

History 925

Slavery and Emancipation in North America

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Fall 2015
Wednesdays 11-1
5245 Humanities

This seminar investigates how systems of bondage and movements for freedom shaped life in North America (primarily but not exclusively the areas that became the present United States) from European colonization to the dawn of the twentieth century. We will consider Native forms of bondage, the rise and development of African slavery and the plantation complex, movements for emancipation and abolition, Civil War slave emancipation, Reconstruction, and the late-nineteenth century political, social, and economic struggles that flowed from these histories. Reading these histories through and against one another, we will develop a fuller sense of the ways that bound people and forced labor have shaped individual, family, and community life; political institutions, ideologies, and transformations; and the economic and social assumptions that continue to shape American society.

Requirements and Expectations

This seminar requires you to read, to write, and to participate in discussion. The readings and writing assignments are described below; the requirement to participate is a less quantifiable but equally important part of your training as a working historian. I expect everyone to participate in each week's discussion, especially if you have not turned in a response or an individual report that week.

Unless otherwise noted, this seminar is an electronics-free zone. Please do not bring a laptop, turn off your phone, and have reading and writing assignments with you in hardcopy.

Writing Assignments

These assignments are designed with two goals in mind: to get you thinking broadly about how this field of history (and, by extension, all fields) operate, and to give you practice working in some of the forms of professional historical writing.

These assignments must be turned in on time, to the course dropbox at learn@UW, and meet the following criteria:

- Word or a Word-compatible format (e.g. RTF), not in pdf.
- In a 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch left and right margins.
- Your name on the first page
- An accurate word-count at the end of the text.

Late assignments will disrupt my work, the work of the seminar, and your own progress. Please plan ahead. I understand that events beyond your control may occasionally affect your ability to meet this expectation, but I ask you to take this requirement seriously.

1) Individual Reports

Each student will choose one of the works marked "Cf." and write a two-part paper.

The first part should be a book review of no more than 700 words that addresses the book on its own terms, providing a description of its main arguments, method, and sources, and a brief assessment of its strengths and weaknesses. The point of such a review is to provide scholars from related fields with a summary of sufficient sophistication that they can determine whether or not this book will be useful or important to their work.

The second part should be an essay of about 700 words that addresses the work's relationship to the rest of the week's readings and, where relevant, prior course readings. This essay should be couched as an argument or hypothesis about the implications of this work's arguments, methods, conclusions, or sources (or any combination of those) for work on U.S. slavery, emancipation, or politics. You may construe this assignment as broadly as you need to in order to make an interesting and sustainable argument.

Individual reports are due no later than 8 p.m. on the Tuesday before class and must be submitted via the "discussion" link on learn@UW. Your fellow students and I will read these reports before coming to seminar on Wednesday.

Note: "Cf." books have not been placed on reserve. Once you have chosen a book, you should immediately seek it out in the library system or elsewhere.

2) 50-word Responses:

Each student will write six responses of *exactly* fifty words, to be submitted to the appropriate discussion list no later than midnight Tuesday before the relevant class. Students may choose which weeks they write.

The first three 50-word responses should capture, as precisely and effectively as possible, the argument of that week's book.

The second three 50-word responses should do the above while also drawing in the argument or implications of that week's assigned article.

In addition to submitting these online, please bring a hardcopy with you to seminar on Wednesday.

3) Final Essay: All students will write an end-of-term essay of 1500-2000 words (including notes), to be turned in via learn@UW no later than **8 pm, Dec. 18**. This essay should draw together the readings from three or more weeks of the syllabus (or the equivalent). Your essay should identify an important theme or approach running through these works, challenge or modify an existing or emergent consensus or approach, or do some other, comparably significant intellectual work. Whatever else it does, it should reflect your areas of deepest engagement in this material.

