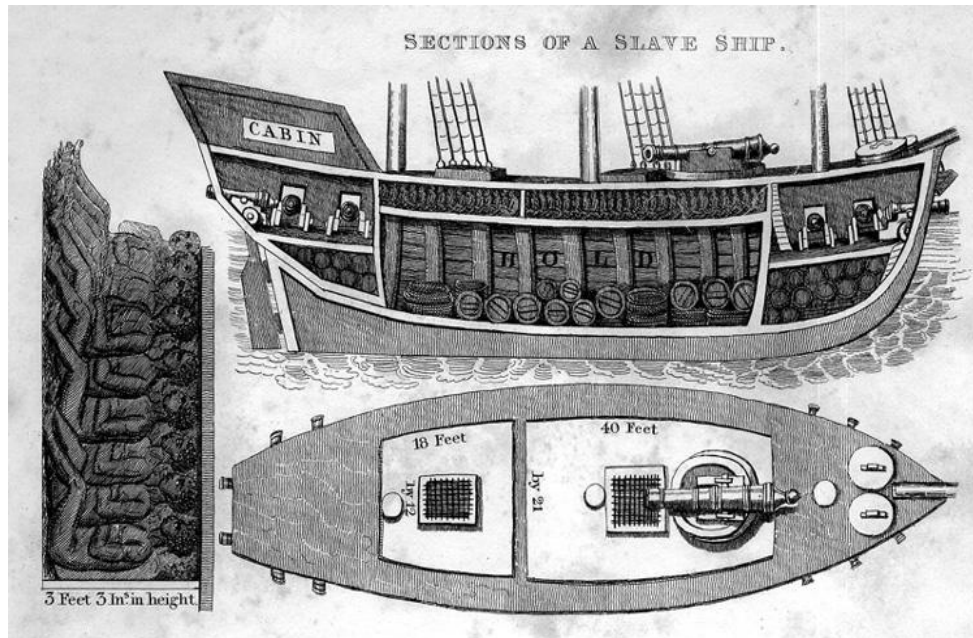


**HIST 205-1 THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE**  
**Spring 2012**  
**MWF, 9-9:50am - PALMER 205**

Professor Vanessa Mongey  
Office: 221 Buckman  
Office Hours: F. 12-1:30pm or by apt.  
Phone: 843 3411  
E-Mail: [mongeyv@rhodes.edu](mailto:mongeyv@rhodes.edu)



Taken from "Notices of Brazil in 1828 and 1829" by Robert Walsh, published 1830

**Course description**

This course explores what W.E.B. Du Bois called the "most magnificent drama in the last thousand years of human history." The transatlantic slave was the largest migration of people in the early modern Atlantic world and transported millions of Africans away from their native lands. This course will travel back and forth between Africa, the Americas, and Europe to study the politics, economics, and conditions of the trade as well as various slave experiences. One of the most tragic and profitable event of the Western world, we will try to understand how people made sense of the Middle Passage and how it impacted the meaning of race, ethnicity, and gender at the time. Using a combination of biographies, ship logs, and historians' accounts, we will consider the origins and the expansion of the trade, the development of plantation economy in the Americas, and finish with the abolition of the slave trade.

**Required books**

- Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings*, Revised Edition, ed. Vincent Carretta
- David Northrup, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*
- The Mariners Museum, *Captive Passage: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Making of the Americas*

- Marcus Rediker, *The Slave Ship: A Human History*

\*\*\* All these books are for sale in the Rhodes College bookstore. Additional readings can be found in my faculty folder online. \*\*\*

### Assignments and Grades

Your final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

- Midterm – 15%
- Final examination – 25%
- Class participation – 15%
- “Show and Tell” presentations – 15%
- Book review – 10%
- Exercise on slave trade database – 10%
- Quizzes (including maps) – 10%

Examinations: You will take two exams: a 50-minute midterm exam and a 1h30 final exam.

Class participation: Although I will do some lecturing in class, much of our time will be spent discussing assigned readings. Consequently it is important that you come to class regularly and do the assigned reading **BEFORE** the class period. Attendance and regular participation in class are mandatory. I will take attendance every class period. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. If you do not sign it, you are not there. More than 2 unexcused absences from class will negatively impact your grade. More than 5 and you will fail the class.

“Show and Tell,” or rather “Find and Tell”: You will each have to do one 5-10 minute presentation during the semester using the websites below, you will find one or more non-textual sources, i.e. object, image, map etc. and explain to us the nature and background of this source, why you chose it, and its historical value (how historians can use to write the history of the slave trade). This exercise will also allow you to hone your oral presentation skills and to use online sources judiciously.

You will draft an outline of your presentation and give it to me at the end of class.

