

## Syllabus: History 502

### African American History: Selected Topics

Professor Schweningen

This course will consist of lectures, readings, weekly presentations, a paper, and two examinations. The general topic for this semester is Slavery in the Americas. The lectures will usually be on a topic related to the reading assignment for the week. The required reading, listed under "Schedule of Assignments," will include sections or chapters from John Hope Franklin and Alfred Moss, From Slavery To Freedom: A History of African Americans, eighth edition (New York: McGraw Hill, 2000) [hereafter cited as FSTF] and Peter Kolchin, American Slavery, 1619-1877 (New York: Hill and Wang, 1993) [AS].

Besides the required reading, each undergraduate student should read at least one article, essay, or book-chapter per week on the week's topic; each graduate student should read at least two. You should begin the course by perusing the assigned sections or chapters in FSTF and AS, and then refer to the bibliographical sections at the end of the volumes to find an appropriate article or essay. For example, during week three we will be examining the African Slave Trade. After reading Chapter 3 in FSTF, you should turn to the bibliographical reference section (pp. 643-45). You might wish to read a group of documents in Elizabeth Donnan's Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America, or a chapter from Daniel Mannix's Black Cargoes, or the article by J. F. Rippy on "The Negro and Spanish Pioneers in the New World," in Journal of Negro History. You may also wish to search websites for relevant readings. Your website research should focus only on primary sources (see below for a few addresses). The books and articles concerning African history are located on the 8th floor of Jackson Library; those concerning American slavery are on the

7th floor under call numbers E183-5 and E444-. During each class session there will be a period set aside for general discussion, questions, and a brief presentation (four or five minutes) by students on their outside reading. Once during the semester, each graduate student will present a fifteen minute presentation on her or his research topic (see below) and methodology. At the final class session you should turn in a bibliography of the chapters and articles you have read during the semester. It should include the following: week number, topic for the week, title of the reading, and chapter[s] or pages read. For example:

Ninth Week: The South's Peculiar Institution  
Kenneth Stampp, The Peculiar Institution:  
Slavery in the  
Ante-Bellum South (New York: Vintage Books,  
1956), chapter 4.

Your paper may be on any subject dealing with Slavery in the United States from the American Revolution to the Civil War. For example, you might wish to write about slave resistance: What constituted resistance? Did it vary in different parts of the South? During different time periods? What were the results? Direct quotations should be foot- or end-noted, and the paper should include a bibliography (for questions on style see Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing History, 3rd edition [Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000]). Undergraduates should write a five- to seven-page research paper; graduate students should write a fifteen- to twenty-page research paper. Both should include a summary of secondary sources as well as the use primary sources. At the class session for the fifth week, each student should hand in a bibliography and a one page proposal for the paper. At the class session for the sixth week, these will be discussed in individual conferences with the instructor. A clean,

typed copy of the paper should be handed in on Monday, December 9; late papers will be accepted only in extreme circumstances. During the semester there will be two examinations, combining essay and objective questions. The first will be given at midterm; the final exam will be given the first Monday of the final exam week. For undergraduates, your class participation and talks to the class (they should be extemporaneous but you may refer to an outline) combined with your paper will constitute one-third of your final grade; the midterm and final examination will each count one-third. For graduate students your class participation, talks to the class (they too should be extemporaneous but you may refer to an outline), and fifteen minute presentation combined with your paper will constitute one-half of your final grade; the midterm and final examination will each count one fourth. Your graded paper will be returned to you at the time of the final, and will include a grade for your participation and presentations to the class. My office hours in 240 McIver are one hour before this class meets and by appointment.

### Schedule of Assignments

**First Week:** August 19

Housekeeping matters

Lecture: Historians and African-American History

**Second Week:** August 26

Lecture: Civilizations in Sub-Saharan Africa

Assignment: Chapter 1, 2, FSTF; Peruse "Bibliographical Notes" in FSTF, and "Bibliographical Essay" in AS; read A Pocket Guide

**Third Week:** September 9

Lecture: The African Slave Trade

Assignment: pp. 33-49, FSTF

**Fourth Week:** September 16

Lecture: The African Diaspora

Assignment: 50-63, FSTF

**Fifth Week:** September 23

Lecture: Colonial Slavery

Assignment: Chapter 4, FSTF; Chapters 1-2, AS.

**Sixth Week:** September 30 no class; individual conferences

about research progress

**Mid-term examination,** October 7

**Seventh Week:** October 21  
Lecture: The Era of the American Revolution  
Assignment: Chapters 5, 6, FSTF; Chapter 3, AS;

**Eighth Week:** October 28  
Lecture: The Domestic Slave Trade  
Assignment: Chapter 7, FSTF

**Ninth Week:** November 4  
Lecture: The South's Peculiar Institution  
Assignment: Chapter 8, FSTF

**Tenth Week:** November 11  
Lecture: The Slave's Reaction to Bondage  
Assignment: Chapter 4, AS

**Eleventh Week:** November 18  
Lecture: The Slaveholding Class  
Assignment: Chapter 6, AS

**Twelfth Week:** November 25  
Lecture: Free Blacks in the America  
Assignment: pp. 167-184, FSTF

**Thirteenth Week:** December 2  
Lecture: In Search of the Promised Land  
Assignment: pp. 184-191, FSTF

**Fourteenth Week:** December 9 (papers and bibliographies due)  
Lectures: Slavery and the Coming of the Civil War  
Assignment: Chapter 10, FSTF

**Final Examination:** December 16

### Relevant Website Addresses

<http://history.uncg.edu/slaverypetitions>

<http://docsouth.unc.edu>

<http://www.questia.com>

<http://www.utoronto.ca/museum/reviews/2001/Shiralee/Hudson.html>

<http://www.press.uillinois.edu/s01/schweninger.html>

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Revolution, 1770-1823. Ithaca: Cornell University Press,  
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Degler, Carl. Neither Black nor White: Slavery and Race Relations in Brazil and the United States. New York:  
Macmillan, 1971. F2659.NR D42

Dunn, Richard S. Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies, 1624-1713. New York:  
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Gaspar, David Barry. Bondmen and Rebels: A Study of Master-Slave Relations in Antigua, with Implications for Colonial British America. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985. HT1105.A6 G37

Genovese, Eugene D. From Rebellion to Revolution: Afro-American Slave Revolts in the Making of the Modern World. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1979. HT1048.G43

Hall, Gwendolyn Midlo. Social Control in Slave Plantation Societies: A Comparison of St. Domingue and Cuba. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1971. H31 .J6  
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