

History 502
Topics in African American History
Professor Schweninger

Examining America's great paradox--slavery in the 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" endured for nearly two-and-one-half centuries.

The required reading will come from two books: John Hope Franklin and Evelyn Brooks Higgenbotham, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, 9th edition (New York: McGraw Hill, 2011), ISBN 978-0-07-296378-6 [hereafter FSTF]; and John Hope Franklin and Loren Schweninger, *In Search of the Promised Land: A Slave Family in the Old South* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), ISBN 0-19-516088-6 [hereafter ISPL]. During the first half of the course, up to the mid-term, in addition to the required reading cited below, graduate students should read and be prepared to discuss each week two scholarly essays, articles, or book chapters written by historians relating to the week's assignment; undergraduates should read and be prepared to discuss one scholarly essay, article, or book chapter written by an historian 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; bibliographies can be found at the end of the two books cited above. For the first half of the course's outside reading, students may use chapters from Donald R. Wright, *African Americans in the Colonial Era: From African Origins through the American Revolution*, 3rd edition (Wheeling, Illinois: Harlan Davidson, 2010), ISBN 978-0-88295-274-1. At each class session, each student should be prepared to summarize and briefly discuss the arguments advanced in her or his outside reading. Please be sure the subjects of your readings match the subjects for the week. During second half of the course, after the mid-term, all outside reading, with the same requirements for graduate and undergraduate students, should relate to your required paper. Graduate students should write a fifteen-page paper and undergraduates a six-page paper by examining some aspect of race and slavery found in the Digital Library on American Slavery <http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/>. Browse the Digital Library by subjects, chose one subject, or one state and one subject, or one period and one subject, or an individual or group of individuals, read the abstracts, create a bibliography about the subject, and write your paper (what do these legal records tell us about race and slavery in the Old South?). The papers are due April 16, 2012, and should include two bibliographies, one of the selected essays you read during the first half of the course, along with the title of the general subject for the week as listed on the Schedule of Assignments below, and the second a bibliography for your paper.

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. Questions on the exams will come from the required reading and lectures.

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 based your class participation, 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 by appointment, Mondays 4:30-6:30, or, if that is not possible, after class.

Schedule of Assignments

First Week: January 9 Housekeeping matters

Lecture: Historians and African-American History

Second Week: January 23

Lecture: The Digital Library on American Slavery; West Africa on the Eve of the African Slave Trade

Reading Assignment: Chapter 1, FSTF; Epilogue, Afterword, About the Sources, Appendixes, ISPL

Third Week: January 30

Lecture: The Atlantic Slave Trade

Reading Assignment: Chapter 2, FSTF

Fourth Week: February 6

Lecture: The Beginnings of Slavery in North America

Reading Assignment: Chapter 3, FSTF

Fifth Week: February 13

Lecture: Slavery in the Eighteenth Century

Reading Assignment: Chapter 4, FSTF

Sixth Week: February 20

Lecture: The Revolutionary Era

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5, FSTF

Seventh Week: February 27 mid-term examination

Eighth Week: March 12

Lecture: The Early Republic; the Great Uprooting

Reading Assignment: Prologue, Chapter 1 ISPL; Chapter 6, FSTF

Ninth Week: March 19

Lecture: The South=s Peculiar Institution

Reading Assignment: Chapter 2, ISPL; Chapter 7, FSTF

Tenth Week: March 26

Lecture: Slaves= Reaction to Bondage

Reading Assignment: Chapters 3, 4, ISPL

Eleventh Week: April 2

Lecture: Free Blacks: North and South

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5, ISPL; Chapter 8, FSTF

Twelfth Week: April 9

Lecture: African Americans and Colonization

Reading Assignment: Chapter 6, ISPL

Thirteenth Week: April 16

Lecture: The Sectional Conflict; Freedom!

Reading Assignment: Chapter 9, FSTF; Papers and Bibliographies due

Fourteenth Week: April 23 Final examination