

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Slavery and Freedom: African American History

Course Number and Section

HISTORY

3311F - 550

Instructor Name(s): Nassisse Solomon

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

History 3311F will probe the ways in which the institution of slavery shaped North America. Beginning with an overview of the histories of racial slavery and resistance, this course will explore the ways in which slavery in North America fundamentally influenced the development of the economic, political, and socio-cultural landscapes of both the United States and Canada. Through discussion, films, and lectures, topics such as the economics and religious justifications of slavery, family, religion, and culture under slavery; rebellion and resistance; free communities; the roots of abolition, and the meaning of emancipation will be explored.

We will also study the ways in which enslaved people struggled for their freedom and engaged in centuries-long battles for abolition, concluding with histories of emancipation and reconstruction following the constitutional end of racial slavery in 1865. While the site of historical inquiry is North America, the topics and themes discussed throughout the course will be contextualized within a transnational framework. Whilst slavery was officially abolished in the nineteenth century, its legacies are still with us today, rendering the discussion of the history of slavery an ever-evolving conversation. Hence, you are asked to approach the course material critically, asking questions not only of the past but of historians, who interpret the past. Many of the readings centre on important debates about race, interpretive voice, and the relationship between historical consciousness, cultural power, commemoration, and historical memory.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify and interpret themes and patterns surrounding North American slavery (past and present implications).
2. Research and analyze primary sources.
3. Learn valuable writing skills such as how to form an argument and support it with historical evidence.
4. Question and evaluate historiographical debates among historians and how these interpretations shape cultural narratives.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Required Readings:

- Horton, James and Horton Lois, Slavery, and the Making of America

Book Review:

□ Saidiya Hartman, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth Century America* (2022, new edition)

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	Ongoing	30%
Critical Book Review	10/18/2023	15%
Roundtable discussion of Book Review	10/24/2023	5%
Research proposal and annotated bibliography	10/03/2023	10%
Final paper	11/15/2023	25%
Final Exam	Dec. TBD	15%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Luṅaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.