

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester I Year 1982-83

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
753	Slavery: the Americas, Africa, and Europe	Stern

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Slavery has linked the histories of Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and the Caribbean. Its history--and legacy--is in this sense literally international. At the same time, its wide diffusion across diverse regions, cultures, and historical contexts has complicated the very definition of "slavery," and has made the institution a fruitful and controversial area of research and debate in comparative history.

This graduate seminar on slavery has several purposes: to introduce students to central issues in the historiography of slavery; to study specific case studies drawn from a wide variety of settings; and to develop, in our discussions especially, a comparative approach which actively utilizes insights and findings from "unfamiliar" historical or cultural settings to reinterpret the history of areas in which we specialize.

During the course of the semester, we will discuss readings dealing with the slave experience in the Americas (both North and South, and the Caribbean), Africa, and Europe. Normally, we will discuss not only the "core readings" assigned to the seminar as a whole, but also student review-essays on supplementary readings of direct relevance for the issues raised in the core readings. Our readings will include case studies as well as overarching interpretations, anthropological as well as more conventional historical analyses, older classics as well as recent work.

LECTURES

No lectures, since this is a seminar.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

No examinations. Students will be expected to write two in-depth review essays (10-15 pages each) on supplementary readings, and their implications for the week's core reading. A student may arrange to substitute a longer research essay (ca. 30 pages) on a comparative topic in lieu of the two review essays.

GRADING SYSTEM

50% class discussion; 50% written work ("written work" includes whatever brief oral presentations may accompany the review essays).

REQUIRED READINGS

See the comments in the course description. Among the "core readings" will be Frederick Cooper, Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of Africa; David B. Davis, The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution; Carl Degler, Neither Black Nor White; M. I. Finley, The Ancient Economy; Eugene D. Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll; C. L. R. James, The Black Jacobins; Franklin W. Knight, Slave Society in Cuba; S. Miers & I. Kopytoff, eds., Slavery in Africa; Alexander Marchant, From Barter to Slavery; Richard Price, ed., Maroon Societies: Rebel Slave Communities; Stanley Stein, Vassouras: A Brazilian Coffee County; Peter Wood, Black Majority; plus articles. These core readings will be rounded out by our extensive supplementary readings, and the review-essays on them.

University of Wisconsin--Madison
Department of History
Semester I, 1982-83

History 753
(Comparative World
History Seminar)

Slavery: The Americas, Africa & Europe Steve J. Stern

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Proposed Schedule

1. Introduction. Aug. 30

Organizational session. Please note that the following Monday, Sept. 6, is a holiday on the UW calendar. I suggest that during Sept. 7-10, we hold an organizational meeting to set up a calendar of review-essays, and that students unfamiliar with the dimensions of the Atlantic slave trade look at Philip D. Curtin, The Atlantic Slave Trade: A Census (Madison, 1969), and Herbert S. Klein, The Middle Passage: Comparative Studies in the Atlantic Slave Trade (Princeton, 1978).

Unit I. THE COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN THE AMERICAS.

2. Appeals and Pitfalls of Comparative Studies. Sept. 13.

Core reading: Carl Degler, Neither Black Nor White: Slavery and Race Relations in Brazil and the United States (New York, 1971).

Supplementary:

