

502 Comparative Emancipation Fall 2004

The most magnificent drama in the last thousand years of human history is the transportation of ten million human beings out of the dark beauty of their mother continent into the new-found Eldorado of the West. They descended into Hell; and in the third century they arose from the dead, in the finest effort to achieve democracy for the working millions which this world had ever seen. It was a tragedy that beggared the Greek; it was an upheaval of humanity like the Reformation and the French Revolution.
W.E.B. Du Bois, 1935

Dr. Jeffrey R. Kerr-Ritchie

Office: 224C McIver ☎:334-5205

Email: jkerrritchie@juno.com

Office hours: Thursday, 2:00-4:00.

Description

For over three centuries, the New World was largely defined by African chattel slavery. Between 1804 and 1888, New World Slavery was rapidly overthrown by revolution, rebellion, protest, war, and laws. This course examines these remarkable historical developments. It is organized chronologically into three sections: 1790s-1820s; 1830s-1860s; 1860s-1880s. The aims of the course include providing students with a narrative of the century of emancipation as well as familiarity with important recent works. The most important objective is to offer comparative, trans-national, and cross-cultural approaches toward slavery, abolition, and post-emancipation.

Requirements

All students are expected to attend class and participate in discussions on a weekly basis.

✂ First 10 page take-home paper due September 23 (33% of your grade).

✂ Second 10 page paper due November 4 (33% of your grade).

✂ Final 10 page take-home paper due December 9 (34% of your grade).

All papers are due in class. Late papers will not be accepted.

Readings

The ten books below are all required readings. The additional (ADD) titles are for further reading, research, and papers.

📖 Carolyn E. Fick, *The Making of Haiti: The Saint Domingue Revolution from Below* (Knoxville, 1990)

📖 David Barry Gaspar and David Patrick Geggus, *A Turbulent Time: The French Revolution and the Greater Caribbean* (Bloomington, 1997)

📖 Clare Midgley, *Women Against Slavery: The British Campaign, 1780-1870* (London, 1992)

📖 Thomas C. Holt, *The Problem of Freedom: Race, Labor, and Politics in Jamaica and Britain, 1832-1938* (Baltimore, 1992)

- 📖 Pamela Scully, *Liberating the Family? Gender and British Slave Emancipation in the Rural Western Cape, South Africa, 1823-1853* (Portsmouth, NH, 1997)
- 📖 Ira Berlin et al., *Slaves No More: Three Essays on Emancipation and the Civil War* (Cambridge 1992)
- 📖 Eric Foner, *Nothing But Freedom: Emancipation and its Legacy* (Baton Rouge, 1983)
- 📖 Rebecca J. Scott, *Slave Emancipation in Cuba: The Transition to Free Labor* (Princeton, 1985)
- 📖 Kim Butler, *Freedom's Given, Freedom's Won: Afro-Brazilians in Post-Abolition Sao Paulo and Salvador* (New Brunswick, 2000)
- 📖 Martin A. Klein, ed. *Breaking the Chains: Slavery, Bondage, and Emancipation in Modern Africa and Asia* (Madison, 1993)
- Those readings marked with an asterisk * are on Library Reserve.

Meetings:

Aug. 19 **Introduction**

1: ORIGINS

- Aug. 26 **Age of Revolution**
 READ: "Forum," *American Historical Review*, Feb. 2000
 ADD: Eric Hobsbawm, *Age of Revolution* (1962)
 Eugene D. Genovese, *Rebellion to Revolution* (1979)
 Robin Blackburn, *Overthrow of Colonial Slavery* (1988)
 Lester L. Langley, *Americas in Age of Revolution* (1996)
- Sep. 2 **Haitian Revolution**
 READ: Carolyn Fick, *Making of Haiti*
 ADD: C.L.R. James, *Black Jacobins* (1938)
 David P. Geggus, *Slavery, War, & Revolution* (1982)
 Laurent Dubois, *A Colony of Citizens* (2004)
- Sep. 9 **Abolition of the Transatlantic Trade**
 READ: Clare Midgley, *Women Against Slavery*
 Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery* (1944)
 Seymour Drescher, *Econocide* (1977)
 Michael Craton, *Testing the Chains* (1982)
 David Brion Davis, *Slavery and Human Progress* (1986)
 Emilia Viotti Da Costa, *Crowns of Glory, Tears of Blood* (1994)
 Julie Roy Jeffrey, *Great Silent Army of Abolitionism* (1998)
- Sep. 16 **Black Beacon: Haiti's Impact**
 READ: Gaspar and Geggus, *Turbulent Time*
 ADD: Alfred Hunt, *Haiti's Influence on Antebellum America* (1988)
 Julius Scott, "The Common Wind," (Ph.D. Duke, 1989)

