History Department  
University of Pennsylvania

The African Diaspora (Tentative Syllabus)  
Prof. Roquinaldo Ferreira  
Spring 2019

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30am-12:00pm  
Office: College Hall 306D  
Office hours: Thursday (2pm-3:30pm)  
Phone number: 215-746-4184  
Email: rfer@upenn.edu

Course Description

This class examines the global cultural and social ramifications of the African diaspora, with special attention to the Lusophone world. We will analyze the background to the European exploration of the Atlantic and will focus on the intellectual and ideological underpinnings of slavery in the Iberian Peninsula. We will explore the interaction of Europeans and Africans along the West Coast of Africa, centering on the Gold Coast, Bight of Benin, and Bight of Biafra. The class will pay considerable attention to the early development of the slave trade in Kongo, considering its appropriation of Christianity and diplomatic relations with Portugal.

Evaluation method: Final grades for the course will be determined by three exams and participation in class and discussion sections.

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Written Exam</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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Schedule

Week 1

1/17 Introduction/Course Dynamic and Organization.
Week 2 Intellectual Foundations

1/22 Movie: Herskovits: At the Heart of Blackness (documentary by Vincent Brown).


Week 3 Atlantic Slavery


Week 4 The First Scramble for Africa


Week 5 The Bight of Benin and Kongo

2/12 Robin Law, TBD


Week 7 Enslavement and Community in Angola


Week 8

2/26 Review
2/28 Midterm

**Week 9 Developing African Slavery in Brazil**

3/12 Brazil: An Inconvenient History (BBC Documentary)
3/14 Early Phase

**Week 10 Brazil’s Ties with Africa**


**Week 11 Resistance**

3/28 Independent Haiti, TBD

**Week 12 Haiti’s Impact Abroad**


**Week 13 Islam in Brazil**

4/9 Jihad in Brazil, Paul Lovejoy (TBD)


**Week 14 Back to Africa Movement**
4/16 O Atlântico Negro: na Rota dos Orixãs (Brazilian Documentary)


**Week 15**

4/23 Review

4/25 Exam

Final paper due on 4/30