Grading

Participation in seminar:	40%
Individual report:	10%
6 responses @ 5%:	25% [lowest mark dropped]
Final essay:	25%

Schedule of Readings

9/2 Introductions

Read: • Edmund Morgan, "Slavery and Freedom: The American Paradox," *JAH* 59 (Jun. 1972), 5-29
 • Christina Snyder, "The Long History of American Slavery," *OAH Magazine of History* 27 (2013), 23-27

Supplemental Readings

Ira Berlin, *Generations of Captivity: A History of African American Slaves*

9/9 Colonial Slaveries

Read: • Jennifer Morgan, *Laboring Women: Reproduction and Gender in New World Slavery*
 • James F. Brooks, "'This Evil Extends Especially...to the Feminine Sex': Negotiating Captivity in the New Mexico Borderlands," *Feminist Studies* 22 (Summer 1996), 279-309

Cf: Brett Rushforth, *Bonds of Alliance: Indigenous and Atlantic Slaveries in New France*

Supplemental Readings

James F. Brooks, *Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands*

Christina Snyder, *Slavery in Indian Country: The Changing Face of Captivity in Early America*

Michael Guasco, *Slaves and Englishmen: Human Bondage and the Early Modern Atlantic World*

Peter Wood, *Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion*

Vincent Brown, *The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery*

Michael A. Gomez, *Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South*

James Sidbury, *Becoming African in America: Race and Nation in the Early Black Atlantic*

Jill Lepore, *New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan*
 Alan Galloway, *The Indian Slave Trade: The Rise of the English Empire in the American South, 1670-1717*

9/16 American Revolutions

Read: • Alan Taylor, *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832*
 • Francois Furstenburg, "Beyond Freedom and Slavery: Autonomy, Virtue, and Resistance in Early American Political Discourse," *JAH* 89 (March 2003), 1295-1330

Cf: David Waldstreicher, *Runaway America: Benjamin Franklin, Slavery, and the American Revolution*

Supplemental Readings

Gerald Horne, *The Counter-Revolution of 1776: Slave Resistance and the Origins of the United States of America*
 Cassandra Pybus, *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and their Global Quest for Liberty*
 Woody Holton, *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia*

[9/23 - Yom Kippur and Eid al-Adha - no class meeting]

9/30 Slave Rebellions and Atlantic Revolutions

Read: • Ada Ferrer, *Freedom's Mirror: Cuba and Haiti in the Age of Revolution*
 • James H. Sweet, "Research Note: New Perspectives on Kongo in Revolutionary Haiti" [forthcoming - electronic manuscript will be provided]
 • Laurent Dubois, "An Enslaved Enlightenment: Rethinking the Intellectual History of the French Atlantic," *Social History* 31 (2006): 1-14

Cf: Edward Rugemer, *The Problem of Emancipation: The Caribbean Roots of the American Civil War*

Supplemental Readings

David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823*
 Eugene Genovese, *From Rebellion to Revolution: Afro-American Slave Revolts in the Making of the Modern World*
 Douglas Egerton, *Gabriel's Rebellion: The Virginia Slave Conspiracies of 1800 and 1802*
 Laurent DuBois, *A Colony of Citizens: Revolution and Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804*
 Christopher L. Brown, *Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism*
 Thomas Holt, *The Problem of Freedom: Race, Labor, and Politics in Jamaica and Britain, 1832-1938*

10/7 Slavery and the Transformation of the Early Republic

Read: • Seth Rockman, *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore*
 • Joanne Pope Melish, *Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and 'Race' in New England, 1780-1860*, Introduction

Cf: Adam Rothman, *Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South*

Supplemental Readings

Theda Perdue, *Slavery and the Evolution of Cherokee Society*
 Laura F. Edwards, *The People and their Peace: Legal Culture and the Transformation of Inequality in the Post-Revolutionary South*
 Max Grivno, *Gleanings of Freedom: Free and Slave Labor along the Mason-Dixon Line, 1790-1860*

10/14 Slaveholding Power

Read: • Tiya Miles, *The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story*

- Stephanie McCurry, "The Two Faces of Republicanism: Gender and Proslavery Politics in Antebellum South Carolina," *JAH* 78 (Mar. 1992), 1245-1264

Cf: Drew Gilpin Faust, *James Henry Hammond and the Old South: A Design for Mastery*

Supplemental Readings

Eugene Genovese, *Roll Jordan Roll: The World the Slaves Made*

James Oakes, *The Ruling Race: A History of American Slaveholders*

Barbara Krauthamer, *Black Slaves, Indian Masters: Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship in the Native American South*

Richard Dunn, *A Tale of Two Plantations: Slave Life and Labor in Jamaica and Virginia*

Manisha Sinha, *The Counterrevolution of Slavery: Politics and Ideology in Antebellum South Carolina*

