

Philip Howard
Office hours: M 12:00-1:00
And W 4:00-5:00
Phone: 713-743-3105
pahoward@uh.edu

6396:13189
Fall 2006
Wednesday 5:30-8:30
Agnes Arnold 549

Hist 6396 Reading Seminar in Caribbean History: The Black Diaspora in Post Emancipation Societies

The reading seminar is designed to introduce students to some of the more important monographs on the socioeconomic, political, and cultural experiences and histories of members of the black diaspora after the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean. The course will begin with an exploration on how the slave rebellion on Saint Domingue affected the Atlantic world. An examination of how the British West Indies dismantled slavery will follow as well as how the former slaves adapted themselves to freedom in Jamaica. The conceptions of race, labor and citizenship that influenced the daily lives of freedmen and women in post emancipation Jamaica is also explored. Readings of the seminar will also cover the abolition of slavery and the immediate post emancipation era of the Spanish Caribbean. A comparative analysis Cuba and Puerto Rico ought to demonstrate how Spanish imperial policy, social movements, and gender in Cuba and Puerto Rico became dynamic forces that informed these societies during the last half of the Nineteenth Century. The roles that race, color, gender, class, culture, and national identity played in Twentieth Century Caribbean society will be underlined by focusing on the status and experiences of blacks in Cuba, the construction of Negritude within the colonial French Caribbean, and the invention of modern "blackness" in Jamaica. The objective of the reading seminar is to help students specializing in the history of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic World prepare for qualifying exams as well as introduce them to a body of literature on the processes leading to the abolition of African slavery in the Caribbean, and the general status of the former slaves in post emancipation societies. The seminar will assist them in the classroom as they teach the history of blacks in the Caribbean and the Atlantic World.

Requirements:

At each class meeting a student of the seminar will be responsible for preparing and leading discussion of the book assigned for that day. Other members of the seminar ought to prepare a number of questions to ensure that discussion about the book's thesis, sources, the author's methodology, and their contribution to the historiography occurs as well as their participation. The course will be run cooperatively, and competition between participants is discouraged. The professor will answer questions, but will not lecture nor dominate the discussion.

Students are also required to write two papers. The first is a historiographical essay on some topic, process, or theme relevant to the black diaspora in the Caribbean. This paper should be double spaced and typed and ought not exceed twenty pages in length. The bibliography for the essay should include at least fifteen sources, more monographs than articles. The objective of this exercise is to help the students familiarize themselves with a broad body of literature and arguments that scholars have established and that has informed the field of race relations in the Caribbean. The second required paper is a bibliographical essay on how to teach an undergraduate survey on post-emancipation Caribbean societies. This paper should not exceed fifteen pages in length. It is noteworthy that students must complete the required work on time and before the semester ends. The instructor will not give a grade of incomplete to any students of the seminar.

Classroom presentations and discussions	= 40%
Historiographical essay	= 40%
Bibliographical essay	= 20%
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	100%

Reading schedule:

Week of 23 August, Introduction

Week of 30 August, Laurent Dubois', Avengers of the New World. 2004

Week of 6 September, David Geggus', ed. The Impact of the Hatian Revolution in the Atlantic World. 2002

Week of 13 September, Kathleen Butler's, The Economomics of Emancipation. 1995

Week of 20 September, open

Week of 27 September, Jean Besson's, Marth Brae's Two Histories. 2002

Week of 4 October, Christopher Schmidt-Norwara's Empire and Anti-Slavery in Spain, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. And Pamela Scully and Diana Paton, eds., Gender and Slave Emancipation in the Atlantic World. 2005

Week of 11 October, Frederick Cooper's Beyond Slavery. 2000 and Luis Figueroa's Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteeth Puerto Rico. 2005

Week of 18 October, open

Week of 25 October, Alejandro de la Fuente's A Nation for All. 2000

Week of 1 November, Lillian Guerra's The Myth of Jose Marti. 2006, and Alejandra Bronfman's, Measures of Equality. 2004

Week of 8 November, Gary Wilder's, The French Imperial State: Negritude and Colonial Humanism Between the Two World Wars. 2005 (on Reserve)

Week of 15 November, Consuelo Lopez Springfield, ed., Daughters of Caliban. 1997

Week of 22 November, open

Week of 29 November, Deborah Thomas,' Modern Blackness. 2004

Week of 6 December, paper assignments due