

Fall 2009

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HISTORY 170

MW, 11-12, DRLB A1

Office Hours: and

by appointment

**THE AMERICAN SOUTH TO 1865:
RISE AND FALL OF THE SLAVE SOUTH**

This course explores the history of the American South, from its formation and rise as an Atlantic slave power in the seventeenth century to the defeat of the slaveholders' republic in the American Civil War. The course engages a range of critical subjects in southern and American history: the Atlantic slave trade; the emergence of slavery, the plantation system and its racial order, the master-slave relationship in the antebellum period; African-American life under slavery; the changing gender and class relations of southern society; the defense of slavery and the road to secession and Civil War. It ends with a focus on the Confederate political project and its undoing in the course of the nation's bloodiest war.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The following texts are required for the course and are available at the Penn Book Center. Books are also on reserve in the library. The additional readings and documents are available in a course pack from Campus Copy.

Ira Berlin, **Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America**

Peter Kolchin, **American Slavery, 1619-1877**

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

Drew Faust, ed., **The Ideology of Slavery: Proslavery Thought in the Antebellum South, 1830-1860**

Harriet Jacobs, **Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl Written by Herself**

Walter Johnson, **Soul By Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market**

Craig Simpson and William Freehling, eds., **Secession Debated**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to attend lectures and weekly recitations and to complete all assignments.

EVALUATION METHOD:

Final grades for the course will be determined by a midterm exam (25%), a paper (30%), a take home final exam (35%), and participation in recitation (10%). Students should note that the reading for the term paper is in addition to the weekly readings listed on the syllabus.

PREREQUISITES:

Some prior U.S. history, African American Studies or American Studies course work preferred.

TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1. Making of an Atlantic World

Sept. 9. Introduction

Reading: Olaudah Equiano, **The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano**, introduction and chapters 1 and 2, in course pack.
Berlin, **Many Thousands Gone**, pp. 1-63.
Kolchin, **American Slavery**, pp. 3-27.

Week 2. Race and Unfreedom on the Plantation Periphery

Sept. 14. Slavery and the Making of the Atlantic World

Sept. 16. Servitude and Slavery on the Periphery

Reading: "Laws of Virginia, 1662"
Kathleen Brown, "Engendering Racial Difference," both in course pack.
Berlin, **Many Thousands Gone**, pp. 64-92.
Kolchin, **American Slavery**, pp. 28-62.

Week 3. Origins of a Slave Society

Sept. 21. Emergence of Southern Slavery

Sept. 23. William Byrd's World: Plantation Slavery in the Eighteenth Century

Reading: Letter of William Byrd II to Charles Boyle, Earl of Orrery, 5 July 1726
in course pack.
Berlin, **Many Thousands Gone**, 95-215.
Kolchin, **American Slavery**, 63-92.

Week 4. Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution

Sept. 28. The Planters' Revolution

Sept. 30. The Slaves' Revolution

Reading: Earl of Dunmore, **Proclamation**, 7 November 1775 in course pack
Berlin, **Many Thousands Gone**, pp. 219-227, 256-365.

Week 5. Slavery and Freedom in the New Republic

Oct. 5. Jefferson and Slavery

Oct. 7. Making the Cotton Kingdom

Reading: Jefferson, **Notes on the State of Virginia**, pp. vii-xxi, Query VI (28-79),
Query XI (98-113), Query XIV (137-55), Query XVII (163-67), Query
XVIII (168-70), and pp. 265-87.
"The Declarations of Jefferson and the Congress," in course pack.
David Walker, **David Walker's Appeal**, Article 1. in course pack.

Week 6. The World the Slaveholders Made (I)

Oct. 12. Masters and Slaves

Oct. 14. **MIDTERM**

Reading: Johnson, **Soul By Soul**, pp. 1-77.
Kolchin, **American Slavery**, pp. 93-132.

Week. 7. The World the Slaveholders' Made (II)

Oct. 19. **FALL BREAK**

Oct. 21. The Plantation Regime

Reading: Faust, **The Ideology of Slavery**, Stringfellow, "A Brief Examination of Scripture Testimony"; Hammond, "Letter to an English Abolitionist"; and Nott, "Two Lectures on the Natural History of the Caucasian and Negro Races."
Johnson, **Soul By Soul**, pp. 78-161.

Week. 8. The World the Slaves Made (I)

Oct. 26. Slave Communities

Oct. 28. Southern Women, Slave and Free

Reading: Johnson, **Soul By Soul**, pp. 162-220.
Kolchin, **American Slavery**, pp. 133-99.

Week 9. The World the Slaves Made (II)

Nov. 2. The Politics of Slaves: Resistance and Revolt

Nov. 4. No Class

Reading: Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas, "Trials: Life, Women, Slavery."
"Dear Missis, July 1849," Lavinia's Letter to her Mistress.

Week. 10. The Slaveholders' Republic

Nov. 9. Yeoman Farmers in a Slave Society

Nov. 11. Slavery, Party, and the Problem of the Territories

Reading: Stephanie McCurry, "Two Faces of Republicanism."
Steven Hahn, "The Yeomanry of the Non-Plantation South."
Stephanie McCurry, "The Politics of Yeoman Households."
All in course pack.

Week. 11. Politics of Slavery

Nov. 16. The Impending Crisis

Nov. 18. The Lower South Secedes

PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Reading: William Cooper, "The Jackson Party and Southern Politics,"
William Cooper, "The Territorial Issue,"
William Cooper, "Political Revolution," All in course pack.
Kolchin, **American Slavery**, pp. 200-37.

Week 12. The South Secedes

Nov. 23. The Upper South Divides

Nov. 25. Perfecting the White Republic

Reading: Freehling and Simpson, eds., **Secession Debated: Georgia's Showdown in 1860**, Introduction and Selected Speeches: Thomas R. R. Cobb, Alexander Stephens, and Governor Joseph Brown
Hahn, **A Nation Under Our Feet**, chapter 1 in course pack.

Week 13. The Confederate Project

Nov. 30. The Modern Slave Regime at War

Dec. 2. The Inner Civil War

Reading: Alexander Stephens, "Cornerstone Address," (March 21, 1861),
Hahn, **A Nation Under Our Feet**, chapter 2, and McCurry, "Women Numerous and Armed," all in course pack

Week 14. Civil War Reckoning

Dec. 7. The Slaves' Civil War

Dec. 9. Review Session

TAKE HOME FINAL DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS

Reading: **The History of William Webb, Composed by Himself**

Document A. Lemuel Conner's Record of Slave Testimony Before the Examination Committee, Second Creek, Adams County, Mississippi, Mid-Sept. 1861

Major-General Patrick Cleburne et al to Commanding General . . . Army of Tennessee, January 2, 1862. All in course pack.