

HIUS 135b / ETHN 170b
Slavery and the Atlantic World
Tu/Th 3:20-4:50
104 Peterson

Professor Smallwood

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This upper division lecture and discussion class examines the history of racial slavery in North America and other regions of the Atlantic World from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. During this period the institution of slavery flourished in different regions and for different productive purposes throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, South America, and the North American territory that became the United States. From Rhode Island to Argentina, slaves labored as producers of sugar, cacao, indigo, rice, tobacco, cotton, and coffee; as miners and cattle ranchers; as urban manufacturers, artisans, and domestic servants. Our goal in this course will be to explore this diversity of slave labor in the Americas; to consider the different slave cultures Africans and African Americans produced under these various permutations of racial slavery; and finally, to examine the various ways that Africans and African Americans resisted their bondage.

Required Reading:

The following five books are available at the UCSD Bookstore; they have also been placed on reserve at Geisel Library:

James Sidbury, Ploughshares into Swords: Race, Rebellion, and Identity in Gabriel's Virginia, 1730-1810

Carolyn Fick, The Making of Haiti: The Saint Domingue Revolution from Below

João José Reis, Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprising of 1835 in Bahia

Walter Johnson, Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market

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

Written Assignments:

Reading Responses: These are 1-2 pp. responses to the weekly readings. Do not try to summarize the content of the reading; rather, you should use this exercise to identify questions and comments for further discussion in class. What information in the reading was especially new, controversial, surprising, contradictory, or otherwise interesting to you? These responses are to be typewritten so that they will be legible, but they do not have to be representative of your most polished prose—they are meant to be “think pieces” to get your ideas flowing, and to provide you with a concrete format for bringing your own ideas to the class. They are to be turned in at the end of class on the Thursday of the week for which the reading is assigned. Please note that they will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis—they will not receive a letter grade.

Midterm and Final Exams:

There will be take-home exams (open-note/open-book) for the midterm and the final. In the former you will be asked to write one 6 pp. essay, in the latter you will be asked to write one 10 pp. essay. The midterm exam will be distributed in class on Thursday, February 2 (week 4), and will be due in class the following Thursday, February 9 (week 5). The final exam will be distributed in class on Thursday, March 16 (week 10), and will be due in the History Dept. the following week on the date scheduled for the final exam.

Grading:

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Response Papers:	15%
Midterm Exam:	35%
Final Exam:	50%

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

1/10 Introduction
1/12 Why Study Slavery?

Week 2

1/17 12,409,563: The Atlantic Slave Trade
1/19 Making a Life in Slavery: Ethnicity, Race, and Identity in 18th-Century Virginia
Reading: Sidbury, Ploughshares into Swords, Part I (Response #1)

Week 3

1/24 Slavery in an Age of Revolution: Gabriel's Atlantic World
1/26 Resisting Slavery in an Age of Revolution: Gabriel's Virginia
Reading: Sidbury, Ploughshares into Swords, Parts II and III (Response #2)

Week 4

1/31 Sugar and Colonial Slavery in the Caribbean
2/2 Saint Domingue: Race, Class and Democratic Revolution in Colonial Slave Society
*****Midterm essay question distributed in class*****
Reading: Fick, The Making of Haiti, Intro. and Ch. 1-3 (Response #3)

Week 5

2/7 22 August, 1791: From Rebellion to Revolution
2/9 Haiti: Race, Class, and the Overthrow of Colonial Slavery
*****Midterm essay due in class*****
Reading: Fick, The Making of Haiti, Ch. 4-9 (No Response Paper Due)

Week 6

2/14 The *Engenho* and the *Quilombo*, the Saints and the *Orixás*: Slave Life in Colonial Brazil
2/16 24 January, 1835: A Slave Uprising in Salvador, Bahia
Reading: Reis, Slave Rebellion in Brazil, Parts I and II (Response #4)

Week 7

2/21 Race and Freedom in Brazilian Slave Society
2/23 Islam in Diaspora: Religion and Ethnicity in 19th-Century Bahia
Reading: Reis, Slave Rebellion in Brazil, Parts III and IV (Response #5)

Week 8

2/28 The Chattel Principle: Slavery's Culture of Commodification
3/2 The Slave Market in Microcosm: Selling People in 19th-Century New Orleans
Reading: Johnson, Soul by Soul, pp. 1-220 (Response #6)

Week 9

3/7 Slavery in Atlantic Africa
3/9 Property-Owning Slaves: The View from the Gold Coast (Ghana) in the 19th Century
Reading: Penningroth, The Claims of Kinfolk, Intro. and Ch. 1-3 (Response #7)

Week 10

3/14 The Slaves' Economy in the Antebellum South
3/16 Property and Slavery's Legacy in 19th-Century America
*****Final Exam question distributed in class*****
Reading: Penningroth, The Claims of Kinfolk, Ch. 4-6 and Conclusion (Response #8)