HIS 301: Race and Slavery
Course Syllabus

Between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, twelve million Africans were forcibly transported to the Americas. 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 also analyze how the African American identity, born in bondage, changed with the rise and fall of slavery in the United States.

Course Requirements: The requirements for this course include assigned readings for each class, periodic assignments and quizzes on the assigned readings, a paper, and two exams.

Assigned Readings: There are four books assigned for this class: David Northrup, *The Atlantic Slave Trade* (1994); Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America* (1998); 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); and Ira Berlin, et al., *Free At Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War* (1992). Each of these books can be purchased at the University Bookstore. Additional readings are on blackboard, e-reserves, and the internet. These readings will be linked to the Syllabus on Blackboard and listed under Course Documents on Blackboard as they become available. The assigned reading list may undergo minor changes, including the addition of primary source readings; students should be sure to consult the most current version of the Syllabus on Blackboard under Course Information.

Attendance and Late Policy: You are allowed three absences. After three absences, you will receive a zero for participation for that day. In addition, students will be dropped from the class for excessive absences. Assignments submitted in class are due at the beginning of the class period. Students who submit assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy.

Final Grade Composition

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

Participation, Short Assignments, and Quizzes (20%): Participation in discussion is mandatory. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings on the day that they are assigned. Attendance alone is not sufficient for full participation credit. Students will be given brief in-class and take-
home writing and research assignments based on the assigned readings. Students will also be periodically quizzed on readings and lectures.

Exams (30% each): There will be two exams in this class: one midterm on March 3 and one final exam on May 8. Both exams will include identifications and essays.

Paper (20%): Students are required to write a research paper based on on-line abolitionist newspapers, due on Monday, April 10th.

Plagiarism Policy: The University defines plagiarism as “intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise.”1 (See the University’s Academic Integrity Policies for further information.) All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

Week 1 (January 9, 11, 13): African Myths and Realities

Monday: Introduction

Wednesday: (Mis)Conceptions of Africa

Friday: West Africa, 1200-1500

Week 2 (January 16, 18, 20): The Creation of the Atlantic World

Monday: Class Canceled, MLK Day

Wednesday: The Development of Early Commerce
Readings: John Thornton, Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, pp. 13-97 on blackboard

Friday: African Slavery
Readings: John Thornton, Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, pp. 98-125 on blackboard

1 http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/violation/plagiarism/
Week 3 (January 23, 25, 27): The Atlantic Slave Trade

Monday: Capture and Enslavement

Wednesday: The Middle Passage

Friday: Destinations

Week 4 (January 30, February 1, 3): Early North American Slave Societies

Monday: Sugar and the Roots of New World Slavery

Wednesday: Chesapeake and New England
Readings: Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, pp. 29-63; *Testimony from Virginia Court Records* (1681) on blackboard; *New Netherlands Petition*, 1661 on blackboard

Friday: Lowcountry and Louisiana
Readings: Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, pp. 64-92

Week 5 (February 6, 8, 10): Maturation of the Plantation Complex

Monday: Chesapeake
Readings: Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, pp. 93-141; *Virginia Slave Code* (1705) on blackboard

Wednesday: Lowcountry
Readings: Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, pp. 142-76; *The Stono Rebellion in South Carolina, 1739* on blackboard

Friday: North and Louisiana

Week 6 (February 13, 15, 17): Slavery and Freedom in the Revolutionary Era

Monday: Spreading the Seeds of Rebellion

Wednesday: A War for Liberty?

Friday: The Haitian Revolution

**Week 7 (February 20, 22, 24): The Aftermath of Independence**

Monday: “All Men are Created Equal”

Wednesday: Gradual Emancipation in the North
Readings: Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, pp. 256-289; “Negroes Protest Against Taxation Without Representation, 1780” on blackboard

Friday: Constitutional Debates over Slavery

**Week 8 (February 27, March 1, 3): Rebellion and Expansion**

Monday: Era of the Common (White) Man
Readings: Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, pp. 325-357

Wednesday: Black and Red
Readings: Claudio Saunt, *A New Order of Things*, pp. 111-135 on blackboard

Friday: Mid-Term Exam

**Week 9 (March 6, 8, 10): Spring Break Class Canceled**

**Week 10 (March 13, 15, 17): Life in the Cotton Kingdom**

Monday: Internal Slave Trade
Readings: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave & Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, pp. TBA

Wednesday: The “Quarters”
Readings: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave & Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, pp. TBA

Friday: Plantation Labor
Readings: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave & Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, pp. TBA
Week 11 (March 20, 22, 24): Beyond the Plantation

Monday: Resistance
Readings: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave & Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, pp. TBA

Wednesday: Urban Slavery
Readings: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave & Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, pp. TBA

Friday: Free Blacks and Free People of Color
Readings: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave & Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, pp. TBA

Week 12 (March 27, 29, 31): Creating Black Culture

Monday: Religion
Readings: Sylvia R. Frey and Betty Wood, Come Shouting to Zion: African American Protestantism in the American South and British Caribbean to 1830, pp. 148-181

Wednesday: Gender
Readings: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave & Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, pp. TBA

Friday: Family
Readings: Brenda E. Stevenson, Life in Black and White: Family and Community in the Slave South, pp. 226-231

Week 13 (April 3, 5, 7): North of Slavery

Monday: Black Life in the North

Wednesday: Race and Labor in the North
Readings: David R. Roediger, Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class, pp. 95-114 on blackboard; David Walker, Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World on blackboard

Friday: Abolitionism
Readings: On-line abolitionist newspapers

Week 14 (April 10, 12, 14): The Controversy over Slavery

Monday: The Political Crisis of the 1850s
Readings: None
Paper due at beginning of class

Wednesday: The End of Compromise
Readings: Ira Berlin, et al., Free At Last, pp. 3-94

Friday: “Spring Holiday” Class Canceled

**Week 15 (April 17, 19, 21): The Civil War**

Monday: Secession and the Descent to War
Readings: Ira Berlin, et al., Free At Last, pp. 95-166

Wednesday: From a War for Union to a War for Freedom
Readings: Ira Berlin, et al., Free At Last, pp. 167-240

Friday: War’s End
Readings: Ira Berlin, et al., Free At Last, pp. 435-539

**Week 16 (April 24, 26, 28): Reconstruction**

Monday: Rehearsal for Reconstruction
Readings: Ira Berlin, et al., Free At Last, pp. 241-332

Wednesday: Presidential Reconstruction
Readings: None

Friday: Radical Reconstruction
Readings: Steven Hahn, A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South, pp. 163-215 on blackboard

**Week 17 (May 1, 2): Reconstruction’s Demise**

Monday: A Failed Revolution
Readings: 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 on blackboard

Tuesday: Review

**Final Exam: Monday, May 8th 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**