

Spring 2022 | University of North Carolina, Greensboro
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Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (in person or [sign up for Zoom appointment](#) at least 24 hours before), Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ([sign up for Zoom appointment](#) at least 24 hours before), and by appointment

HIS 403: Slavery in the Americas Course Syllabus

When we refer to slavery in the United States now, we tend to think of the “Old South,” a mythologized world of cotton, big houses, and magnolias. Southern antebellum slavery, however, was one of the final incarnations of a system of labor that had emerged in the Atlantic almost five hundred years before and had transformed repeatedly before appearing in the Black Belt in the middle of the nineteenth century. From its introduction in the Americas onward, chattel slavery had a profound influence on the colonial societies that emerged in the wake of Columbus’s arrival. Yet, neither the impact nor the character of the institution was uniform. To understand the complexity of slavery, then, it is necessary to trace the institution’s evolution across time and space. This class examines the origins and development of slavery before and after its arrival on the North American mainland and explores the unique nature of slavery in the U. S. while placing the “peculiar institution” in a hemispheric context.

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

Assigned Readings: There are six books assigned for this course. For the list of books, see the class schedule below. All of the books can be purchased at the University Bookstore.

Electronic Devices: The use of laptops, tablets, cellular phones, or any other type of electronic device is prohibited during class.

Attendance and Late Policy: Attendance in class is mandatory. The door will close ten minutes after class starts. Once the door closes, students will no longer be admitted to the class and will be considered absent. Students are allowed one unexcused absence without an impact on their grade. For the second and every subsequent absence, students will receive a five-point grade deduction. 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.

Plagiarism Policy: The University defines plagiarism as: “Representing the words, thoughts, or ideas 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.

Final Grade Composition

- Participation 25%
- Assignments 35%
- Paper 40%

Participation: 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.

Assignments: Students will be given brief in-class and take-home writing and research assignments based on the assigned readings. There will be no make-up assignments in the case of a missed class.

Paper: Students are required to write a ten- to twelve-page paper based on assigned readings and lectures, due on **May 2**. All sources in the papers should be properly cited according to the guidelines laid out in [The Chicago Manual of Style](#), which is available on-line.

Class Schedule

Week 1: January 12

Introduction

Week 2: January 19

John Thornton, *A History of West Central Africa to 1850* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020), pp. 1-88 on Canvas

Week 3: January 26

Research Assignment on [Slave Voyages](#)

Week 4: February 2

David Wheat, *Atlantic Africa and the Spanish Caribbean, 1570-1640* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), pp. 1-141

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

Week 5: February 9

David Wheat, *Atlantic Africa and the Spanish Caribbean, 1570-1640* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), pp. 142-265

Week 6: February 16

James Sweet, *Recreating Africa: Culture, Kinship, and Religion in the Portuguese World, 1441-1770* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), pp. 1-86

Week 7: February 23

James Sweet, *Recreating Africa: Culture, Kinship, and Religion in the Portuguese World, 1441-1770* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), pp. 87-230

Week 8: March 2

Vincent Brown, *Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 2020), pp. 1-128

Week 9: March 9

No Class – Spring Break

Week 10: March 16

Vincent Brown, *Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 2020), pp. 129-250

Week 11: March 23

Andres Resendez, *The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America* (Boston: First Mariner Books, 2017), pp. 1-171

Week 12: March 30

Andres Resendez, *The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America* (Boston: First Mariner Books, 2017), pp. 172-321

Week 13: April 6

Christina Snyder, *Slavery in Indian Country: The Changing Face of Captivity in Early America* (Boston: Harvard University Press, 2012), pp. 1-126

Week 14: April 13

Christina Snyder, *Slavery in Indian Country: The Changing Face of Captivity in Early America* (Boston: Harvard University Press, 2012), pp. 127-250

Week 15: April 20

Edward Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery in the Making of American Capitalism* (New York: Basic Books, 2014), pp. 1-214

Week 16: April 27

Edward Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery in the Making of American Capitalism* (New York: Basic Books, 2014), pp. 215-437

Term paper due at noon on Monday, May 2

Required UNCG syllabus language Approved by Faculty Senate on July 29, 2021

As we return for fall 2021, the campus community must recognize and address continuing concerns about physical and emotional safety, especially as we will have many more students, faculty, and staff on campus than in the last academic year. As such, all students, faculty, and staff are required to uphold UNCG's culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- [Following face-covering guidelines](#)
- Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene when possible
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19
- Staying home if you are ill
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill.

Instructors will have seating charts for their classes. These are important for facilitating contact tracing should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19. Students must sit in their assigned seats at every class meeting and must not move furniture. Students should not eat or drink during class time.

To make it easier for students to hear their instructor and/or read lips and if conditions permit, instructors who are fully vaccinated and who can maintain at least six feet of distance from students may remove their masks while actively teaching if they choose, but will wear a mask at all other times while in the classroom, including during the periods before and after class

A limited number of disposable masks will be available in classrooms for students who have forgotten theirs. Face coverings will also be available for purchase in the UNCG Campus Bookstore. Students who do not follow masking requirements will be asked to put on a face covering or leave the classroom to retrieve one and only return when they follow the basic requirements to uphold standards of safety and care for the UNCG community. Once students have a face covering, they are permitted to re-enter a class already in progress. Repeated issues may result in conduct action. The course policies regarding attendance and academics remain in effect for partial or full absence from class due to lack of adherence with face covering and other requirements.

For instances where the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) has granted accommodations regarding wearing face coverings, students should contact their instructors to develop appropriate alternatives to class participation and/or activities as needed. Instructors or the student may also contact [OARS](#) (336.334.5440) who, in consultation with Student Health Services, will review requests for accommodations.