

# Syllabus: History 301

## RACE AND SLAVERY IN AMERICA

### A SURVEY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY To 1865

Professor Schweninger

This course will consist of lectures, readings, discussions, an oral presentation, three exams, and a final examination. The lectures, listed below in the "Schedule of Assignments," will usually be on a topic related to the reading assignment for the week and will sometimes include a narrative section, a story about an incident or individual that highlights the subject matter. The required reading will include sections from three books: 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]; Donald R. Wright, African Americans in the Early Republic, 1789-1831 (Wheeling, Illinois: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1993) [hereafter AAER]; Loren Schweninger, ed., The Southern Debate over Slavery: Petitions To Southern Legislatures, 1778-1864 (Urbana: Illinois Press, 2001) [hereafter SDOS]. The last mentioned book is in print and online at <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/epub/books/schweninger>; Also see: [http://library.uncq.edu/slavery\\_petitions](http://library.uncq.edu/slavery_petitions).

Despite the relatively large size of the class, toward the conclusion of each session time will be set aside for questions, comments, reflections, and, after the first few weeks, for student presentations: a brief (three to four minutes) summary, comment, and analysis of one of the assigned petitions from SDOS. The assignments in this volume will be given by petition number, i.e., Pets. #1, #2, #3, rather than by page number. It is important that each student complete the assigned reading for the class session to participate in discussion and commentary on the assigned petition.

During the semester there will be three exams, combining objective and short essay questions. The questions will come from the reading assignments, lectures, discussions, and videos. Attendance is required. Missing more than three classes could result in a drop of one letter grade. There will be a final examination covering the entire course but with an emphasis on the portion from the previous exam. The final will contain objective and essay questions. With regard to your final grade, your three hourly exams will each count 20 percent, your class participation and presentation will count 20 percent, and your final exam will count 20 percent. Makeup exams will be given only in extreme circumstances. My office hours in 240 McIver on Mondays and Wednesdays are between 3:00 and 4:00 P.M. and by appointment.

## Schedule of Assignments

### First Week:

Monday, January 12 Housekeeping matters

Wednesday, January 14

Lecture: Historians and African-American History

- George W. Williams; Carter G. Woodson; W. E. B. DuBois
- Difficulties facing students of African American History
- Secondary and Primary Sources

Reading Assignment: "Introduction," SDOS

Friday, January 16

Lecture: Civilizations of Africa

- Ghana, Mali, Songhai
- East and South Africa: the Bantu Peoples
- West African Forest Kingdoms

Reading Assignment: Chapter 1, FSTF

### Second Week:

Monday, January 19: no class, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Wednesday, January 21

Lecture: West Africa Before the Coming of Europeans

- Religions: concept of time, "living dead," Islam
- Ethnic groups: Yoruba, Ashanti, Akan
- Kinship groups and Extended Family

Reading Assignment: Chapter 2, FSTF

Friday, January 23

Lecture: The African Slave Trade, Part I

- *The Diligent*: king Agaja of Dahomey, cowry shells
- Robert Durand, Whydah, Martinique
- The Beginning of the Slave Trade

Reading Assignment: Chapter 3, pp. 33-49, FSTF; peruse visual website <http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/>

### Third Week

Monday, January 26

Lecture: The African Slave Trade, Part II

- The Asiento; Christopher Columbus
- Why did the trade flourish for so long?
- The Middle Passage; Olaudah Equiano

Reading Assignment: "Boarding the Slave Ship," "The Middle Passage," in The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, online at <http://www.brycchancarey.com/equiano/>

Wednesday, January 28

Lecture: The Results of the African Slave Trade

Reading Assignment: review readings and notes

Friday, January 30: Video, "Ship of Slaves: the Middle Passage"

### Fourth Week:

Monday, February 2 First Exam

Wednesday, February 4

Lecture: Africans in the Caribbean and Mainland Latin America

- Barbados; absentee landlords; sugar production
- Negro, mulatto, sambo, quadroon, mustee
- Breeding, brutality, punishments
- Runaways, maroons, revolts, Toussaint Louverture

Reading Assignment: 50-63, FSTF; Chapter 9, John Hope Franklin and Loren Schweninger, Runaway Slaves [hereafter RS], an ebook at

[http://www.netlibrary.com/ebook\\_info.asp?product\\_id=53406](http://www.netlibrary.com/ebook_info.asp?product_id=53406)

Friday, February 6

Lecture: Black Servitude in the Carolinas

- Cultivation of rice; growth of black population; immunities
- Fishing, healing, herding, corn and fruits from Africa
- Headright system in North Carolina; slow expansion

Reading Assignment: 69-72, FSTF; Pets. #2, #9, #10, SDOS

#### **Fifth Week:**

Monday, February 9

Lecture: Blacks in Colonial Virginia

- population growth; Robert Councillor Carter;
- "outlandish Negroes", "new Negroes", "American Negroes"
- runaways; conspiracy to revolt; George, Jack Bowler, Gabriel

