

HISTORY 4720: MODERN ATLANTIC SLAVERY

Spring 2007
MWF 1:25 - 2:23

A. Ahanotu, B. Carroll, M. Sánchez-Walker
C212

Instructor Office Hours & Contact Information

Ahanotu:	C118C	667-3511	aahanotu@toto.csustan.edu	M 5:00-6:00, T 12:00-4:00
Carroll:	C118F	667-3564	bcarroll@csustan.edu	MWF 8:00-9:00, MW 3:00-4:00
Sánchez-Walker:	C118H	667-3316	mwalker@csustan.edu	MF 11:30-1:30, W 5:00-6:30

Course Description and Purpose:

This course explores the history and continuing social impact of slavery in the modern Atlantic world, using a comparative approach that examines developments and conditions in Africa, Latin America, and the United States. This course fulfills Liberal Studies Area 5 and is intended to help future instructors prepare to teach about slavery in the classroom.

Classroom Activities:

This course is divided into topical units, each involving lectures on the given topic for each of our three major regions, one or more readings intended to illuminate comparative perspectives, and a class discussion about the assigned readings. There will also be some films and videos for viewing and discussion.

Requirements:

- 1) Attendance at all class sessions
- 2) Active participation in class discussions
- 3) Taking a map quiz, a midterm exam, and a final examination
- 4) Writing one research paper examining some dimension of Atlantic slavery in comparative perspective

Paper assignment details:

Your paper should examine a specific aspect of Atlantic slavery, comparing it in two of the three regions covered by this course (i.e., Africa, Latin America, and the U.S.). You may – indeed, should – choose a specific place within each of the two regions (e.g., South Africa or west Africa; Brazil or Cuba within Latin America; the Chesapeake or lowcountry within the U.S.). The paper must 2000-2500 words (about 8-10 double-spaced pages) in length and include an accurate word count at the end.

In order to help you maintain a healthy rate of progress on your paper, you must (1) meet with at least 2 instructors (presumably, the two corresponding to your two chosen regions) by March 28; have both instructors sign off on a contract identifying the topic of your paper, also by March 28; prepare and have approved an outline of your paper by April 16.

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Required Reading:

There will be a course packet consisting of selected essays.

Grading:	Map quiz:	10%
	Midterm exam	25%
	Final exam:	25%
	Research paper:	40%

The instructors reserve right to enhance a grade for students who show evidence of coming to class well prepared and are willing to participate actively in class discussions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Introductory

W	2/14	Introduction to the course Lecture: Why study modern slavery and the slave trade? (Ahanotu)
F	2/16	Mediterranean and Iberian background (Sánchez-Walker)

Unit 1: Origins

M	2/19	African and Islamic background (Ahanotu)
W	2/21	Class and the development of slavery in West Indies and Brazil (Sánchez-Walker)
F	2/23	Race and the development of slavery in Virginia (Carroll)
M	2/26	MAP QUIZ Discuss reading

Unit 2: Economic Dimensions

W	2/28	Slave labor in Latin America: monoculture (Sánchez-Walker)
F	3/2	Slave labor in Latin America: skilled, manumitted, and freed (Sánchez-Walker)
M	3/5	Slave labor systems in West Africa (Ahanotu)
W	3/7	Slave labor systems in South Africa (Ahanotu)
F	3/9	Slave labor in the U.S. (Carroll)
M	3/12	Was slavery in the U.S. profitable? (Carroll)
W	3/14	Discussion of readings

Unit 3: Social and Cultural Dimensions

F	3/16	Gender and family in U.S. slavery (Carroll)
M	3/19	Slave religion and spirituality in the U.S. (Carroll)
W	3/21	Slave religion and culture in Africa (Ahanotu)
F	3/23	Family and society in Latin American slavery (Sánchez-Walker)
M	3/26	Slave religion and spirituality in Latin America (Sánchez-Walker)

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W 3/28 Film: *Sankofa*
F 3/30 **Cesar Chavez Day observance: no class**
M 4/2 Film: *Sankofa* (continued)
W 4/4 Discussion of readings and *Sankofa*
F 4/6 **Midterm exam**

SPRING BREAK: APR. 9-13

Unit 4: Resistance and Rebellion

M 4/16 The Latin American perspective (Sánchez-Walker)
W 4/18 The African perspective (Ahanotu)
F 4/20 The U.S. perspective (Carroll)
M 4/23 Discussion of readings

Unit 5: Abolition and its Consequences

W 4/25 Abolition and its consequences in Africa I (Ahanotu)
F 4/27 video: TBA
M 4/30 Abolition and its consequences in Africa II (Ahanotu)
W 5/2 The U.S. abolitionist movement (Carroll)
F 5/4 Free Soil ideology, the Republican party, and the Civil War (Carroll)
M 5/7 Emancipation and its Aftermath in the U.S. (Carroll)
W 5/9 Emancipation in Brazil (Sánchez-Walker)
F 5/11 **Warrior Day: no class**
M 5/14 Emancipation in Cuba (Sánchez-Walker)
W 5/16 Racial legacies: Beyond Slavery (Sánchez-Walker)
F 5/18 video: *Mirrors of the Heart*
M 5/21 Discussion of readings and video

Wrap-Up

W 5/23 Teaching evaluations and final exam review
Research paper due in class today
R 5/31 **Final exam, 11:15-1:15**