

History 4394

SLAVERY AND AMERICAN SOCIETY

Professor Deyle
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Office Hours: T 10:15-11:15
W 1:15-2:15
R 10:15-11:15; and by appointment

Fall 2006
520 AH
W 2:30-5:30

Course Description

This course will examine southern slavery and, by focusing mainly on the nineteenth century, explore the larger issues that the institution raised for American society. The class looks at the major texts in the field and shows how the interpretation of American slavery has changed over time and differed among historians. Among the topics studied are the origins of American slavery, the slave community, women in slavery, and slave resistance. Finally, we will look at the rise of an antislavery movement outside of the South and the struggle over the meaning of freedom during the period of Reconstruction.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will attain, through readings, discussion and films, and demonstrate, through the writing of a major essay, knowledge about the institution of southern slavery and its impact upon the historical development of the United States.
- Class discussions of primary sources and secondary works of history will help students develop critical reading and analytical thinking.
- A major paper assignment will enable students to improve their critical thinking and writing skills.

Required Books

Peter Kolchin, American Slavery: 1619-1877, 2nd ed.
John Blassingame, The Slave Community
Deborah G. White, Ar'n't I a Woman?
Michael Wayne, Death of an Overseer
James B. Stewart, Holy Warriors, 2nd ed.
Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction

I expect you to complete the readings for the days they are due. Also, please bring each of these books to the corresponding discussion.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Aug.. 23: Introduction

Aug. 30: Origins of American Slavery

Peter Kolchin, American Slavery, chs. 1-3

Sept. 6: Antebellum Slavery

Peter Kolchin, American Slavery, chs. 4-7
"The View from the Bottom Rail" (handout)

Sept. 13: The Slave Community

John Blassingame, The Slave Community

Sept. 20: Women in Slavery

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

Sept. 27: Slave Resistance

Michael Wayne, Death of an Overseer

Oct. 4: Library Resources

Oct. 11: Statement of Paper Topic Presentations

STATEMENT OF PAPER TOPICS DUE

Oct. 18: Abolition and Its Meaning for American Society

James B. Stewart, Holy Warriors, 2nd ed.