

HISTORY 100  
THE RISE AND FALL OF NEW WORLD SLAVERY

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Course time and location: MWF, 11-11:50 a.m. ARH 314  
Office Hours: 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 the Americas as a window into 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.

Throughout the course, you will be challenged to discover how historians examine evidence, how they pose questions, and how they reach answers. While most of you will not go on to become historians, the course is designed to facilitate your ability to be a discerning consumer of all information. Equipped with a strong ability to identify arguments and the evidence people use to make arguments, you will have a greater capacity to participate in public life.

#### BOOK

- 1) John Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction*

## ASSIGNMENTS:

Participation: 20%  
Short assignments: 20%  
3-4 page papers 30% (15% each)  
Annotated bibliography 20%  
Final exam: 10%

You will also have opportunities to earn extra credit which can be applied to the item above that will most benefit your course grade.

## INTRODUCTION

Mon., Jan. 22  
No reading

## WHAT IS HISTORY?

Wed., Jan. 24  
Reading:  
John Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction*, chapters 1-4

Thur., Jan. 25  
Scholars Convocation: Laurent Dubois, "Democracy at the Roots: Culture and Sovereignty in Haiti," 11 a.m., JRC 101

Fri., Jan. 26  
Reading:  
Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction*, chapters 5-7

Sat. or Sun., Jan 27 or 28  
Film: *A Midwife's Tale*

Mon., Jan. 29  
Discuss: *A Midwife's Tale*

## BEGINNINGS

Wed., Jan. 31  
Reading: Andrés Reséndez, *The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America*, Introduction and Ch. 1 (pdf)

Fri., Feb. 2

Meet in the Burling Library computer lab (basement). Chris Jones, Special Collections Librarian and Archivist of the College, will introduce you to research databases and other research tools that will be helpful for a variety of class assignments.

Mon., Feb. 5

Reading:

- 1) David Brion Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch. 2, "The Ancient Foundations of Modern Slavery"

Wed., Feb. 7

Reading:

- 1) David Brion Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch. 3, "The Origins of Antislavery Racism in the New World"

## RACE

Fri., Feb. 9

Reading:

- 1) Anthony Johnson document
- 2) T. H. Breen and Stephen Innes, *Myne Own Ground: Race and Freedom on Virginia's Eastern Shore, 1640-1676*, Ch. 2, Race Relations as Status and Process

Mon., Feb. 12

Reading:

- 1) Alden T. Vaughn, "The Origins Debate: Slavery and Racism in Seventeenth-Century Virginia," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* Vol. 97, No. 3, (Jul., 1989), pp. 311-354. (JSTOR).

## AFRICANS IN THE MAKING OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Wed., Feb. 14

Reading:

- 1) Thornton, *Africa and Africans*, Ch. 1

Fri., Feb. 16

Reading:

- 1) Thornton, *Africa and Africans*, Ch. 2

Mon., Feb. 19

Reading:

- 1) Walter Rodney, *A History of the Upper Guinea Coast, 1545-1800* (excerpts)

Wed., Feb. 21

Reading:

- 1) Primary documents related to the trans-Atlantic slave trade

Fri., Feb. 23

No reading. Discuss the role of Africa and Africans in the development of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

**Assignment due:** 3-4 page paper, midnight via email attachment.

### THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

Mon., Feb. 26

Reading:

- 1) Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African* (excerpts)

Wed., Feb. 28

Reading:

- 1) Stanley Elkins, *Slavery: A Problem in American Institutional and Intellectual Life* (excerpts in Documents).

Fri., Mar. 2

Reading:

- 1) Michael Gomez, *Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Antebellum South*, Ch. 2, Talking Half African: Middle Passage, Seasoning, and Language

### ORIGINS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND AFRICAN CONTINUITY

Mon., Mar. 5

Reading:

- 1) Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* (excerpts)
- 2) Advertisements for Virginia Slave Runaways, 1736 and 1767
- 3) The Conversion Experience of John Marrant, 1802

Wed., Mar. 7

Reading:

- 1) Laurent Dubois, *The Banjo: America's African Instrument* (excerpt)

Fri., Mar. 9

Reading:

- 1) Shane White, *The Sounds of Slavery: Discovering African American History Through Songs, Sermons, and Speech* (excerpt)

## HISTORICIZING THE SLAVE EXPERIENCE

Mon., Mar. 12

Reading:

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

Wed., Mar. 14

No reading.

Film (in class): *Traces of the Trade*

Fri., Mar. 16

No class.

SPRNG BREAK! (March 16 – April 1)

## REVOLUTIONS

Mon., Apr. 2

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)

Wed., Apr. 4

Reading:

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

## MASTER-SLAVE RELATIONS

Fri., Apr. 6

Reading:

- 1) Thomas Cobb, *Legal Basis of Slavery*, 1858
- 2) Thomas Ruffin, a Judge, *Struggles with Illogic of Slaves as Property and as Persons*, 1829
- 3) South Carolina Governor James Henry Hammon, a Slaveowner, *Instructs His Overseer on the Ideal Disciplinary Regime*, c. 1840s
- 4) *A Slave Man Resists*, 1845
- 5) *A Slave Woman Resists*, 1861

Mon., Apr. 9

Reading:

- 1) Orlando Patterson, *Slavery and Social Death* (excerpt)

- 2) Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll* (excerpt)
- 3) Philip D. Morgan, "The Ownership of Property by Slaves"

Wed., Apr. 11  
No class

Fri., Apr. 13  
No class

## BUYING AND SELLING PEOPLE

Mon., Apr. 16  
Reading:

- 1) Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul*, Ch. 1

Wed., Apr. 18  
Reading:

- 1) Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul*, Ch. 3

## ABOLITIONISM

Fri., Apr. 20  
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)

Mon., Apr. 23  
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

Wed., Apr. 25  
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)

Fri., Apr. 27

No reading.

Library session.

**Assignment due: 3-4 page paper, midnight, via email attachment**

Mon., Apr. 30

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)

Wed., May 2

Reading:

- 1) Primary document packet on emancipation.

Fri., May 4

Research presentations

Mon., May 7

Research Presentations

Wed., May 9

Research Presentations

Fri., May 11

Research Presentations

Wed., May 16

FINAL EXAM, 2-5 p.m.

Fri., May 18

Annotated Bibliography due, 5 p.m., email attachment