Comparative Slavery

Howard University HIST173

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Fall 2009
TR 11:10-12:30
Off. Hrs.: W, 13:00-14:00

Description: The last few decades have witnessed an outpouring of comparative slave studies that have examined slave systems in a broad geographical sweep as well as on a diverse range of topics. This intense reading course exposes students to this historical literature. It is divided into five key areas of comparative slave studies: colonialism; trading; work; emancipation; and, resistance.

Objectives: The course has three objectives. The first aim is to introduce students to a rich scholarly literature on slave societies and comparative slavery. The second goal is to provide students with knowledge of the comparative method, an essential component of the African Diaspora. The third aim is to stimulate thinking about a possible future research topic.

Requirements: Students are expected to read *circa* 200 pages weekly and come prepared to discuss these when class meets. You are encouraged to use the bibliography when a topic sparks your scholarly curiosity. This is 50 percent of your grade. Students are expected to write a 15 to 20 page final paper on a topic of their choice. It must draw upon at least 6 major books and 6 articles and be comparative in subject and method. Again, the bibliography is there for your usage. This is 50 percent of your grade.

Readings: The 9 books below are all required readings.

🕮 Robin Blackburn, *The Making of New World Slavery* (1997)
🕮 Ronald Segal, *Islam's Black Slaves* (2002)
🕮 Laird Bergad, *Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the U.S.* (2007)
🕮 Ira Berlin & Philip Morgan, eds., *Cultivation & Culture* (1993)

🕮 Peter Kolchin, *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom* (1987)
🕮 David Gaspar & Darlene Hine, eds., *More Than Chattel (*1996)
🕮 David Gaspar & Darlene Hine, eds., *Beyond Bondage: Free Women of Color* (2004)
🕮 Alvin O. Thompson, *Flight to Freedom: African Maroons in the Americas* (2006)
🕮 Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, *The Many-Headed Hydra* (2000)
Those readings below marked with an asterisk * will be provided by the instructor. A useful reference work is Junius P. Rodriguez, ed., *Historical Encyclopedia of World Slavery*, 2 volumes (1997).

Schedule

Aug. 25, 27 Comparing Slavery
Kerr-Ritchie, "Slave Mode of Production," *

I-Colonialism

Sept. 1, 3 Old World Slavery
Blackburn, *New World Slavery,* 31-93

Sept. 8, 10 New World Slavery
Blackburn, *New World Slavery*, 94-368

Sept. 15, 17 Accumulation
Blackburn, *New World Slavery*, 369-580

II-Trading

Sept. 22, 24 Islam
Segal, *Islam's Black Slaves*

Sept. 29/Oct.1 Atlantic

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Data Base (TAST), Emory University

Oct. 6, 8 Demographics

Bergad, *Comparative Histories*, esp. chpt. 4

III-Work

Oct. 13, 15 Lives of Labor

Berlin & Morgan, *Cultivation & Culture*

Oct. 20, 22 Slaves and Serfs

Kolchin, *Unfree Labor*

Oct. 27, 29 Women's Labors

Hine & Gaspar, *More Than Chattel*

IV-emancipation (small e)

Nov. 3, 5 Women's Freedom

Hine & Gaspar, *Beyond Bondage*

Nov. 10, 12 Maroons

Thompson, *Flight to Freedom*

V-Resistance

Nov. 17, 19 Slaves, Sailors, and Commoners

Linebaugh & Rediker, *The Many-Headed Hydra*

Nov. 24, 26 THANKSGIVING

15-20 final page reading and preparation

Dec. 1, 3 The Great Emancipators

Kerr-Ritchie, “The Great Emancipators,” *

Comparative Slavery Bibliography

Classics

C. Degler, *Neither Black nor White* (1971)
S. M. Elkins, *Slavery: A Problem in American Institutional and Intellectual Life* (1959)
L. Foner & E. D. Genovese, eds., *Slavery in the New World* (1969)
H. Klein, *Slavery in the Americas: A Comparative History of Virginia and Cuba* (1967)
O. Patterson, *Slavery and Social Death: A Comparative Study* (1982)
F. Tannenbaum, *Slave and Citizen: The Negro in the Americas* (1946)

Old World

P. Bonnassie, *From Slavery to Feudalism in South-Western Europe* (1991)
M. I. Finley, *Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology* (1980)
D. A. E. Pelteret, *Slavery in Medieval England* (1995)
G. E. M. de Ste Croix, *Class Struggle in the Ancient Greek World* (1981)
J. R. Willis, ed.*, Slaves and Slavery in Muslim Africa*, 2 vols., (1985)

New World

A. Cooper, *The Hanging of Angelique* (2006)
P. D. Curtin, *The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex* (1990)
D. Kadish, ed., *Slavery in the Caribbean Francophone World* (2000)
S. Mintz, *Sweetness and Power* (1985)
W. Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (1972)
S. B. Schwartz, *Slaves, Peasants, and Rebels: Reconsidering Brazilian Slavery* (1992)
J. Walvin, *Fruits of Empire* (1997)

