

Howard University
History 439-01 CRN 89825
Fall 2011

Seminar: African Diaspora

Jeffrey R. Kerr-Ritchie
Douglass 302

jrkerrritchie@gmail.com
202-806-9363

Description

This graduate research seminar examines abolition and post-emancipation in the nineteenth century Afro-Atlantic world from the perspective of the African Diaspora. It is organized chronologically from the American Revolution of the 1770s through the abolition of Brazilian slavery in the 1880s. We read some of the key texts written over the last decade or so. Our key question is dialectical: what can we learn about emancipation through Diaspora? What do emancipation studies contribute to Diaspora?

Requirements

Graduates are expected to read and critique common readings and to present points of discussion on a weekly basis. You are encouraged to consult the EXTRA readings. Graduates are responsible for 3 book reviews of 2-3 pages each. These reviews are to be submitted in writing with copies for the instructor and each class member and presented orally in class. These should not be book reports, but rather follow professional reviews. For a model, see my review of Peter Blanchard, *Under the Flags of Freedom: Slave Soldiers & the Wars of Independence in Spanish America* in *The Journal of African American History* 95, nos. 3-4 (Summer-Fall 2010), 437-440, available on electronic course reserve.* Graduates are required to complete a 30-page research paper on some aspect of emancipation in Diaspora by December 7. The grading is as follows: 25% for class participation; 25% for book reviews; and, 50% for research paper.

Readings

- 📖 Simon Schama, *Rough Crossings: The Slaves, the British, and the American Revolution* (2006)
- 📖 Christopher Brown, *Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism* (2006)
- 📖 Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution* (2004)
- 📖 Peter Blanchard, *Under the Flags of Freedom: Slave Soldiers & Wars of Independence in Spanish America* (2008)
- 📖 Margaret Washington, *Sojourner Truth's America* (2009)
- 📖 J. R. Kerr-Ritchie, *Rites of August First: Emancipation Day in the Black Atlantic World* (2007)
- 📖 Ira Berlin et al, *Slaves No More: Three Essays on Emancipation and the Civil War* (1992)
- 📖 Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898* (1999)
- 📖 Dale Torston Graden, *From Slavery to Freedom in Brazil, Bahia, 1835-1900* (2006)

Those readings marked with an asterisk* are available on electronic course reserve. A useful reference work is *Encyclopedia of Emancipation and Abolition in the Transatlantic World*, edited by Junius Rodriguez, 3 volumes (2007).

Schedule

- Aug. 24: **Introduction**
Syllabus. Requirements. Readings. Chronology.
- Aug. 31: **American Wars of Independence, 1770s-1790s**
READ: Simon Schama, *Rough Crossings: The Slaves, the British, and the American Revolution* (2006)
EXTRA: Douglas R. Egerton, *Death or Liberty: African Americans and Revolutionary America* (2009)
 Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*, part III (1998)

