

COURSE SYLLABUS

Department of History

Course No. US 420/660

African Americans During A Time of Slavery

Revision_____ New X

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

A study of Africans in America, both slave and free, from 1619 to 1865. (3 credit hours)

II. Prerequisites:

None

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- A. To introduce students to the history of American slavery and to explore the lives of African Americans, both slave and free, during the time of slavery.
- B. To place American slavery and the struggle for African-American freedom within a general historical context in order to provide students with a perspective on the African-American experience in the United States.
- C. To develop skills in critical thinking, including the evaluation of conflicting testimony in assessing historical fact.
- E. To foster the development of oral and written communication through class discussions and written assignments.

V. Expectations of Students:

- A. Attend class regularly.
- B. Actively participate in class discussion.
- C. Read all materials assigned.
- D. Complete all written and oral assignments in a timely manner, including a research paper.
- E. Demonstrate mastery of course content on examinations and/or analytical essays.
- F. Demonstrate basic computer literacy in word processing and location of information.
- G. Graduate students will be expected to write three detailed analytical essays in lieu of exams and write a total of three book reviews, two more than is required of undergraduates.

VI. Course Outline:

- I. Origins of Slavery in America (6 hours)
 - a. Before the Atlantic Crossing
 - b. The Transatlantic Trade
- II. Enslavement, Revolution, and the New Republic (9 hours)
 - a. Transition to African Labor
 - b. Emergence of Plantation Slave Society
 - c. Responses to Bondage
 - d. African Americans and the American Revolution
- III. Slavery in the North (3 hours)
- IV. Slavery in the Antebellum South (12 hours)
 - a. Under the Lash: Migration, Work and Social Conditions
 - b. Community, Culture, and Resistance
- V. Free People of Color in Antebellum America (9 hours)
- VI. The Civil War and the Struggle for Freedom (3 hours)
- VII. Emancipation (3 hours)

VII. Textbooks:

Trotter, Joe William, Jr. *The African American Experience, vol. 1, Through Reconstruction*. Boston/New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001.

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

Schwartz, Marie Jenkins. *Born in Bondage: Growing Up Enslaved in the Antebellum South*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Shaw, Lacy Jr., ed. *Not A Slave! Free People of Color in Antebellum America, 1790-1860*. New York: American Heritage Custom Publishing Group, 1995.

Mintz, Steven, ed. *African American Voices: The Life Cycle of Slavery*. St. James, NY: Brandywine Press, 1999.

VIII. Basis of Student Evaluation:

Undergraduate Students:

- A. Class Participation. (20%)
- B. Three Examinations (45%)
- C. Book Review (10%)
- D. Research Paper (25%)

Graduate Students:

- A. Class Participation. (20%)
- B. Three Analytical Essays (30%)
- C. Three Book Reviews (30%)
- D. Research Paper (20%)