A few of the best websites about Africa, the African Diaspora, and the slave trade include:

- Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at The New York Public Library:  
[www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html](http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html) > Click “Research Collections”
- The Stanford University African Studies Center maintains a valuable guide to internet sources for Africa south of the Sahara: [www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide.html](http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide.html)
- W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research:  
<http://dubois.fas.harvard.edu/>
- *In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience* operated by the New York Public Library  
<http://www.inmotionaame.org/home.cfm>
- *Atlantic Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Americas*. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities  
<http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/index.php>

- International Slavery Museum in Liverpool  
<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/europe/liverpool.aspx>

- Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive Database  
[http://find.galegroup.com/sas/start.do?prodId=SAS&userGroupName=tel\\_a\\_rhodes&finalAuth=true](http://find.galegroup.com/sas/start.do?prodId=SAS&userGroupName=tel_a_rhodes&finalAuth=true)

**Book review:** Write a 3-4 page review on *The Slave Ship*. Write a summary/overview of the major themes of the book. How did the authors come to this topic? What does the story add to your understanding of the slave trade? What kind of sources did the author use? What are the limits of this book? Did you find the arguments convincing?

**Exercise about the slave trade database:** Use the slave trade database to research a specific problem or question which relates to the course’s interests and write a 3-4 page analysis on what you find. More details will follow.

**Quizzes:** There will be 4 pop quizzes given on random Fridays, based on the weeks’ assigned readings and lectures. Each quiz will count for roughly 3% of your grade. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. Quizzes cannot be made up.

**Policies:**

All students are bound by the Rhodes Honor Code, with which you should already be familiar with. If you require special accommodations for taking exams, it is your duty to inform me of your circumstances well in advance so that alternative arrangements can be made. Plagiarism and intellectual dishonesty are serious offenses and could result in severe penalties. All other policies are articulated in the Rhodes College Student Handbook: <http://www.rhodes.edu/about/937.asp>.

\*\*\* Be on time. Be respectful of others. No food is allowed in class. Cell phones must be turned off\*\*\*

Wed	Jan 11	<b>Intro</b>
Fri	13	<b>Background</b> <i>Atlantic Slave Trade</i> , pp. xi-xv Philip Morgan, “Origins of American Slavery”
Mon	16	<i>Martin Luther King Observance – No classes</i>
Wed	18	<b>Europeans and Africans</b> <i>Atlantic Slave Trade</i> , pp. 1-26 <i>Captive Passage</i> , pp. 13-33
Fri	20	<b>The Enslavement of Africans</b> <i>Atlantic Slave Trade</i> , pp. 27-54 and 88-89

Mon	23	<b>African Agency and Resistance</b> <i>Captive Passage</i> , pp. 35-51
Wed	25	<i>Slave Ship</i> , pp. 1-13 and 73-107 (intro & chap 3)
Fri	27	<b>Leaving Africa: The Middle Passage</b> <i>Captive Passage</i> , pp. 53-75
Mon	30	<i>Slave Ship</i> , pp. 14-40 and 132-156 (chap 1 & 5)
Wed	<b>Feb 1</b>	<i>Slave ship</i> , pp. 157-206 (chap 6 and beg chap. 7)
Fri	3	<b>Aboard a slave ship</b> <i>Slave Ship</i> , pp. 206-262 (end chap 7 & chap 8. Look at illustrations in chap. 7)
Mon	6	<b>How to reconstruct the voyage of a slave ship: the <i>Henrietta Marie</i></b> "Henrietta Maine" <i>Captive Passage</i> , pp. 77-97
Wed	8	<b>Numbers of the Middle Passage</b> Transatlantic Slave Trade Database: <a href="http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces">www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces</a>
Fri	10	<i>Atlantic Slave Trade</i> , pp. 70-86  *** Exercise on slave trade database due ***
Mon	13	<b>Memories of the Middle Passage</b> <i>Atlantic Slave Trade</i> , pp. 56-60  Robin Law, "Individualising the Atlantic Slave Trade: The Biography of Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua of Djougou (1854)" <i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i> , Sixth Series, Vol. 12, (2002), pp. 113-140
Wed	15	<i>Slave Ship</i> , pp. 108-131 (chap. 4)  <i>Life of Olaudah Equiano</i> , pp. 5-14 & 31-61
Fri	17	<i>Life of Olaudah Equiano</i> , pp. 62-112  James H. Sweet, "Mistaken Identities? Olaudah Equiano, Domingos Álvares, and the Methodological Challenges of Studying the African Diaspora," <i>The American Historical</i>

