This course will examine some of the main themes found in the vast historiography on Latin American and Caribbean slavery in comparative perspective. Readings have been selected from some, not all, of the principal scholars who have worked on the theme of slavery; and they are reflective of topics that have been the subject of recent research and debate.

Each week different students will summarize the reading assignments in oral presentations to the class; and these will be followed by discussion. You are expected to conscientiously keep up with reading assignments. If not, each class will be dreadfully boring. Additionally, each student will be responsible for writing a paper on the history of slavery in a particular country or region, or on a theme that has been the subject on scholarly debate. These can be "state of the research" papers, which summarize the most important literature on the particular topic; or more general descriptive and analytical papers on the theme chosen. The structure of these papers will be discussed in class.

I want to stress that these papers will be due at the end of the semester. NO INCOMPLETE GRADES will be given in this course.

The most exhaustive bibliographical guide to works on slavery is Joseph C. Miller, Slavery and Slaving in World History: A Bibliography, 1900 - 1991 (Millwood, New York: Kraus International Publications, 1993). This has been updated as Slavery and Slaving in World History: A Bibliography - Vol 2, 1992-96 (Armonk NY: M. E. Sharpe, 1999). More importantly a searchable web site has been developed by Miller and other collaborators at the following internet address: [http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/bib/index.php](http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/bib/index.php)


There are many synthetic surveys on slavery and the slave trade to Latin America and the Caribbean that you may use for general reference. It is recommended that you read, or become familiar with, Herbert S. Klein and Ben Vinson III, African Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean, (second edition) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007) and Klein’s survey of the slave trade, Herbert S. Klein, The Atlantic Slave Trade (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

Robin Blackburn’s book is also recommended: The American Crucible: Slavery, Emancipation, and Human Rights (London: Verso, 2011), as well as Seymour Drescher,

An expansive survey which transcends slavery, and which focuses only upon the 19th and 20th centuries is George Reid Andrews, Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004).


COURSE OUTLINE

Class of:

Aug. 31  
Course Introduction; discussion of class and reading assignments.

Sept. 7  
European and African Backgrounds to Latin American and Caribbean Slavery.


Sept. 14  
The Rise of Slavery in the Americas

Americas (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000) which is highly recommended.


Sept. 21

The Slave Trade and Its Transformations


You should become familiar with the interactive web site ”The Transatlantic Slave Trade Data Base” http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.face which is a valuable research tool.

This class will mostly be based upon the above survey and the statistical and graphic handouts which will be provided to you by the professor.

Recommended: Philip D. Curtin, The Atlantic Slave Trade: A Census (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1969) which was the very first serious effort to quantify the slave trade.


Walter Hawthorne, From Africa to Brazil: Culture, Identity, and an Atlantic Slave Trade, 1600-1830 (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).


**Slavery in Colonial Spanish America**


Oct. 5

**Slavery in Brazil (The Northeast)**


Oct. 12

**College Closed**

Oct. 19

**Slavery in Brazil (The South)**


**Recommended:** Stanley Stein, *Vassouras, a Brazilian Coffee County, 1850-1900* Vassouras, a Brazilian Coffee County, 1850-1900 (Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press, 1957).


Oct. 26

**Slavery in Brazil (The Center)**


**Recommended:** Kathleen Higgins, "Licentious Liberty" in a Brazilian Gold-Mining Region: Slavery, Gender, and Social Control in Eighteenth-Century Sabara, Minas Gerais (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 1999).


**Nov. 2**

**Slavery in the Hispanic Caribbean**


**Nov. 9**

**Slave Rebellions and Varied forms of Resistance**


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**Nov. 16**

**The Possibilities of Freedom: Comparative Patterns of Manumission**


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**Nov. 23**

**Demographic and Economic Aspects of Slave Labor**


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**Nov. 30**

**Anti-slave Trade and anti- Slavery Movements and Their Causes and Motivations**

Mechanics of the Illegal Slave Trade: Economic and Political Aspects, 1820-1870."


Abolition and Emancipation

