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:


These readings will be supplemented occasionally with additional sources available online or by handouts. A rich storehouse of images from this website [www.slaveryimages.org/s/slaveryimages/page/welcome](http://www.slaveryimages.org/s/slaveryimages/page/welcome) supplies a corresponding visual analogue to the many written primary and secondary sources available for study.

**Requirements**

1. One five-page paper due **Jan. 30** on a pre-assigned set of questions.

2. Three book quizzes on pre-assigned questions (Feb. 20, March 19, and April 9).

3. Examinations. There will be one mid-term and a final exam, 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 5-p paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 quizzes</td>
<td>30% (10% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Schedule**

**Week 1.** Jan. 7-9. Introduction: American Slavery and the Memory Wars


**Week 2.** Jan. 14-16. Africa and the Atlantic World

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

**Week 3.** Jan. 21-23. The “Terrible Transformation”: Africans in Early America

   Reading: Peter Wood, “Strange New Land,” chap. 2 in *World Anew*
Week 4. Jan. 28-30. Cultures in Exile; First Stirrings of Antislavery

Reading:

Rediker, *Benjamin Lay*

Germantown Friends’ Petition Against Slavery (1688)

Samuel Sewall, “The Selling of Joseph” (1700)

5-page paper on these readings due Jan. 30

Week 5. Feb. 4-6. Era of the American Revolution

Reading:

Daniel Littlefield, “Revolutionary Citizens,” chap. 3 in *World Anew*

Thomas Jefferson, selections from *Notes on the State of Virginia*

Benjamin Banneker’s reply to Jefferson


Reading:


Venture Smith, “A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, A Native of Africa”

Week 7. Feb. 18-20. After the Revolution

Reading: Dunbar, *Never Caught*; quiz on *Never Caught* Feb. 20


Spring Break March 2-7

Week 10. March 10-12. The Second Middle Passage

Reading:


Week 11. March 17-19. World of the Slave Labor Camps

Reading:

Harriet Jacobs, Solomon Northrup and George Fitzhugh extracts (American Yawp)

Berry, The Price for Their Pound of Flesh – quiz on Price March 19

Week 12. March 24-26. Resistance and Transatlantic Abolition

Reading:

Nat Turner, “Confessions of Nat Turner” (1831)

Henry Highland Garnet, “Address to the Slaves of the United States”

Week 13. March 31 – April 2. War for Self-Emancipation

Reading:

Noralee Frankel, “Breaking the Chains,” 227-35 in World Anew

Cecelski, Abraham Galloway – quiz on Galloway April 9


Reading: Frankel, “Breaking the Chains,” 236-80 in World Anew

Week 15. April 14-16. Afterlives of Slavery: Confrontation and Avoidance in American Public Memory

Reading:


Week 16. April 21. Conclusions

Final Exam: Thursday, May 1, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.