		<i>Review</i> , Vol. 114, No. 2 (April 2009), pp. 279-306
Mon	20	<i>Life of Olaudah Equiano</i> , pp. 113-177  Ira Berlin, "From Creole to African: Atlantic Creoles and the Origins of African- American Society in Mainland North America," <i>The William and Mary Quarterly</i> , Vol. 53, No. 2 (Apr., 1996), pp. 251-288
Wed	22	<b>The Great Awakening</b>  <i>Life of Olaudah Equiano</i> , pp. 178-219
Fri	24	<b>Survival</b>  <i>Life of Olaudah Equiano</i> , 220-236  Jerome Handler, "Survivors of the Middle Passage: Life Histories of the enslaved Africans in British America," <i>Slavery and Abolition</i> 23:1 (2002): 25-56
Mon	27	<b>Suicide</b>  Terri L. Snyder, "Suicide, Slavery, and Memory in North America," <i>The Journal of American History</i> (2010) 97(1): 39-62  Michael Gomez, <i>Exchanging our Country Marks</i> , 114- 134
Wed	29	*** Midterm ***
Fri	<b>March</b>  2	<b>The end of the journey</b>  <i>Captive Passage</i> , pp. 99-121  Stono Rebellion
Mon	5	<b>Black sailors</b>  John Jea, "Life, History, and the Unparalleled Sufferings"  <i>Captive Passage</i> , pp. 171-185
Wed	7	<b>The Trade's Influence on Ethnic and Racial Identity</b>  Peter Caron, 'Of a nation which the others do not understand': Bambara slaves and African ethnicity in colonial Louisiana, 1718–60," <i>Slavery and Abolition</i> 18: 1 (1997); 98-121
Fri	9	<b>Women and Slavery</b>  Wendy Anne Warren, "The Cause of Her Grief": The Rape of a Slave in Early New England,"

		<p><i>The Journal of American History</i> 93(4) (2007): 1031-104</p> <p>Barbara Bush, "Hard Labor: Women, Childbirth and Resistance in British Caribbean Societies" in <i>More than Chattel</i></p>
MWF	12-16	<i>Spring Break</i>
Mon	19	<p><b>Life in the "New" World</b></p> <p><i>Captive Passage</i>, pp. 123-146</p>
Wed	21	<p><b>Religion</b></p> <p>Job Ben Solomon, <i>Some Memoirs of the Life of Job</i></p> <p>Michael A. Gomez, "Muslims in Early America," <i>Journal of Southern History</i>, Vol. 60, No. 4 (Nov., 1994), pp. 671-710</p>
Fri	23	<p><b>Christianity</b></p> <p>Michael Gomez, <i>Exchanging our Country Marks</i>, 244-263</p>
Mon	26	<p><b>Syncretism</b></p> <p>Ina J. Fandrich, "Yorùbá Influences on Haitian Vodou and New Orleans Voodoo," <i>Journal of Black Studies</i>, Vol. 37, No. 5 (May., 2007), pp. 775-791</p>
Wed	28	<p><b>Language</b></p> <p>Gomez, <i>Exchanging our Country Marks</i>, 167-185</p>
Fri	30	<p><b>Resistance and confrontation</b></p> <p>John Savage, "Black Magic" and White Terror: Slave Poisoning and Colonial Society in Early 19th Century Martinique," <i>Journal of Social History</i>, 40: 3 (2007), pp. 635-662</p>
Mon	<b>April</b> 2	Randy J. Sparks, "Two Princes of Calabar: An Atlantic Odyssey from Slavery to Freedom" <i>The William and Mary Quarterly</i> , Third Series, Vol. 59, No. 3, (Jul., 2002), pp. 555-584
Wed	4	<p><b>Economics</b></p> <p><i>Atlantic Slave Trade</i>, pp. 119-146</p>
Fri	6	<p><b>Impact on Africa</b></p> <p><i>Atlantic Slave Trade</i>, pp. 89-117</p>
Mon	9	<b>The slow end of the Slave Trade</b>

		<p><i>Slave Ship</i>, 308-355 (Chpt. 10 &amp; Epilogue)</p> <p>Sylviane Diouf "West African Strategies"</p>
Wed	11	<p><b>Slave revolts</b></p> <p>"Egalite for all" PBS documentary</p>
Fri	13	<p><b>The Haitian Revolution</b></p> <p>Gros, "In the Camp of Insurgents"</p> <p>John K. Thornton "I Am the Subject of the King of Congo": African Political Ideology and the Haitian Revolution" <i>Journal of World History</i>, Vol. 4, No. 2 (Fall 1993), pp. 181-214</p>
Mon	16	<p><b>Freedoms</b></p> <p><i>Captive Passage</i>, pp. 149-169</p> <p>Nemata Amelia Blyden "Back to Africa:" The Migration of New World Blacks to Sierra Leone and Liberia" <i>OAH Magazine of History</i>, 18: 3 (2004), pp. 23-25</p>
Wed	18	<p><b>Why did abolition happen?</b></p> <p><i>Atlantic Slave Trade</i>, pp. 132-175</p>
Fri	20	<i>Easter Recess</i>
Mon	23	<p><b>Transformation of slavery in Africa</b></p> <p>Dylan C. Penningroth, "The Claims of Slaves and Ex-Slaves to Family and Property: A Transatlantic Comparison," <i>American Historical Review</i> 112.4 (2007): 1039-1069</p>
Wed	25	<p><b>The question of reparations</b></p> <p>Henry Louis Gates, "Ending the Slavery Blame-Game". <i>The New York Times</i> (April 23, 2010)</p> <p>Michael Gomez, "When it comes to the Slave Trade, not all guilt is equal"</p> <p>Rachel Swarns &amp; Jodi Kantor, "In First Lady's Roots, a Complex Path from Slavery," <i>New York Times</i>, (7 Oct. 2009) <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/08/us/politics/08genealogy.html">www.nytimes.com/2009/10/08/us/politics/08genealogy.html</a></p>