch. 4

## RACE AND SLAVERY

Tue., Mar. 2

Reading:

T.H. Breen, "Myne Owne Ground" (entire book)

Thur., Mar. 4

Reading:

- 1) Eric Williams, "Economics, Not Racism at the Root of Slavery" in Northrup, ed., *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, 2-6
- 2) Winthrop D. Jordan, "The Simultaneous Invention of Slavery and Racism," in Northrup, ed., *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, 7-13
- 3) Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*, ch. 3

## THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

Tue., Mar. 9

Reading:

- 1) Northrup, ed., *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, 65-100 (Course Documents)
- 2) Walvin, *Atlas of Slavery*, chs. 7, 10-12

Fri., Mar. 10

**Assignment due via email attachment by 5 p.m. :** Book review

## BRAZIL AND THE CARIBBEAN

Thur., Mar. 11

Reading:

- 1) Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*, ch. 5
- 2) Walvin, *Atlas of Slavery*, chs. 13 and 14

Tue., Mar. 16

Reading:

Dubois and Garrigus, *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean*, 7-22; 49-62.

## MAINLAND NORTH AMERICA

Thur., Mar. 18

Reading:

- 1) Ira Berlin, "Time, Space, and the Evolution of African-American Society," *American Historical Review* 85, no. 1 (February 1980), 44-78. (JSTOR)
- 2) Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*, ch. 6

Fri., Mar. 19

**Assignment due by 5 p.m. via email attachment:** Footnote assignment.

Mar. 19 – Apr. 5, SPRING BREAK!

#### PATERNALISM AND CONTROL

Tue., Apr. 6

Reading:

- 1) Stanley M. Elkins, *Slavery: A Problem in American Institutional and Intellectual Life*, Ch. 3 (Course Documents)
- 2) E. Franklin Frazier, "Significance of the African Background," in *The Negro in the United States*, rev. ed., (Course Documents)
- 3) Eugene D. Genovese, "On Paternalism," in Goodheart, et al., eds., *Slavery in American Society*, 13-20. (Course Documents)

#### SLAVE COMMUNITIES

Thur., Apr. 8

Reading:

- 1) Sidney W. Mintz and Richard Price, *The Price of African-American Culture: An Anthropological Perspective*, chs. 4-5 (Course Documents)
- 2) Peter Kolchin, "Reevaluating the Antebellum Slave Community: A Comparative Perspective," *Journal of American History* 70, no. 3 (December 1983), 579-601. (JSTOR)

Tue., Apr. 13

Reading:

- 1) Eugene D. Genovese, *From Rebellion to Revolution: Afro-American Slave Revolts in the Making of the Modern World*, Introduction – Ch. 2 (Course Documents)
- 2) Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch. 11

#### THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Thur., Apr. 15

Reading:

- 1) Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch. 7
- 2) Michael Mullin, "British Caribbean and North American Slaves in an Era of War and Revolution, 1775-1807," in Jeffrey J. Crow and Larry E. Tise, eds., *The Southern Experience in the American Revolution*, 235-67 (Course Documents)

#### THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION

Tue., Apr. 20

Reading:

Dubois and Garrigus, *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean*, 24-45 and 63-85

Thur., Apr. 22

Reading:

Dubois and Garrigus, *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean*, 86-132

## ABOLITIONISM

Tue., Apr. 27

Reading:

- 1) Eric Williams, "Slavery, Industrialization, and Abolitionism," in Northup, ed., *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, 134-140. (Course Documents)
- 2) Howard Temperly, "The Idea of Progress," in Northup, ed., *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, 177-187 (Course Documents)

Thur., Apr. 29

Reading:

- 1) Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*, ch. 11
- 2) James L. Huston, "Abolitionists, Political Economists, and Capitalism," *Journal of the Early Republic* 20, no. 3 (Autumn 2000), 487-521 (JSTOR)

## EMANCIPATIONS

Tue., May 4

Reading:

- 1) Eric Foner, *Nothing But Freedom*, ch. 2 (Course Documents)
- 2) Peter Kolchin, "The Tragic Era? Interpreting Southern Reconstruction in Comparative Perspective," in Frank McClynn and Seymour Drescher, eds., *The Meaning of Freedom: Economics, Politics, and Culture after Slavery*, 291-321 (Course Documents)
- 3) Walvin, *Atlas of Slavery*, ch. 18

Thur., May 6

Reading:

- 1) Seymour Drescher, "Brazilian Abolition in Comparative Perspective," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 68, no. 3 (August 1988), 429-60 (JSTOR)

Tue., May 11

Reading:

- 1) Rebecca J. Scott, "Defining the Boundaries of Freedom in the World of Cane: Cuba, Brazil, and Louisiana after Emancipation," *American Historical Review* 99, no. 1 (February 1994), 70-102 (JSTOR)

Thur., May 13  
No Reading.

Thur., May 20  
**Annotated bibliography due via email attachment by 5 p.m.**