

HIS 389-01/INS-333-04: West Africa during the Atlantic Slave Trade
Spring 2007 – T/Th 3:30 - 4:45, 2207 HHRA

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Course Objectives:

In this course we will examine how the trade between European and African merchants that began in the fifteenth century turned into a trans-Atlantic slave trade. We will focus on this development primarily from the perspective of West African societies that were involved in this trade, and we will be especially concerned with questions of how the slave trade was organized on the African side, and how the trade in slaves and its abolition affected West Africa. Major themes to be addressed include: Cross cultural encounters and conflicts; ‘master narratives’ and ‘slave narratives’; history and memory; diaspora and ‘creolization’; ‘double consciousness’ and the Atlantic world; and gender and demography.

Student learning goals – At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- \$ Explain the chronological development of the Atlantic Slave Trade and its abolition;
- \$ Review the major effects of the Atlantic trade on West African societies and the African diaspora;
- \$ Discuss the importance of geographical place and chronology in studying historical events.

Course requirements include an end-of-semester in-class essay based on course reading (worth 25% of final grade); short writing assignments (worth 40% of final grade); and general class participation, attendance, group work, and summaries of presentations (worth 35% of final grade). **SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLASS PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY ARE DUE.**

***** Attendance policy: Attendance at all lectures and discussions is mandatory; students with more than two unexcused absences risk being dropped from the course; excused absences must be documented. Pagers, laptops, and cell phones must be turned off. *****

Required textbooks: David Northrup (ed.), The Atlantic Slave Trade (Houghton Mifflin, 2nd edition, 2002).
Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative and other writings (Penguin Books, revised edition 2003).

Other required readings (on Blackboard) are listed in syllabus after the class calendar.

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