

Fall 2003
McIver 226
T, TH 3:30-4:45

**HIS 301:
Race and Slavery in America**

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Between the fifteen and nineteenth centuries, twelve million Africans were forcibly transported to the new world. This class explores how one strand of this diaspora developed in what would eventually become the United States. We will examine how people of African descent struggled against their bondage to reconstitute their lives. We will analyze how the African American identity, born in bondage, changed with the rise and fall of slavery in the United States.

Attendance in class is mandatory. You should be prepared to discuss the week's readings by the first class of each week. Assignments will periodically be given in class. If you do not attend, you will be given a zero for this assignment. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor to make up any assignments that you have missed. You will be dropped from the class after three missed assignments. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes if participation falls below acceptable levels. Pop quizzes and in-class assignments are included in your 20% participation grade. Course requirements also include two tests: a midterm and a final exam. In addition, you will be responsible for a five- to seven-page paper.

Final Grade Composition:

- Participation 20%
- Midterm 25%
- Final Exam 30%
- Paper 25%

Books are available in the university bookstore. Articles and other short reading assignments are available under "Course Documents" on Blackboard. Consult the syllabus under "Course Information" on Blackboard for possible changes in reading assignments.

Assigned Books:

- Betty Wood, *The Origins of American Slavery* (1997)
- Kenneth S. Greenberg, ed., *The Confessions of Nat Turner and Related Documents* (1996)
- David Walker, *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World* (1965)

- Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, and Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (2000)

Unit 1

Week 1 (August 19, 21): Introduction and Africa Myths and Realities

Readings:

- Robert Chrisman, “The Black Scholar Forum: A Symposium on Roots,” pp. 36-41.
- Philip Nobile, “Uncovering Roots,” pp. 31-8.

Week 2 (August 26, 28): African Empires and the Development of the Atlantic World

Readings:

- John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*, pp. 43-71;
- Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, pp. 95-113.

Week 3 (September 2, 4): Sugar and the Roots of New World Slavery

Readings:

- Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*, pp. 3-29.
- Olaudah Equiano, *Africa Remembered*, pp. 60-98.
- Philip D. Curtin, *The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex*, pp. 73-85.

Week 4 (September 9, 11): Chesapeake and the Lowcountry

Readings:

- Betty Wood, *Origins of American Slavery*.

Week 5 (September 16, 18): Louisiana and Florida

Readings:

- Jane Landers, “Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose: A free black town in Spanish colonial Florida,” *American Historical Review*, Vol. 95, No. 1. (Feb., 1990), pp. 9-30.
- Peter Caron, “‘Of a nation which others do not understand’: Bambara Slaves and African Ethnicity in Colonial Louisiana, 1718-60,” *Slavery & Abolition*, 18 (1997), pp. 98-121.

Week 6 (September 23, 25): Slavery in the North and Creating Black America

Readings:

- Barbara Fields, “Ideology and Race in American History,” *Region, Race, and Reconstruction*, pp. 143-77.
- Ira Berlin, “From Creole to African: Atlantic Creoles and the Origins of African American Society in Mainland North America,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d., 53 (April 1996), pp. 251-88.
- Shane White, “‘It Was A Proud Day’: African Americans, Festivals, and Parades in the North, 1741-1834,” *Journal of American History* (June 1994), pp. 13-50.

Unit 2

Week 7 (September 30, October 2): Revolution and Early Republic

Readings:

- Benjamin Quarles, *Black Mosaic*, pp. 35-47, 48-66.
- Stephen H Browne, “Remembering Crispus Attucks: Race, Rhetoric, and the Politics of Commemoration,” *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 1999 85(2), pp. 169-187.

Exam:

- Mid-term exam Tuesday

Week 8 (October 7, 9): Indians and Blacks and Settling the Southwest

Readings:

- Walter Johnson, *Soul By Soul*, pp. 19-44 and 117-61.

Week 9 (October 14, 16): Families and Faith

Readings:

- Brenda E. Stevens, *Life in Black and White*, pp. 206-57.
- Sylvia R. Frey and Betty Wood, *Come Shouting to Zion*, pp. 149-81.

Week 10 (October 21, 23): Abolition and Rebellion

Readings:

- David Walker, *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World*.
- Kenneth S. Greenberg, ed., *Confessions of Nat Turner*.

Week 11 (October 28, 31): Labor and Gender

Readings:

- Selections from Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, TBA
- Wilma King, “Suffer with Them Till Death,” *More Than Chattel*, p. 147-68.

- Joseph P. Reidy, “Obligation and Right: Patterns of Labor, Subsistence, and Exchange in the Cotton Belt of Georgia, 1790-1860,” *Cultivation and Culture*, pp.138-154.

Week 12 (November 4, 6):Resistance and Accommodation

Readings:

- Selections from Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, TBA

Assignment:

- Paper due at beginning of Thursday’s class.

Unit 3

Week 13 (November 11, 13): Prelude to Civil War and Civil War, Part I

Readings:

- Michael P. Johnson and James L. Roark, *Black Masters*, pp. 31-63.
- W. E. B. DuBois, *Black Reconstruction*, pp. 55- 83

Week 14 (November 18, 20): Civil War, Part II

Readings:

- Ira Berlin, ed., *Free at Last*, pp. 95-165, 435-539.

Movie:

- “Glory”

Week 15 (November 25, 27): Reconstruction, Part I

Readings:

- Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction*, pp. 82-123.
- Julie Saville, “Grassroots Reconstruction: Agricultural Laborers and Collective Action in South Carolina,” *Slavery and Abolition*, 12, no. 3 (Dec. 1991): 173-82.

Week 16 (December 2, 4): Reconstruction, Part II

Readings:

- Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction*, pp. 124-79.
- Martha Hodes, “The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics: White Women and Black Men in the South after the Civil War,” in *American Sexual Politics: Sex, Gender, and Race since the Civil War*, pp. 59-74.