W. Jeffrey Bolster, *Black Jacks* (1997)
Chris Dixon, *Africa America and Haiti* (2000)

Sep. 23 FIRST PAPER DUE

2: APOGEE

Sep. 30 **British Abolition & Free Labor**
READ: Holt, *Problem of Freedom*, Parts 1 & 2
ADD: British Parliamentary Papers, *Slave Trade*, vol. 81 (1835)
British Parliamentary Papers, *West Indies*, vol. 1 (1842)
William A. Green, *British Slave Emancipation* (1976)
David Richardson, ed. *Abolition and Its Aftermath* (1985)
Walton Look Lai, *Indentured Labor, Caribbean Sugar* (1993)

Oct. 7 **British Abolition & Gender**
READ: Scully, *Liberating the Family?*
ADD: Special Edition, *Women's History Review* 3:4 (1994)
Madhavi Kale, *Fragments of Empire* (1999)
Catherine Hall, *Civilizing Subjects* (2002)
Leslie A. Schwalm, *Meaning of Freedom* (1999)

Oct. 14 **Rites of August First**
READ: Kerr-Ritchie, "Rites of August First," *
ADD: R.J.M. Blackett, *Building an Antislavery Wall* (1983)
C. Peter Ripley, ed. *Black Abolitionist Papers*, 5 vols. (1985-92)
Mona Ozouf, *Festivals and the French Revolution* (1988)
Paul Gilroy, *Black Atlantic* (1993)
Genevieve Fabre & Robert O'Meally, *History & Memory in African-American Culture* (1994)

Oct. 21 **American Abolition & Social Revolution**
READ: Berlin, *Slaves No More*
ADD: Ira Berlin et al., *Freedom: A Documentary History, 1861-1867*, 5 vols. (1977-1985)
W.E.B. Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction* (1935)
Robert F. Engs, *Freedom's First Generation* (1979)
David W. Blight, *Frederick Douglass' Civil War* (1989)

Oct. 28 **Was U.S. Emancipation Exceptional?**
READ: Foner, *Nothing But Freedom*; Hahn, "Class and State," *; Kerr-Ritchie, "Comparing Emancipations," *
ADD: Frederick Saunders, ed., *Our National Centennial Jubilee* (1877)
David S. Sansing, ed. *What was Freedom's Price?* (1978)
Eric Foner, *Reconstruction* (New York, 1988)

Steven Hahn, *A Nation under Our Feet* (2003)

Nov. 4 SECOND PAPER DUE

3: DECLINE

Nov. 11 **Why was Slavery Abolished in Cuba?**

READ: Scott, *Slave Emancipation*

ADD: L. A. Perez, *Slaves, Sugar & Colonial Society* (1992)

Arthur F. Corwin, *Spain and the Abolition of Slavery* (1967)

Franklin W. Knight, *Slave Society in Cuba* (1970)

M. M. Fragnals et al., *Between Slavery & Free Labor* (1985)

Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba* (1999)

Nov. 18 **Abolition in Brazil and Afro-Brazilians**

READ: Weinstein, "Shifting Narratives," *; Butler, *Freedom's Given*

ADD: Stanley J. Stein, *Vassouras* (1957)

Robert Toplin, *Abolition of Slavery* (1971)

Rebecca J. Scott et al., *Abolition of Slavery in Brazil* (1988)

George R. Andrews, *Blacks and Whites in Sao Paulo, Brazil* (1991)

Nov. 25 THANKSGIVING BREAK

Dec. 2 **Age of Empire**

READ: Klein, *Breaking the Chains*, 3-36, + ONE other chapter

ADD: Frederick Cooper, *From Slaves to Squatters* (1980)

Charles Van Onselen, *The Seed is Mine* (1996)

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost* (1998)

Dec. 9 FINAL PAPER DUE