

History 207
**The History of the Americas: African Slavery in the Americas
(Brazil and the United States, 1500-1888)**
The University of Calgary
Fall 2009

Instructors:

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Course Grading:

First Essay (Due October 9)	15%
Mid-Term Examination (October 19)	20%
Second Essay (Due November 18)	35%
Final Examination (To Be Scheduled by the Registrar)	30%
Total	100%

You must complete all assignments in order to pass this course. Late essays will be penalized at a rate of 1/3 of a mark per late day (so that a “B” essay that is turned in two days late would receive a “C+”).

Texts Available for Purchase (at the University Bookstore):

Laird W. Bergad, *The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States*
(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

Free Texts:

The History Student's Handbook: A Short Guide to Writing History Essays, available at
<http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/EssayHandbook.pdf>.

A number of articles, book chapters, and primary sources are assigned reading for this course. They are available under “Course Documents” at the course Blackboard site and are indicated with an asterisk in this syllabus. In addition, specific readings are assigned for both of the essays and they are also available on the course Blackboard site.

Course Description:

This course is a thematic treatment of the history of the American continents with special attention to multicultural encounters, immigration and migration, economic and labor systems, social structures, and the frontiers of European settlement. This semester, these themes will be addressed through the lens of African slavery in the Americas, a topic which integrally connects all of these themes. The course will focus primarily on Brazil and the United States, two of the largest and longest-lived slave regimes in the Western Hemisphere. The course will begin with the rise of the African slave trade, looking both at the experiences of enslaved Africans and the expansion of African slavery as an important institution in the

Atlantic world, especially in the Americas. The course will examine the many systems of slave labor in the Americas and the experience of work for slaves. It will explore the nature of slave life and culture apart from the work regime and examine efforts to resist enslavement, and will conclude with a comparative discussion of the destruction of slavery.

Course Requirements: Students will write two essays for this course, and take one mid-term examination and a comprehensive final examination.

First Essay: The first essay for this course should be about 750 words in length and is due on October 9. The essay will focus on two assigned primary-source documents and must answer the specific question about them that is explained in “History 207 Essay Assignment I,” available on Blackboard.

Mid-Term Examination: The midterm will be a fifty-minute in-class examination that focuses on the readings and lectures for unit one. The exam will consist of several questions to be answered in full paragraphs. Students should come to the exam on time and those who finish in the final five minutes of the exam should wait until the end of the midterm to turn in their work and leave the classroom (so as not to disturb others).

Second Essay: The second essay for this course should be about 1250 words in length and is due on November 18. The essay will focus on six assigned secondary-sources and must answer the specific question about them that is explained in “History 207 Essay Assignment II,” available on Blackboard.

Final Examination: A comprehensive two-hour final examination will be scheduled by the registrar during the examination period (December 11-21). It will include material from the readings and the lectures and will consist of both short-answer questions and one essay question.

Department of History Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is defined as submitting or presenting one’s work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one’s own work done expressly for that course, when, in fact, it is not. Plagiarism may take several forms:

- a) Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, ideas, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- b) Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghost-written papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one’s own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- c) Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works. The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author’s language and ideas as one’s own. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. A plagiarized paper will automatically be failed. Plagiarism may also result in a failing grade for the course and other penalties as noted in *The University of Calgary Calendar*.

Office Hours:

Please come to see us during our scheduled office hours, especially if you are having difficulty with this course. If you cannot meet one of us during scheduled office hours, we can consult before or after class or schedule an appointment for another time. Feel free to telephone during office hours or to send e-mail messages at any time. Please send e-mail questions to only one of us, include History 207 in the subject line, and include your full name in the message.

Blackboard:

The Blackboard site for this course will deliver many of the assigned readings (all of which are listed below and indicated with an asterisk). The instructors will also post the slide shows used in class (under Course Information), course handouts, and most of the announcements made in class. Students are encouraged to check Blackboard on a regular basis. The login page for Blackboard can be found at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that to access Blackboard you must have a University of Calgary IT account.