Trading

Islamic-
M. Gordon, *Slavery in the Arab World* (1989)
S. E. Marmon, ed., *Slavery in the Islamic Middle East* (1999)
E. R. Toledano, *Slavery and Abolition in the Ottoman Middle East* (1998)
Atlantic-
G. M. Hall, *Slavery and African Ethnicities in the Americas* (2005)
H. Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade* (1999)
"New Perspectives on the Atlantic Slave Trade," *William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. lviii, no. 1, Jan. 2001
H. Thomas, *The Slave Trade: The Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade: 1440-1870* (1997)
Transcontinental-
R. E. Conrad, *World of Sorrow: The African Slave Trade to Brazil* (1986)
W. Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (1999)
H. S. Klein, *The Middle Passage: Comparative Studies in the Atlantic Slave Trade* (1978)

Working

L. Archer, ed., *Slavery and Other Forms of Unfree Labour* (1988)
B. W. Higman, *Plantation Jamaica* (2005)
F. W. Knight, *Slave Society in Cuba* (1970)
P. Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint (*1998)
S. B. Schwartz, *Slaves, Peasants, and Rebels* (1992), chap. 2
S. J. Stein, *Vassouras: A Brazilian Coffee County, 1850-1900* (1958; 1985)

Culture

J. R. Kerr-Ritchie, "How Working Class were African Slaves?" (unpub. mss)
S. Palmie, ed., *Slave Cultures and the Cultures of Slavery* (1995)
S. Stuckey, *Slave Culture* (1987)
S. & G. White, *The Sounds of Slavery* (2005)

Marronage

G. W. Mullin, *Flight and Rebellion: Slave Resistance in C18th Virginia* (1972)
R. Price, *Maroon Societies* (1973)
G. La Rosa Corzo, *Runaway Slave Settlements in Cuba* (2003)
S. B. Schwartz, *Slaves, Peasants, Rebels* (1992), chap. 4

Resistance

H. Aptheker, *American Negro Slave Revolts* (1944)
R. Blackburn, *The Overthrow of Colonial Slavery* (1988)
M. Craton, *Testing the Chains* (1982)
E. D. Genovese, *From Rebellion to Resistance* (1979)
C. L. R. James, *Black Jacobins* (1938)
"The Making of a Slave Conspiracy," *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 58:4 (Oct. 2001)
G. Matthews. *Caribbean Slave Revolts and the British Abolitionist Movement* (2006)
J. J. Reis, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil* (1993)

Reparations, Memory, & Practice

Reparations-
M. T. Martin, & M. Yaquinto, "Reparations for 'America's Holocaust'" *Race & Class* 45:4 (2004)
R. Robinson, *The Debt* (2000)
Memory-
S. Buckley, "Heritage Battle Rages at Slavery's Sacred Sites," *Guardian*, Aug. 1, 1995
I. Berlin et al., eds., *Remembering Slavery* (1998)
J. O. & L. E. Horton, eds., *Slavery and Public History* (2006)
Practice-
Antislavery International on-line

K. Bales, *Disposable People* (1999)
_____, *Ending Slavery* (2007)
S. Kuklin, *Iqbal Masih and the Crusaders against Child Slavery* (1998)

Documentary collections

W. L. Andrews, ed., *North Carolina Slave Narratives* (2003)
R. Conrad, ed., *Children of God's Fire* (1976)
M. Craton, J. Walvin, D. Wright, eds., *Slavery, Abolition, and Emancipation* (1976)
E. Donnan, ed. *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade*, 4 vols., (1930-5)
H. L. Gates & W. L. Andrews, eds., *Pioneers of the Black Atlantic* (1998)
C. L. Perdue et al., eds., *Weevils in the Wheat* (1976)
W. L. Rose, ed., *A Documentary History of Slavery in North America* (2nd ed., 1999)

Electronic sites

"American Slave Narratives: an on-line Anthology," History Dept., University of Virginia
"The Atlantic Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Americas: A Visual Record," University of Virginia Library
"Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation," Freedmen and Southern Society Project, University of Maryland
"North American Slave Narratives," University of North Carolina University Library
www.esclavage-martinique.com

Slaves in Film

"Amistad" (1997) dir. Steven Spielberg
"Beloved" (1998) dir. Jonathan Demme
"Glory" (1989) dir. Edward Zwick
"Queimada," [Burn] (1969) dir. Gillo Pontecorvo
"Quilombo" (1984) dir. Carlos Diegues
"La Ultima Cena" [The Last Supper] (1976) dir. Tomas Gutierrez Alea

Class Policies: Late papers will not be accepted. Papers sent via electronic mail will not be accepted. Instructor reserves the right to fail a student after consistently poor work, or chronic absenteeism, or plagiarism.

American Disability Act: Howard University is committed to providing an educational environment that is accessible to all students. In accordance with this policy, students in need of accommodations due to disability should contact the Office of the Dean for Special Student Services for verification and determination of reasonable accommodations as soon as possible after admission to the University, or at the beginning of each semester. The Dean of the Office of Special Student Services, Dr. Barbara Williams, can be reached at (202) 238-2420.

Code of Ethics: The University is a community of scholars composed of faculty and students both of whom must hold the pursuit of learning and search for truth to be in the highest regard. Academic cheating [any intentional act(s) of dishonesty in the fulfillment of academic course or program requirements] and plagiarism [to take and pass off intentionally as one's own the ideas, writings, etc. of another without attribution or acknowledgment of the author] are serious violations of the University Code of Ethics which will result in disciplinary action(s) including suspension and dismissal from the University.