

AMH 3674
Slavery and Abolition

Spring 2018
MWF 6 (12:50 – 1:40 p.m.)
Turlington 2350
Prof. Jon Sensbach
Office: 233 Keene-Flint
Office hours W 10 – 11 am, 2 – 3:30 pm and by appointment
Tel. 273-3396, jsensbach@ufl.edu
Final exam: 3A (Thursday, May 3, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.)

This class will examine the history of slavery and abolition in colonial America, the U.S., and the broader Atlantic world through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Beginning with the rise of the Atlantic slave trade in the sixteenth century, the course will examine systems of slavery in the American colonies, the search for freedom during the age of revolution, the rise of the abolition movement, slave rebellions, the Civil War and the end of slavery, and the uneasy transition to freedom. Through a combination of primary and secondary documents, we will focus on African Americans' active responses to racial oppression and their attempts to gain and consolidate freedom in America. We will conclude with an examination of the legacies of slavery in American history and the ways its contested memory shapes modern America.

These required books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore in Reitz Union or may be acquired from your favorite internet bookseller:

Robin D.G. Kelley and Early Lewis, eds., *To Make Our World Anew, Vol. 1: A History of African Americans to 1880* (Oxford University Press, 2000).

Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince: A West Indian Slave Narrative* (Dover, 2004).

Solomon Northrup, *Twelve Years a Slave* (Dover, 2014).

Erica Armstrong Dunbar, *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* (Atria, 2017).

Marcus Rediker, *The Fearless Benjamin Lay: The Quaker Dwarf Who Became the First Revolutionary Abolitionist* (Beacon, 2017).

These readings will be supplemented occasionally with additional sources available online or by handouts. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/>

Requirements

1. Three four-page papers (due Feb. 2, March 16 and March 30) on specific assigned questions handed out in advance by the instructor.
2. One book quiz on specific assigned questions (Feb. 23).
3. Examinations. There will be one mid-term and a test, both consisting of a combination of essay and identification questions.
4. Class attendance and participation. Students will be expected to attend class regularly and to keep up with reading assignments, which average about 75 pages per week. Everyone is allowed two absences regardless of the reason; no excuse or physician's note is needed (except for a missed exam). Each subsequent absence, however, will result in a drop of half a letter grade in the final average for the term (students who are forced to miss more classes because of serious or chronic medical problems or family emergencies should consult with the instructor). The course will be lecture-based approximately two-thirds of the time, but there will also be a number of class discussions in which students should participate based on course readings. No digital devices in class, please.

Your final grade (based on a 10-point scale) will be determined as follows:

Midterm	20%
Test	20%
3 4-p papers	45% (15% ea.)
1 quiz	10%
Participation	5%

Schedule

Week 1. Jan. 8-12. Introduction: American Slavery and the Memory Wars

Reading: Alex Tizon, "My Family's Slave," *The Atlantic*, June 2017.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/06/lolas-story/524490/>

Week 2. Jan. 17-19 (MLK Day Monday, Jan 15, no class). Africa and the Atlantic World

Reading: Colin Palmer, "The First Passage," chap. 1 in *World Anew*

Week 3. Jan. 22-26. Africans in Early America

Reading: Peter Wood, "Strange New Land," chap. 2 in *World Anew*

Week 4. Jan. 29 – Feb. 2. African Cultures in Exile; First Stirrings of Antislavery

Reading: Rediker, *Benjamin Lay*; **Benj. Lay paper due Feb. 2**

Week 5. Feb. 5-9. Era of the American Revolution

Reading: Daniel Littlefield, "Revolutionary Citizens," chap. 3 in *World Anew*

Week 6. Feb. 12-16. Slavery and Freedom in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions

Week 7. Feb. 19-23. After the Revolution

Reading: Dunbar, *Never Caught*; **quiz on *Never Caught* Feb. 23**

Week 8. Feb. 26-28. **Midterm Wed, Feb. 28.** (no class Fri., March 2).

Spring Break March 5-9

Week 10. March 12-16. Resistance and Abolitionism

Reading: *History of Mary Prince*. ***Mary Prince* paper due March 16**

Week 11. March 19-23. The Second Middle Passage

Reading: Deborah Gray White, "Let My People Go," chap. 4 in *World Anew*.

Week 12. March 26 – 30. World of the Slave Labor Camps

Reading: Northrup, *Twelve Years a Slave*; ***Twelve Years* paper due March 30**

Week 13. April 2-6. War for Self-Emancipation

Reading: Noralee Frankel, "Breaking the Chains," 227-35 in *World Anew*

Week 14. April 9-13. Uneasy Freedom

Reading: Frankel, "Breaking the Chains," 236-80 in *World Anew*

Week 15. April 16-20. Afterlives of Slavery

Reading: TBA

Week 16. April 23-25. **Test April 25**