

HIS 389-01: West Africa during the Atlantic Slave Trade  
Spring 2003 – Wednesday evenings 6:00-8:50, 226 McIver Building

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Office Hours: T/Th 11 AM to 12:15 PM  
and by appointment

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Course Objectives:

In this course we will examine how the trade between European and African merchants that began in the fifteenth century turned into a trans-Atlantic slave trade. We will focus on this development primarily from the perspective of West African societies that were involved in this trade, and we will be especially concerned with questions of how the slave trade was organized on the African side, and how the trade in slaves and its abolition affected West Africa. Major themes to be addressed include: Cross cultural encounters and conflicts; ‘master narratives’ and ‘slave narratives’; history and memory; diaspora and ‘creolization’; ‘double consciousness’ and the Atlantic world; and gender and demography.

Student learning goals – At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the chronological development of the Atlantic Slave Trade and its abolition;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the major effects of the Atlantic trade on West African societies and the African diaspora;
- Appreciate the importance of geographical place and chronology in studying historical events.

Course requirements include an analytical paper based on course readings (8 pp., worth 40% of final grade); short writing assignments (worth 35% of final grade); and general class participation, attendance, and group project (worth 25% of final grade). **LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED; SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLASS PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY ARE DUE.**

\*\*\*\*\* Attendance policy: Attendance at all lectures and discussions is mandatory; students with more than two unexcused absences will be dropped from the course;; excused absences must be documented. Pagers and cell phones must be turned off. \*\*\*\*\*

Required textbooks: David Northrup (ed.), The Atlantic Slave Trade (Houghton Mifflin, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2002).  
David Northrup, Africa’s Discovery of Europe (Oxford University Press, 2002).  
Philip Curtin (ed.), Africa Remembered (Waveland Press, reprint, 1997).

Other required readings (on reserve) are listed in syllabus after the class calendar.

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