- a) Frank Tannenbaum, Slave and Citizen: The Negro in the Americas (New York, 1946).
Marvin Harris, Patterns of Race in the Americas (New York, 1964), 65-94.
[Also available in Laura Foner and Eugene D. Genovese, eds., Slavery in the New World: A Reader in Comparative History (Prentice Hall, N.J., 1969), 38-59.]
Winthrop D. Jordan, "American Chiaroscuro...", in Foner and Genovese, eds., Slavery, 189-201.
Eugene D. Genovese, "The Treatment of Slaves in Different Countries...", in Ibid., 202 - 210.
 - b) Stanley H. Elkins, Slavery: A Problem in American Institutional and Intellectual Life (Chicago, 1959).
Ann J. Lane, ed., The Debate Over Slavery: Stanley Elkins and His Critics (Urbana, 1971).
Sidney W. Mintz, "Slavery and Emergent Capitalisms," in Foner and Genovese, eds., Slavery, 27-37.
3. Origins of Slave Societies. Sept. 20.
- Core Rdnng: Alexander Marchant, From Barter to Slavery: The Economic Relations of Portuguese and Indians in the Settlement of Brazil, 1500-1580 (Baltimore, 1942).
Stuart Schwartz, "Indian Labor and New World Plantations: European Demands and Indian Responses in Northeastern Brazil," American Historical Review, 83:1 (Feb., 1978), 43-79.
- Supplmtry: Richard S. Dunn, Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the British West Indies, 1624-1713 (Chapel Hill, 1972).
Oscar and Mary F. Handlin, "Origins of the Southern Labor System," William and Mary Quarterly, 7 (1950), 199-222.
Edmund S. Morgan, "The Labor Problem at Jamestown, 1607-1618," American Historical Review, 76:3 (June, 1971), 595-611.
Edmond S. Morgan, "Slavery and Freedom: The American Paradox," Journal of American History, (1972), 5-29.
4. Varieties of Slave Settings. Sept. 27.
- Core rdng: Franklin W. Knight, Slave Society in Cuba during the Nineteenth Century. (Madison, 1970).
- Supplmtry:
- a) Manuel Moreno Fraginals, El ingenio: el complejo económico social cubano del azúcar (3 vols., Havana, 1964).
Note: Part of this work is published in English translation.
 - b) Frederick P. Bowser, The African Slave in Colonial Peru, 1524-1650 (Stanford, 1974).

5. The Master-Slave Relationship: the United States. Oct. 4.

Core rdng: Eugene D. Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made (New York, 1974).

Eugene D. Genovese, The World the Slaveholders Made: Two Essays in Interpretation (New York, 1969), Part II.

Supplmtry:

- a) Robert W. Fogel and Stanley L. Engerman, Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery (2 vols., Boston, 1974).
Paul A. David et al., Reckoning with Slavery: A Critical Study in the Quantitative History of American Negro Slavery (New York, 1976).
- b) Kenneth M. Stamp, The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Ante-bellum South (New York, 1956).
- c) Herbert G. Gutman, The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925 (New York, 1976).
- d) Edmund S. Morgan, American Slavery--American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia (New York, 1975).

6. The Master-Slave Relationship: Brazil. Oct. 11.

Core rdng: Stanley J. Stein, Vassouras, A Brazilian Coffee County, 1850-1890: The Roles of Planter and Slave in a Changing Plantation Society (Cambridge, Ma., 1957).

Supplmtry:

- a) Gilberto Freyre, The Masters and the Slaves (New York, 1946).
Stuart B. Schwartz, "Free Labor in a Slave Economy: The Lavradores de Cana of Colonial Bahia," in Dauril Alden, ed., The Colonial Roots of Modern Brazil (Berkeley, 1973), 147-197.
- b) C.R. Boxer, The Golden Age of Brazil, 1695-1750 (Berkeley, 1962), esp. 162-225.
A.J.R. Russell-Wood, "Technology and Society: The Impact of Gold Mining on the Institution of Slavery in Portuguese America," Journal of Economic History, XXXVII:1 (March, 1977), 59-83, and the "Comment" on 84-86.
C.R. Boxer, Race Relations in the Portuguese Colonial Empire, 1415-1825 (Oxford, 1963).

7. Towards an Afro-American Perspective. Oct. 18.

Core rdng: Peter H. Wood, Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion (New York, 1974).

Sidney W. Mintz, "Toward an Afro-American History," Cahiers d'histoire Mondiale, XIII:2 (1971), 317-332.

Supplmtry: Sidney W. Mintz, Caribbean Transformations (Chicago, 1974).

