

History 301

RACE AND SLAVERY IN AMERICA

Professor Schweninger

Examining America's great paradox__slavery in a land of liberty__the aim of this course is to discuss important issues involving race and slavery in American history. Beginning with West Africa and the African Slave Trade, we will consider slavery during the colonial and national periods, emphasizing the period between the American Revolution through the Civil War. We will ask, among other questions, how and why the "peculiar institution," as it was called, endured for nearly two_and_a_half centuries.

The required reading will come from four books: Donald Wright, African Americans in the Colonial Era and African Americans in the Early Republic (Wheeling, Illinois: Harlan Davidson Publishers, 2000 and 1993) [hereafter AACE and AAER]; John Hope Franklin and Loren Schweninger, In Search of the Promised Land: A Slave Family in the Old South (New York: Oxford University press, 2006) [hereafter ISPL]; and John Hope Franklin and Alfred A. Moss, Jr. From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans, eighth edition (New York: McGraw Will, 2000) [hereafter FSTF].

During each class session, following a lecture, time will be set aside for a discussion of the readings.

There will be a mid-term examination and a final examination. Both will include objective and essay questions. One question on the final exam will cover the entire course.

During the semester each student will write two, three-page papers on a topic related to the general weekly topics listed below and give a brief (three to five minutes) presentation of the paper to the class during the appropriate week. The papers should include citations and material from at least two outside books and/or articles (consult the bibliographies in the books listed above for sources). For example, during the third week we will be examining the Atlantic Slave Trade. You might write a paper on one county's involvement in the trade, the complicity of Africans, life aboard slave ships, or what happened once slaves reached the New World. The first paper is due the dat of the midterm exam, the second paper the day of final.

Attendance is required. Missing more than one class could result in the lowering of your final grade. One third of the final grade will be the midterm, one third the final, and one third class participation and the two papers.

My office is MHRA 2105 and my hours are Monday 4:30_6:00 and by appointment.

Schedule of Assignments

First Week August 20 Housekeeping matters

Lecture: Historians and African-American History

Second Week August 27

Lecture: Civilizations of Africa West Africa

Reading Assignment: Chapter 1 AACE; Chapter 2, FSTF

Third Week September 10

Lecture: The Atlantic Slave Trade

Reading Assignment: Chapter 2, AACE; Chapter 3, FSTF

Fourth Week September 17

Lecture: Colonial America

Reading Assignment: Chapters 3, AACE; Chapter 4, FSTF

Fifth Week September 24

Lecture: Revolutionary America

Reading Assignment: Chapter 4, AACE; Chapter 5, FSTF

Sixth Week October 1

Lecture: Blacks in the New Republic

Reading Assignment: Chapter 1, AAER; Chapter 6, FSTF

Seventh Week October 8

Lecture: The Great Uprooting

Reading Assignment: Chapter 1, ISPL; Chapter 1, FSTF

Eighth Week October 22 mid-term examination

Ninth Week October 29

Lecture: The South's Peculiar Institution

Reading Assignment: Chapter 2, AAER; Chapter 8, FSTF

Tenth Week November 5

Lecture: Slaves' Reaction to Bondage

Reading Assignment: Chapter 3, AAER; Chapter 3, ISPL

Eleventh Week November 12

Lecture: Free Blacks: North and South

Reading Assignment: Chapter 4, AAER; Chapter 4, ISPL

Twelfth Week November 19

Lecture: Pan Africanism and Colonization

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5, ISPL

Thirteenth Week November 26

Lecture: The Sectional Conflict

Reading Assignment: Chapters 10, FSTF; Chapter 6, ISPL

Fourteenth Week December 3

Lecture: Freedom During the Civil War

Reading Assignment: Chapters 11, FSTF

Fifteenth Week December 10 final examination