Stephanie McCurry, *Masters of Small Worlds: Yeoman Households, Gender Relations, and the Political Culture of the Antebellum South Carolina Lowcountry*

10/21 Slavery and Capitalism

- Read:
- Walter Johnson, *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom* [half of the seminar will read]
 - Edward Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and Making of American Capitalism* [other half of the seminar will read]
 - Scott Reynolds Nelson, "Who Put their Capitalism in My Slavery?" *Journal of the Civil War Era* 5 (June 2015), 289-310
 - Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Case for Reparations," *The Atlantic* (June 2014)

Cf: Walter Johnson, *Soul By Soul: Life inside the Antebellum Slave Market*

Supplemental Readings

Eugene Genovese, *Roll Jordan Roll: The World the Slaves Made*

Thomas Bender et al., *The Antislavery Debate: Capitalism and Abolitionism as a Problem in Historical Interpretation*

Dylan Penningroth, *The Claims of Kinfolk: African American Property and Community in the Nineteenth-Century South*

Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*

10/28 Race-Making and Whiteness

- Read:
- David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class* (New Edition, 2007)
 - Barbara J. Fields, "Whiteness, Racism, and Identity," *International Labor and Working-Class History* 60 (Fall 2001), 48-56

Cf: Paul Goodman, *Of One Blood: Abolition and the Origins of Racial Equality*

Supplemental Readings

Eric Lott, *Love and Theft: Blackface Minstrelsy and the American Working Class*

Saidiya Hartman, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America*

Nell Irvin Painter, *The History of White People*

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*

11/4 Enslaved People and the Crisis of Southern Slave Society

- Read:
- Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*

Cf: Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South*

Supplemental Readings

W.E.B. DuBois, *Black Reconstruction*

Eric Foner, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877*

Barbara Fields, *Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground: Maryland in the Nineteenth Century*

11/11 Northerners and the Crisis of American Slavery

Read: • Stephen Kantrowitz, *More Than Freedom: Fighting for Black Citizenship in a White Republic, 1829-1889*

• Steven Hahn, "Slaves at Large" in *The Political Worlds of Slavery and Freedom*

Cf: James Oakes, *Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865*

Supplemental Readings

Martha Jones, *All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African American Public Culture, 1830-1900*

Eric Foner, *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War*

Eric Foner, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and Slavery*

Robert S. Levine, *Martin Delany, Frederick Douglass, and the Politics of Representative Identity*

Chandra Manning, *What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War*

11/18 Violence, Gender, and Slave Emancipation

Read: • Thavolia Glymph, *Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household*

• Article TBA

Cf: Stephanie Camp, *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South*

Supplemental Readings

Hannah Rosen, *Terror in the Heart of Freedom: Citizenship, Sexual Violence, and the Meaning of Race in the Postemancipation South*

Kidada Williams, *They Left Great Marks on Me: African American Testimonies of Racial Violence from Emancipation to World War I*

Laura Edwards, *Gendered Strife and Confusion: The Political Culture of Reconstruction*

Fay Yarbrough, *Race and the Cherokee Nation: Sovereignty in the Nineteenth Century*

12/2 The Ambiguous Triumph of the Liberal State

Read: • Amy Dru Stanley, *From Bondage to Contract: Wage Labor, Marriage, and the Market in the Age of Slave Emancipation*

• Uday S. Mehta, "Liberal Strategies of Exclusion," *Politics & Society* (1990)

Cf: Robert Steinfeld, *Coercion, Contract and Free Labor in the Nineteenth Century*

Supplemental Readings

Eric Foner, *Nothing But Freedom: Emancipation and its Legacy*

Heather Cox Richardson, *The Death of Reconstruction: Race, Labor, and Politics in the Post-Civil War North, 1854-1901*

12/9 Postemancipation Societies

Read: • Stacey Smith, *Freedom's Frontier: California and the Struggle over Unfree Labor, Emancipation, and Reconstruction*

• Frederick Cooper et al., *Beyond Slavery: Explorations of Race, Labor, and Citizenship in Postemancipation Societies*, Introduction

Cf: Rebecca Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery*

Supplemental Readings

Moon-Ho Jung, *Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation*

Gunther Peck, *Reinventing Free Labor: Padrones and Immigrant Workers in the North American West, 1880-1930*

Stephen Kantrowitz, *Ben Tillman and the Reconstruction of White Supremacy*