Sidney W. Mintz and Richard Price, An Anthropological Approach to the Afro-American Past: A Caribbean Perspective (ISHI Occasional Papers in Social Change, No. 2, Philadelphia, 1976).

Margaret E. Crahan and Franklin W. Knight, eds., Africa and the Caribbean: The Legacies of a Link (Baltimore, 1981).

8. Flight and Resistance. Oct. 25.

Core rdng: Richard Price, ed., Maroon Societies: Rebel Slave Communities in the Americas (2nd ed., Baltimore, 1979), 1-30, 60-63, 82-103, 169-292.

Clive Gammon, "Cradle of Champions," Sports Illustrated (Nov. 24, 1980), 86-100.

Stuart B. Schwartz, "Resistance and Accommodation in Eighteenth-Century Brazil: The Slaves' View of Slavery," Hispanic American Historical Review, 57:1 (Feb., 1977), 69-81.

Supplmtry:

a) Esteban Montejo, Autobiography of a Runaway Slave, Miguel Barnet, ed., (London, 1968), esp. 1-60.

Lucille Mathurin, The Rebel Woman in the British West Indies During Slavery (Kingston, 1975).

Alan Tuelon, "Nanny--Maroon Chieftainess," Caribbean Quarterly, XIX (December, 1973), 20-27.

b) Barbara Kopytoff, "Jamaican Maroon Political Organization: The Effects of the Treaties," Social and Economic Studies, XXV (June, 1976) 87-105.

Barbara Kopytoff, "The Early Political Development of Jamaican Maroon Societies," William & Mary Quarterly, XXXV (April, 1978), 287-307.

Barbara Kopytoff, "The Development of Jamaican Maroon Ethnicity," Caribbean Quarterly, XXII (June-September, 1976), 33-50.

Richard Price, Saramaka Social Structure: Analysis of 'Bush Negro' Society (Rio Piedras, 1973).

c) Gerald W. Mullin, Flight and Rebellion: Slave Resistance in Eighteenth-Century Virginia (New York, 1972).

George Fredrickson and Christopher Lasch, "Resistance to

Slavery," Civil War History, 13 (1967), 315-339.

- d) Waldemar de Almeida Barbosa, Negros e quilombos em Minas Gerais (Belo Horizonte, 1972).

9. From Resistance to Insurrection. Nov. 1.

Core rdng: C.L.R. James, The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution (2nd ed., New York, 1963).

Supplmtry:

- a) Eugene D. Genovese, From Rebellion to Revolution: Afro-American Slave Revolts in the Making of the New World (Baton Rouge, 1979).
Orlando Patterson, The Sociology of Slavery (London, 1967).
- b) Stephen B. Oates, The Fires of Jubilee: Nat Turner's Fierce Rebellion (New York, 1975).
F. Roy Johnson, The Nat Turner Slave Insurrection (Murfreesboro, 1966).
- c) Robert Debs Heinl, Written in Blood: the Story of the Haitian People, 1492-1971 (Boston, 1978).
Charles Frostin, Les revoltes blanches à Saint-Domingue aux XVIIe et XVIII siècles (Haiti avant 1789) (Paris, 1975).
Thomas O. Hott, The Haitian Revolution, 1789-1804 (Knoxville, 1973).

UNIT II. BEYOND THE AMERICAS.

10. The Problematic Meaning of "Slavery": African Perspectives. Nov. 8.

Core rdng: Suzanne Miers and Igor Kopytoff, eds., Slavery in Africa: Historical and Anthropological Perspectives (Madison, 1977), Parts I, II, III, VIII.

Supplmtry: Miers and Kopytoff, eds., Slavery, Parts IV-VII.
Claude Meillassoux, L'esclavage en Afrique précoloniale (Paris, 1975).

11. Muslim Slavery in Comparative Perspective. Nov. 15.

Core rdng: Frederick Cooper, Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of Africa (New Haven, 1977).