Lecture Topics and Assignment Schedule**Unit I: The Rise of Slave Labor Regimes*****Readings to be completed by September 28:***

Laird W. Bergad, *The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), chap. 1, 2.

*Robin Blackburn, *The Making of New World Slavery: From the Baroque to the Modern, 1492-1800* (London: Verso, 1997), 95-125, 161-84.

Readings to be completed by October 5:

Laird W. Bergad, *The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), chap. 5.

*Mary C. Karasch, *Slave Life in Rio de Janeiro, 1808-1850* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987), 185-213.

*Philip D. Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake and Lowcountry* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 146-203.

*"Governor Hammond's Instructions to His Overseer," in *A Documentary History of Slavery in North America*, ed. Willie Lee Rose (New York: Oxford University Press, 1976), 345-54.

*"Practical Advice on the Management of Plantation Slaves (1847)," in *Children of God's Fire: A Documentary History of Black Slavery in Brazil*, ed. Robert Edgar Conrad (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1994), 77-79.

PLEASE NOTE: Additional readings are assigned specifically for the first essay; see, on the course Blackboard, "History 207 Essay Assignment I."

September 9: Introduction

September 11: What Is Slavery?

September 14: Slavery in Africa

September 16: Atlantic World Overview

September 18: Toward Slavery in the Americas

September 21: Sugar Plantations

September 23: The Course of the Slave Trade

September 25: The Rise of Slavery in North America I

September 28: The Rise of Slavery in North America II

September 30: Rice and the Slaves' Economy

October 2: Mining and Coffee

October 5: Cotton

October 7: House and Small-Scale Slavery

October 9: Urban Slavery

****Essay Assignment I Due****

October 12: **Thanksgiving Day: No Class Meeting**

October 14: The Impact of the Slave Trade on Africa

October 16: The Slave Trade in Perspective

October 19: **Mid-Term Examination**

Unit II: Slave Society and Culture

Readings to be completed by the dates indicated below:

Laird W. Bergad, *The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), chaps. 3, 4, 6, 7.

PLEASE NOTE: Additional readings are assigned specifically for the second essay; see, on the course Blackboard, "History 207 Essay Assignment II."

October 21: Demography of Slavery (Read Bergad, *Comparative Histories*, chap. 4, before this lecture)

October 23: Food and Disease

October 26: Slave Families (Read Bergad, *Comparative Histories*, chaps. 3 and 6, before this lecture)

October 28: Culture and Religion in Brazil I

October 30: Culture and Religion in Brazil II

November 2: Culture and Religion in the U.S. I

November 4: Culture and Religion in the U.S. II

November 6: Resistance and Rebellion I (Read Bergad, *Comparative Histories*, chap. 7, before this lecture)

November 9: Resistance and Rebellion II

November 11-15: **Reading Days: No Class Meetings**

November 16: Free Blacks

Unit III: Emancipation and Abolition: The End of Slavery

Readings to be completed by December 2:

Laird W. Bergad, *The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), chap. 8.

*Ira Berlin, "Who Freed the Slaves? Emancipation and Its Meaning," in *Union and Emancipation: Essays on Politics and Race in the Civil War Era*, ed. David W. Blight and Brooks D. Simpson (Kent: The Kent State University Press, 1997), 105-21.

*George Reid Andrews, *Blacks and Whites in São Paulo, Brazil, 1888-1988* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1991), 25-53.

November 18 Questioning Slavery

****Essay Due Today****

November 20: The American Revolution and First Emancipation

November 23: The Haitian Revolution

November 25: Brazil, Britain and the Slave Trade

November 27: Expanding and Defending Slavery in the United States

November 30: The Civil War and U.S. Emancipation

December 2: Brazilian Abolition

December 4: After Abolition

December 7: Review

December 11-21: Final Examination to be Scheduled by Registrar