- Sep. 7: **Haiti's Revolution, 1791-1804**
 READ: Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*
 EXTRA: Carolyn Fick, *The Making of Haiti: The Saint Domingue Revolution from Below* (1990)
 Madison Smartt Bell, *Toussaint Louverture: A Biography* (2007)
 Jeremy D. Popkin, *You Are All Free: The Haitian Revolution and the Abolition of Slavery* (2010)
- Sep. 14: **British Slave Trade Abolition, 1807**
 READ: Christopher Brown, *Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism* (2006)
 EXTRA: Selwyn H. H. Carrington, *The Sugar Industry and the Abolition of the Slave Trade, 1775-1810* (2002)
 Adam Hochschild, *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves* (2005)
 "Ending the Transatlantic Slave Trade," *The Journal of African American History* 93:4 (Fall 2008)
- Sept. 21: **Spanish Wars of Independence, 1810s-1820s**
 READ: Blanchard, *Under the Flags of Freedom*
 EXTRA: Ben Vinson III, *Bearing Arms for His Majesty: The Free Colored Militia in Colonial Mexico* (2001)
 George Reid Andrews, *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000* (2004)
 John Lynch, *Simon Bolivar: A Life* (2006)
 Matt D. Childs, *The 1812 Aponte Rebellion in Cuba and the Struggle Against Atlantic Slavery* (2006)
- Sep. 28: **New York's Abolition, 1827**
 READ: Washington, *Sojourner Truth's America*
 EXTRA: Shane White, *Somewhat More Independent: The End of Slavery in New York City, 1770-1810* (1991)
 Leslie M. Harris, *In the Shadow of Slavery: African Americans in New York City, 1626-1863* (2003)
 Leslie Alexander, *African or American? Black Identity & Political Activism in NYC, 1784-1861* (2008)
 Graham Russell Hodges, *David Ruggles* (2010)
- Oct. 5: **British West Indies Emancipation, 1831-1838**
 READ: Kerr-Ritchie, *Rites of August First*, chapter 1.
 EXTRA: Michael Craton, *Empire, Enslavement and Freedom in the Caribbean* (1997)
 Gelien Mathews, *Caribbean Slave Revolts and the British Abolitionist Movement* (2006)
 Frank Moya Pons, *History of the Caribbean* (2007)
- Oct. 12: **Black Atlantic**
 READ: Kerr-Ritchie, *Rites of August First*, chapters 2-7.
 EXTRA: Harvey Whitfield, *Blacks on the Border: The Black Refugees in British North America, 1815-1860* (2006)
 Karolyn Smardz Frost, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land* (2007)
 Fionnghuala Sweeney, *Frederick Douglass and the Atlantic World* (2007)
 Daniel J. Broyld, "Borderland Blacks: Rochester, New York, & St. Catherines, Ontario, 1850-1860."
 Ph.D., Howard University, 2011.
- Oct. 19: **1848**
 READ: Neville A. T. Hall, *Slave Society in the Danish West Indies*, chapter 12 *
 Kerr-Ritchie, "Emancipation from *The Communist Manifesto*," *
 EXTRA: *Bondmen and Freedmen in the Danish West Indies*, edited by George Tyson (1996)
 Robin Blackburn, *The Overthrow of Colonial Slavery, 1776-1848* (1988)
- Oct. 19: **Research Proposal due** (3 pages – topic, questions, outline, sources).
- Oct. 26: **Great American Slave Rebellion, 1861-1865**
 READ: Berlin, *Slaves No More*
 EXTRA: Steven Hahn, *A Nation under our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration* (2003)
 Richard M. Reid, *Freedom for Themselves: North Carolina's Black Soldiers in the Civil War Era* (2008)
 Leslie A. Schwalm, *Emancipation's Diaspora: Race and Reconstruction in the Upper Midwest* (2009)
- Nov. 2: **Research Papers**

- Nov. 9: **Emancipation in the Spanish Antilles, Cuba, 1868-1886**
READ: Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*
EXTRA: Rebecca J. Scott, *Slave Emancipation in Cuba: The Transition to Free Labor, 1860-1899* (1985)
 Luis A. Figueroa, *Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico* (2005)
 Frank Moya Pons, *History of the Caribbean* (2007)
 Rebecca J. Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery* (2005)
- Nov. 16: **Abolition in Brazil, 1880-1888**
READ: Graden, *Slavery to Freedom*
EXTRA: Stanley J. Stein, *Vassouras: A Brazilian Coffee County, 1850-1900* (1958; 1985)
 Kim Butler, *Freedoms Given, Freedoms Won: Afro-Brazilians in Post-Abolition Sao Paulo and Salvador* (1998)
 Babatunde Sofela, *Emancipados: Slave Societies in Brazil and Cuba* (2011)
- Nov. 23-30: **Research Papers.**
- Nov. 30: **Research Presentations.**
- Dec. 7: **Research Papers due.**

Regulations

Class Policies: Late papers will not be accepted. Papers sent via electronic mail will not be accepted without prior permission. Instructor reserves the right to fail a student after consistently poor work, and/or chronic absenteeism, and/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.

Code of Ethics: The University is a community of scholars composed of faculty and students both of which 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.