Supplmtry: Allan G.B. Fisher and Humphrey J. Fisher, Slavery and Muslim Society in Africa (Garden City, New York, 1971).

12. Slavery in the Ancient World. Nov. 22.

Core Rdnng: M.I. Finley, The Ancient Economy (Berkeley, 1973).

Supplmtry: M.I. Finley, ed., Slavery in Classical Antiquity: Views and Controversies (Cambridge, Eng., 1960).

David B. Davis, The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture (Ithaca, 1966), Part I. See also the critique of Davis by Finley in Foner and Genovese, eds., Slavery, 256-261.

Perry Anderson, Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism (London, 1974), esp. Part I.

M.I. Finley, "Slavery," International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, 14 (New York, 1968), 307-313.

13. Slavery and Abolition in Capitalist Civilization. Nov. 29.

Core rdng: David B. Davis, The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823 (Ithaca, 1975).

Peter H. Wood, "Negotiating a Settlement in the Long War of Slavery," Reviews in American History, 3:3 (Sept., 1975), 310-316.

Supplmtry:

a) Eric Williams, Capitalism and Slavery (Chapel Hill, 1944).
Roger Anstey, "'Capitalism and Slavery': A Critique," The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., XXI (1968), 307-320.

Roger Anstey, The Atlantic Slave Trade and British Abolition, 1760-1810 (London, 1975).

Stanley L. Engerman, "The Slave Trade and British Capital Formation in the Eighteenth Century: A Comment on the Williams Thesis," Business History Review, XLVI (Winter, 1972), 430-443.

Seymour Drescher, Econocide: British Slavery in the Era of Abolition (Pittsburgh, 1977).

b) Emília Viotti da Costa, Da senzala à colônia (2nd ed., São Paulo, 1982).

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Capitalismo e escravidão no Brasil meridional (Sao Paulo, 1962).

c) Jacob Gorender, O escravismo colonial (São Paulo, 1978).

d) Barrington Moore, Jr., Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World (Boston, 1966), 111-155.

Eric Foner, Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War (New York, 1970).

Eric Foner, "The Causes of the American Civil War: Recent Interpretations and New Directions," Civil War History, 20:3 (Sept., 1974), 197-214.

14. Comparative Slavery and Race Relations: Appeals and Pitfalls Reconsidered.
Dec. 6.

Core rdng: Genovese, The World the Slaveholders Made, Part I.

Supplmtry: George M. Fredrickson, White Supremacy: A Comparative Study in American and South African History (New York, 1981).

Assignments and Grading

This seminar will emphasize discussion and debate. The most important assignment is to contribute actively and articulately your thoughts, insights, and responses to historical issues raised in the core readings and review essays. Collectively, we will strive for a comparative approach, but one which is also sensitive to the particularities of specific regions and case studies.

Tentatively, these are the written assignments. Students will write two in-depth review-essays (10-15 pages each) on supplementary readings, and their implications for the week's core readings. The syllabus lists some possible clusters of supplementary readings, but they are points of departure rather than rigid assignments. In cases of particularly difficult sets of supplementary readings, a student may write a single review-essay of 20-30 pages instead of two review-essays. In addition, a student may arrange to substitute a longer research essay (ca. 40 pages) on a comparative topic in lieu of the two review-essays.

The review-essays should present a succinct summary of the findings and arguments of the readings discussed; a critical analysis of the merits and/or weaknesses of the supplementary readings; and a substantive discussion of the implications of the supplementary readings for the topic and core readings of the week. The precise way you weave together these various functions is open, of course, since you are the author and critic.

Due dates and a calendar of review-essays will be worked out during the first two weeks of class. Tentatively, however, I propose that review-essays be available for distribution to seminar members the Friday afternoon before the Monday meeting to which they apply. I also propose that each week, a seminar member write a non-graded "Comment" (ca. 3-5 pages) that proposes issues for discussion on the basis of the core readings and review-essays.

Grading will be weighted as follows: 40% written work, 60% class discussion.