HIS 301:
Race and Slavery in America

Instructor: Watson Jennison
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Between the fifteen and nineteenth centuries, twelve million Africans were forcibly transported to the new world. 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 analyze how the African American identity, born in bondage, changed with the rise and fall of slavery in the United States.

Attendance in class is mandatory. You should be prepared to discuss the week’s readings by the first class of each week. Assignments will periodically be given in class. If you do not attend, you will be given a zero for this assignment. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor to make up any assignments that you have missed. You will be dropped from the class after three missed assignments. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes if participation falls below acceptable levels. Pop quizzes and in-class assignments are included in your 20% participation grade. Course requirements also include two tests: a midterm and a final exam. In addition, you will be responsible for a five- to seven-page paper.

Final Grade Composition:
- Participation 20%
- Midterm 25%
- Final Exam 30%
- Paper 25%

Books are available in the university bookstore. Articles and other short reading assignments are available under “Course Documents” on Blackboard. Consult the syllabus under “Course Information” on Blackboard for possible changes in reading assignments.

Assigned Books:
- David Walker, Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World (1965)
Unit 1

Week 1 (August 19, 21): Introduction and Africa Myths and Realities

Readings:

Week 2 (August 26, 28): African Empires and the Development of the Atlantic World

Readings:

Week 3 (September 2, 4): Sugar and the Roots of New World Slavery

Readings:
- Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*, pp. 3-29.
- Philip D. Curtin, *The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex*, pp. 73-85.

Week 4 (September 9, 11): Chesapeake and the Lowcountry

Readings:

Week 5 (September 16, 18): Louisiana and Florida

Readings:

Week 6 (September 23, 25): Slavery in the North and Creating Black America

Readings:

Unit 2

Week 7 (September 30, October 2): Revolution and Early Republic

Readings:

Exam:
• Mid-term exam Tuesday

Week 8 (October 7, 9): Indians and Blacks and Settling the Southwest

Readings:

Week 9 (October 14, 16): Families and Faith

Readings:
• Sylvia R. Frey and Betty Wood, *Come Shouting to Zion*, pp. 149-81.

Week 10 (October 21, 23): Abolition and Rebellion

Readings:
• David Walker, *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World*.
• Kenneth S. Greenberg, ed., *Confessions of Nat Turner*.

Week 11 (October 28, 31): Labor and Gender

Readings:
• Selections from Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, TBA

**Week 12 (November 4, 6): Resistance and Accommodation**

Readings:
• Selections from Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, TBA

Assignment:
• Paper due at beginning of Thursday’s class.

**Unit 3**

**Week 13 (November 11, 13): Prelude to Civil War and Civil War, Part I**

Readings:
• Michael P. Johnson and James L. Roark, *Black Masters*, pp. 31-63.

**Week 14 (November 18, 20): Civil War, Part II**

Readings:

Movie:
• “Glory”

**Week 15 (November 25, 27): Reconstruction, Part I**

Readings:
• Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction*, pp. 82-123.

**Week 16 (December 2, 4): Reconstruction, Part II**

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.