Reading Assignment: 65-69, FSTF; Pets. #1, #3, #4, #6, #7, SDOS

Wednesday, February 11

Lecture: Slavery in New England and the Middle Colonies

- Rum and the triangular trade; buying and selling slaves
- occupational variety; John and Samuel Adams oppose slavery
- Slave laws; legal rights of slaves
- Reasons for "humane" or "mild" form of human bondage

Reading Assignment: 72-78, FSTF

Friday, February 13,

Topic: The American Revolution: video "Revolution" (Africans in America, Part 2), 90 minutes (first half)

#### **Sixth Week:**

Monday: February 16

Topic: The American Revolution: video "Revolution" (Africans in America, Part 2), 90 minutes (second half)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5, FSTF; Pets. #11, #34, #52, SDOS

Wednesday: February 18

Lecture: Blacks in the New Republic

- The Conservative Reaction
- The Cotton Gin
- Closing the African Slave Trade; John Carruthers Stanly

Reading Assignment: pp. 119-25, FSTF; Pets. #13, #19, #59, SDOS

Friday: February 20

Lecture: The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom

- What were the causes?
- Migration of small slave owners
- What were the results? The sale of Jane

Reading Assignment: pp. 119-25, FSTF; pp. 124-25, 147-48, RS; Pets. #20, #21, #24, SDOS

#### **Seventh Week:**

Monday: February 23

Lecture: The Domestic Slave Trade

- Hope Slatter, Austin Woolfolk, Franklin & Armfield
- E. A. Andrews, Slavery and the Domestic Slave Trade (1836)
- Impact of the Trade on the African American Family
- "Breeding slaves," Buying and Selling, Slaves as Property

Reading Assignment: pp. 128-37, FSTF; Chapter 1, AAER; Pets. #97, #114, #121, SDOS

Wednesday: February 25 no class

Friday: February 27

Lecture: Historians and the Study of Slavery

- Ulrich B. Phillips, American Negro Slavery
- Kenneth Stamp, The Peculiar Institution
- John Blassingame, The Slave Community

Reading Assignment: "Bibliographical Essay," AAER

**Eighth Week:**

Monday: March 1

Lecture: The South's Peculiar Institution: An Introduction

- myths and realities
- seven generalizations about slavery in the South
- How did slave owners justify owning other human beings

Reading Assignment: Chapter 2, AAER; Pets. #12, #77,

Wednesday: March 3 Second Exam

Friday: March 5

Lecture: A Life in Bondage: the Story of Sally Thomas

- From Charlottesville to Nashville
- A Self-hired Slave and Her Children
- The Quest for Freedom

Reading Assignment: Pets. #91, #87, #149

**Ninth Week:** no class, Spring Break

**Tenth Week:**

Monday: March 15

Lecture: The Organization of Slaves

- Overseers, Plantation Managers, Slave Driver
- Gang system, task system, half-hands, full-hands
- Women and the slave regime

Reading Assignment: pp. 138-150, FSTF; Pets. #43, #53, #74, #117

Wednesday: March 17

Lecture: Plantation Rules

- work and after hours
- holiday festivities, slaves' owning property
- punishments; two antebellum plantations

Reading Assignment: Chapter 2, AAER; Pets. #72

Friday: March 19

Each student should try to attend one session of the symposium sponsored by the history department titled "Documenting the African American Past"

**Eleventh Week:**

Monday: March 22

Lecture: Slavery and the Law

- Slaves as Property and as People
- Defining who was a "Negro"
- Property, marriage, movement, education, manumission

Reading Assignment: pp. 150-58, FSTF; Pets. #18, #25, #29, #47

Wednesday: March 24

Lecture: Slaves' Reaction to Bondage: Part I, Runaways

- Reasons for Running Away
- Where to go?
- The fate of runaways

Reading Assignment: pp. 158-166, FSTF; Pets. #32, #44, #45

Friday: March 26

Lecture: Slaves' Reaction to Bondage: Part II, Conspiracies and Revolts

- Gabriel, Denmark Vesey, Nat Turner
- Conspiracies and Outlying Slaves

- Fears among Slaveholders
- Reading Assignment: Chapter 3, AAER

**Twelfth Week:**

Monday: March 29

Lecture: Free Blacks in the South: Part I, The Coming of Freedom

- How did slaves obtain their freedom?
- How did hiring and self-hire play a role?
- What was the demographic profile of free blacks?

