

Spring 2006 | University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
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Office Hours: Mondays, 12 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

## 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 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Plagiarism Policy:** The University defines plagiarism as “intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise.”<sup>1</sup> (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

Readings: “Ghana's Uneasy Embrace of Slavery's Diaspora” in the *New York Times* at <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9B00E0DA1230F934A15751C1A9639C8B63&sec=travel&pagewanted=print>; Robert Chrisman, “The Black Scholar Forum: A Symposium on Roots,” on blackboard; Philip Nobile, “Uncovering Roots,” on blackboard

Friday: West Africa, 1200-1500

Readings: John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*, pp. 1-9 on blackboard; Walter Rodney, Excerpt from *How Europeans Underdeveloped Africa* in *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, ed. David Northrup, pp. 135-147

## **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

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<sup>1</sup> <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/violation/plagiarism/>

### **Week 3 (January 23, 25, 27): The Atlantic Slave Trade**

Monday: Capture and Enslavement

Readings: David Northrup, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, pp. 74-95, 120-28

Wednesday: The Middle Passage

Readings: David Northrup, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, pp. 99-132

Friday: Destinations

Readings: David Northrup, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, pp. 37-66

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

Monday: Sugar and the Roots of New World Slavery

Readings: Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, pp. 1-28

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

Readings: Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, pp. 177-217; "Statement of Slave Rebels, 1741" from Daniel Horsmanden, *The Negro Conspiracy in the City of New York, 1741* on blackboard

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

Monday: Spreading the Seeds of Rebellion

Readings: Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Riddiker, *Many Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic*, pp. 211-247 on blackboard

Wednesday: A War for Liberty?

Readings: Stephen H Browne, "Remembering Crispus Attucks: Race, Rhetoric, and the Politics of Commemoration," *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 1999 85(2), pp. 169-187 on blackboard

Friday: The Haitian Revolution

Readings: C. L. R. James, *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*, pp. 85-117 on blackboard

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

Monday: "All Men are Created Equal"

Readings: Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, pp. 217-255; "Slaves Petitions For Freedom, 1773-1779" on blackboard

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

Readings: Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, pp. 290-324; Excerpt from *The Constitution of the Pennsylvania Society* on blackboard

### **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

Readings: Shane White, "'It Was A Proud Day': African Americans, Festivals, and Parades in the North, 1741-1834," *Journal of American History* (June 1994), pp. 13-50 on blackboard

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 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**