

301 Race and Slavery
Fall 2004

*We raise de wheat,
Dey gib us de corn;
We bake de bread,
Dey gib us de crust
Slave Song.*

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Description:

This course begins with the making of racial slavery in the 1600s and concludes with its unmaking as a result of the Great American Slave Rebellion in the 1860s. It is organized around several major topics and questions. How were free Africans transformed into an enslaved working class? What were some of the spatial and temporal differences between colonial and ante-bellum slave societies? When did black institutions first emerge and how did these change over time? What was the Great American Slave Rebellion? Define Black Reconstruction and is it over? Our objectives are threefold: to provide a survey of the first two centuries of African American history; to practice the rudiments of the historical craft through examining documents, evaluating secondary sources, and critical thinking; and, to relate the past to the present.

Requirements:

All students are expected to attend class and participate in discussions on a regular basis. Only two unexcused absences are allowed after which your grade will be penalized.

- ✗ Bi-weekly 1 page lecture/reading questions (25% of your grade).
- ✗ One 3-5 page take-home paper due September 16 (25% of your grade).
- ✗ One 3-5 page paper due October 21 (25% of your grade).
- ✗ Two 3-5 page take-home papers due December 9 (25% of your grade).

All papers must be handed in on time. Late papers will not be accepted.

Readings:

The seven books listed below are required readings and are listed in order of their usage.

📖 John H. Bracey, Jr., and Manisha Sinha, eds. *African American Mosaic: A Documentary History from the Slave Trade to the Twenty-first Century*, Vol. 1 (New Jersey, 2004)

📖 John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800* (Sec. Ed.: New York, 1998)

📖 Philip D. Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth Century Chesapeake & Lowcountry* (Chapel Hill, 1998)

📖 Sylvia R. Frey, *Water From the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age* (Princeton, 1991)

📖 William L. Andrews, ed. *North Carolina Slave Narratives: The Lives of Moses Roper, Lunsford Lane, Moses Grandy, & Thomas H. Jones* (Chapel Hill, 2003).

📖 Ira Berlin et al., *Slaves No More: Three Essays on Emancipation and the Civil War* (New York, 1992)

📖 Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction* (New York, 1990)

Readings should be done before class meets. It helps to read the texts, especially the documents, s-l-o-w-l-y. Bring the weekly reading materials to class.

Lecture Discussions:

Aug. 16 **Introduction**

Aug. 18 **Black History**

1: AFRICA

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 3-19; Thorton, *Africa*, 43-97

Aug. 23 **African Life**

Aug. 25 **African Slavery**

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 20-47; Thorton, *Africa*, 98-125

Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint*, 58-79

Aug. 30 **New World Slavery**

Sep. 1 **Middle Passage**

2: COLONIAL SLAVERY

Sep. 6 LABOR DAY

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 50-51; Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint*, 1-23

Sep. 8 **Young Soul Rebels**

READ: Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint*, 102-145, 498-558 (skim), 559-658

Sep. 13 **Material Life**

Sep. 15 **Slave Culture I**

Sep. 20 FIRST PAPER DUE

3: REVOLUTIONARY EMANCIPATION

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 53-59, 73-78; Frey, *Water*, 81-171

Sep. 20 **Revolution and Emancipation**

Sep. 22 **Independence and Slavery**

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 52-53, 60-73, 100-104; Frey, *Water*, 243-329

Sep. 27 **Free Black Institutions I**
 Sep. 29 **Black Revolutionaries**

4: AMERICAN SLAVERY

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 99-191
 Oct. 4 **Antebellum Slavery**
 Oct. 6 **Slave Culture II**

Oct. 8-12 FALL BREAK

READ: Andrews, *Slave Narratives*, 1-186
 Oct. 13 **Free Black Southerners**

5: AMERICAN "FREEDOM"

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 193-269
 Oct. 18 **North of Slavery**
 Oct. 20 **Free Black Institutions II**

Oct. 25 SECOND PAPER DUE

READ: Andrews, *Slave Narratives*, 187-279; Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 272-75
 Oct. 25 **Black Abolitionists**
 Oct. 27 **West Indian Emancipation Day**

6: GREAT AMERICAN SLAVE REBELLION

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 276-287; Berlin, *Slaves No More*, 1-76
 Nov. 1 **Scott Free and Black Brown**
 Nov. 3 **Destruction of Slavery**

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 287-93, 306-319; Berlin, *Slaves No More*, 77-233
 Nov. 8 **Genesis of Free Labor**
 Nov. 10 **Freedom's Soldiers**

7: BLACK RECONSTRUCTION

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 322-334; Foner, *Reconstruction*, tba
 Nov. 15 **Rehearsals for Reconstruction**
 Nov. 17 **Fruits of Our Labor**

Nov. 22 READING DAY
Nov. 23-28 THANKSGIVING BREAK

READ: Bracey & Sinha, *Mosaic*, 334-395; Foner, *Reconstruction*, tba
Nov. 29 **Black Republicans**
Dec. 1 **White Terrorists**

Dec. 6 **Reparations for Slavery?**

Dec. 9 FINAL PAPERS DUE BY 4PM