Reading Assignment: Chapter 4, AAER; Pets. #22, #37, #60

Wednesday: March 31

Lecture: Free Blacks in the South: Part II, Sustaining Freedom

- Economic Considerations
- Social and Political Considerations
- Free Blacks and the Law; Free Black Slave Owners

Reading Assignment: pp. 167-84, FSTF; Pet #64, #70, #83, #86, #152

Friday: April 2: Third Exam

**Thirteenth Week:**

Monday: April 5

Guest Lecture: Dr. Jennifer Dorsey, "Minstrel Shows"

Reading Assignment: pp. 184-191, FSTF

Wednesday: April 7

"Safe Harbor: The Underground Railroad" video

Reading Assignment: pp. 204-210, FSTF

Friday: April 9 no class

**Fourteenth Week:**

Monday: April 12

Lecture: Pan Africanism and Colonization

- Paul Cuffe, Sierra Leone
- Daniel Coker, Liberia
- Edward Wilmot Blyden; Peyton Skipwith to John Cocke

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5, AAER; Pets. #68, #90

Wednesday: April 14

Lecture: The Sectional Conflict, Part I to 1831

- Early Differences; the Missouri Compromise
- South Carolina and Nullification
- David Walker's Appeal, Garrison's The Liberator, Nat Turner

Reading Assignment: 193-204, FSTF; #153, #154, #155

Friday: April 16

Lecture: The Sectional Conflict, Part II 1832 to 1859

- The South Defends Itself with Pro-Slavery stance
- Slavery in the Territories and the Crisis over California
- Uncle Tom's Cabin, Dred Scott, John Brown

Reading Assignment: 210-219, FSTF

**Fifteenth Week:**

Monday: April 19

Lecture: The Election of Abraham Lincoln

- Lincoln-Douglas Debates; A House Divided Cannot Stand
- Southern Fire Eaters
- South Carolina Secedes; the beginning of war

Reading Assignment:

Wednesday: April 21

Lecture: Freedom During the Civil War

- Emancipation Proclamation
- Gertrude Thomas Plantation in Georgia

• "A People on the Move"; Jordon Anderson to P. H. Anderson  
Reading Assignment: pp. 221-228, FSTF  
Friday: April 23

Lecture: The Meaning of Freedom

- "To belong to ourselves"; earning a living; search for families
- New relations with whites; the color line;
- Violence and the organization of the KKK

Reading Assignment: pp. 228-238, FSTF

#### **Sixteenth Week:**

Monday: April 26

Lecture: Blacks in Union Blue

- The Confiscation and Militia Acts
- Recruitment of the 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Volunteers
- Fort Pillow, Tennessee

Beginning of "Let My People Go: the Trials of Bondage in Words of Master and Slave" video

Reading Assignment: pp. 238-44, FSTF

Wednesday: April 28

Lecture: The Vass Slaves

Completion of "Let My People Go: the Trials of Bondage in Words of Master and Slave" video

Reading Assignment: Pets. #116, #129, #144, SDOS

Friday: April 30 no class

#### **Seventeenth Week:**

Monday: May 3 review

**Final Examination:** Friday, 7 May 2004, 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

## Important Website Addresses

[http://library.uncg.edu/slavery\\_petitions](http://library.uncg.edu/slavery_petitions)

<http://docsouth.unc.edu>

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

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

<http://139.140.12.20:8080/flighttofreedom/live/intro.shtml>

<http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/>

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sthtml/sthome.html>

## Bibliography of Important Books on Slavery in America

Aptheker, Herbert. American Negro Slave Revolts, 5th edition.  
New York: International Publishers, 1983.

Bancroft, Frederic. Slave Trading in the Old South. Baltimore:  
J. H. Furst Co., 1931.

Berlin, Ira. Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries  
Of Slavery in North America. Cambridge: Harvard  
University Press, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. Slaves Without Masters: The Free Negro in the

- Antebellum South. New York: Pantheon Books, 1974.
- Blassingame, John. The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South. New York: Oxford University Press, 1972; rev. ed., 1979.
- Dew, Charles. Bond of Iron: Master and Slave and Buffalo Forge. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1994.
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- Hadden, Sally E. Slave Patrols: Law and Violence in Virginia and the Carolinas. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.
- Johnson, Walter. Soul by Soul: Life inside the Antebellum Slave Market. Cambridge: Harvard Press, 1999.
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- Litwack, Leon F. Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1979.
- McMillen, Sally G. Southern Women: Black and White in the Old South. Arlington Heights, Illinois: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1992.
- Malone, Ann Patton. Sweet Chariot: Slave Family and Household Structure in Nineteenth-Century Louisiana. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1992.
- Morris, Richard D. Southern Slavery and the Law, 1619-1860. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996.
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- Nash, Gary B., and Soderlund, Jean R. Freedom by Degrees: Emancipation in Pennsylvania and its Aftermath. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.
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- Stamp, Kenneth. The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Ante-Bellum South. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1956.
- Tadman, Michael. Speculators and Slaves: Masters and Slaves in the Old South. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1989.
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- Zilversmit, Arthur. The First Emancipation: The Abolition of Slavery in the North. Chicago: Chicago Press, 1967.