

## Slavery in the United States

### **History 250, Spring 1999**

Russell Wigginton

Office: 401 Clough

Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:30-12:00; by appointment

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#### **Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to attain a fundamental knowledge of one of the most complex and controversial experiences in American history. In an effort to better understand this institution, this course will examine various social, economic, and political aspects of slavery, and attempt to explain why the system developed as it did. Also, because slavery remained in the United States over such a long period (approximately two hundred and forty years), we will discuss how it changed over time.

#### **Readings:**

Blassingame, John, The Slave Community

Breen, T.H., & Innes, Stephen, "Myne Owne Ground"

Tannenbaum, Frank, Slave and Citizen

White, Deborah Gray, Ar'n't I a Woman?

Wood, Peter, Black Majority

#### **Grading:**

Grades will be determined from the following course requirements:

1. **45%** - Three (15% each) 4-5 page "reaction" papers. Throughout the semester, students will write essays in response to questions that arise from the readings, lectures, and discussions. Note: Be sure to use a "normal" size font. If you have any questions about the font you plan to use, please ask before turning in the paper.

2. **20%** - Exam I. A mid-semester examination that will consist of a few short answers as well as a more lengthy essay. Students will be expected to incorporate the readings, lectures, and discussions.

3. **25%** - Exam II. A Final examination that will cover material from the entire semester. This exam will be a longer version of the mid-semester examination.

4. **10%** - Attendance/Participation. Although lectures will take up much of class time, student discussions of issues raised throughout the semester will be a critical part of the class. Thus, students are expected to attend class and be prepared to discuss major themes from the readings.

**\*Late Policy** - There will be no extensions given on any written assignments without penalty (one letter grade per day) . The only exceptions will be those deemed "acceptable" by the College Handbook.

## Class Assignments:

### **Iberian and Mediterranean influences/ Slave Trade**

- 1/13 Introduction
- 1/15 Tannenbaum, pgs. 3-23.
- 1/20 Tannenbaum, pgs. 24-61.
- 1/22 Tannenbaum, pgs. 62-82.
- 1/25 Tannenbaum, pgs. 82-128.

### **Colonial Slavery**

- 1/27 Breen and Innes, pgs. 3-35.
- 1/29 Breen and Innes, pgs. 36-67.
- 2/01 Breen and Innes, pgs. 68-114.
- 2/03 *Paper #1 Due (15%)*
- 2/05 *Film*
- 2/08 Wood, pgs. 13-34.
- 2/10 Wood, pgs. 35-94.
- 2/12 Wood, pgs. 95-130.
- 2/15 Wood, pgs. 131-166.
- 2/17 Wood, pgs. 167-217.
- 2/19 Wood, pgs. 218-284.
- 2/22 Wood, pgs. 285-326.
- 2/24 The North/New England; readings to be assigned.
- 2/26 Abolition; readings to be assigned.
- 3/01 *Exam I (20%)*

## 19th Century Slavery

- 3/03 Blassingame, pgs. 3-48.
- 3/05 *Film*
- 3/15 Blassingame, pgs. 49-104.
- 3/17 Blassingame, pgs. 105-148.
- 3/19 Blassingame, pgs. 149-191.
- 3/22 Blassingame, pgs. 192-222.
- 3/24 Blassingame, pgs. 223-248.
- 3/26 Blassingame, pgs. 249-283.
- 3/29 Blassingame, pgs. 284-322.
- 3/31 *Paper #2 (15%)*; no reading.

## Non-Traditional Slavery/Women in Slavery

- 4/05 Urban slavery; readings to be assigned.
- 4/07 Free blacks; readings to be assigned.
- 4/09 Slave-owning blacks; readings to be assigned.
- 4/12 Slave Rebellions; readings to be assigned.
- 4/14 *Film*
- 4/16 *Film*
- 4/19 White, pgs. 27-61.
- 4/21 White, pgs. 62-118.
- 4/23 White, pgs. 119-141.
- 4/26 White, pgs. 142-167.

4/28 *Paper #3 (15%); no reading.*

4/30 Final Review; Catch-up.

5/03 *Final Exam (25%); 8:30-11:00.*