Examining America's great paradox--slavery in a land of liberty--the aim of this course is to discuss important issues involving race and slavery in American history. Beginning with West Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade, we will consider slavery during the colonial and national periods, emphasizing the years between the American Revolution and the Civil War. We will ask, among other questions, how and why the "peculiar institution" began and endured for more than two centuries.


In addition to the required reading, graduate students should read and be prepared to discuss each week two scholarly essays, articles, or book chapters relating to the week=s assignment. Undergraduate students should read and be prepared to discuss one scholarly essay, article, or book chapter relating to the week=s assignment. This selected reading should be of your choice. Many articles can be found on line through Jackson Library=s AJournal Finder@; others can be found in books and periodicals in Jackson Library. At each class session, students should be prepared to summarize briefly the arguments advanced in their outside reading.

Graduate students are required to write a fifteen-page paper and undergraduates a five—age paper examining some aspect of race and slavery in America. The papers are due December 8, 2009, and should include a bibliography. Appended to the papers should be a second bibliography of the selected essays, articles, or book chapters that you read during the semester, along with the title of the general subject for the week as listed on the Schedule of Assignments.

There will be a mid-term and a final examination. Both will include objective and essay questions. At least one question on the final exam will be comprehensive.

Attendance is required. Missing more than one class could result in the lowering of your final grade. One third of the final grade will be your outside reading and your paper, one third on your midterm, one third on your final.

My office is 2105 in the MHRA Building and my hours are Mondays 4:30-6:30, or by appointment.
Schedule of Assignments

First Week: August 24 Housekeeping matters
   Lecture: Historians and African-American History
Second Week: August 31
   Lecture: West Africa
   Reading Assignment: Chapter 1 AACE; Chapter 2, FSTF
Third Week: September 14
   Lecture: The Atlantic Slave Trade
   Reading Assignment: Chapter 2 AACE; Chapter 3, FSTF
Fourth Week: September 21
   Lecture: Colonial America
   Reading Assignment: Chapters 3 AACE; Chapter 4, FSTF
Fifth Week: September 28
   Lecture: Revolutionary America
   Reading Assignment: Chapter 4 AACE; Chapter 5, FSTF
Sixth Week: October 5
   Lecture: Blacks in the New Republic
   Reading Assignment: Chapter 6, FSTF
Seventh Week: October 19 mid-term examination
Eighth Week: October 26
   Lecture: The Great Uprooting
   Reading Assignment: Prologue, Chapter 1 ISPL; Chapter 7, FSTF
Ninth Week: November 2
   Lecture: The South=s Peculiar Institution
   Reading Assignment: Chapter 2, ISPL; Chapter 8, FSTF
Tenth Week: November 9
   Lecture: Slaves= Reaction to Bondage
   Reading Assignment: Chapters 3, 4, ISPL
Eleventh Week: November 16
   Lecture: Free Blacks: North and South
   Reading Assignment: Chapter 5, ISPL; Chapter 9, FSTF
Twelfth Week: November 23
   Lecture: Pan Africans and Colonization
   Reading Assignment: Chapter 10, FSTF, Chapter 6, ISPL
Thirteenth Week: November 30
   Lecture: The Sectional Conflict; Freedom!
   Reading Assignment: Chapter 11, FSTF; Epilogue,
   Afterword, About the Sources, Appendixes, ISPL
Fourteenth Week: December 7 final examination (papers and bibliographies due)