
COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SLAVERY IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT in Fall 2018 (LW2008)

Course Code	LW2008	Professor(s)	Miranda Spieler
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	Pierre Villey 204
Class Schedule	MR: 13:45-15:05 in A-2	Office Hours	by appointment
Credits	4	Email	mspieler@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

This course moves across time and space to appreciate the diversity—and evolving meaning—of slavery in human society. We will explore the experience of slavery as well its legal structure, economic and political function, and cultural representation in a variety of contexts ranging from classical antiquity to Mughal India and the American South. A chief goal of this class is to look beyond the Americas in order to appreciate the particularity of plantation slavery as it emerged—and thrived—in the western hemisphere from the seventeenth through the end of the nineteenth centuries. This course moves across time and space to appreciate the diversity—and evolving meaning—of slavery in human society. We will explore the experience of slavery as well its legal structure, economic and political function, and cultural representation in a variety of contexts ranging from classical antiquity to Mughal India and the American South. A chief goal of this class is to look beyond the Americas in order to appreciate the particularity of plantation slavery as it emerged—and thrived—in the western hemisphere from the seventeenth through the end of the nineteenth centuries.

Attendance and Participation (20%). You are required to participate in classroom discussion (20%). Participation involves more than appearing. It requires preparedness. Please bring paper and something to write with because I do not allow technology in class. You must also bring your reading; please print out the assignments that I post and bring them to class.

Notecards (5%). You must submit daily questions/comments on the reading or discussion at the close of every class.

Response papers (40%) You are required in the course of the semester to submit 10 response papers, which should each be 250-350 in length. Response papers need to be submitted electronically before class discussion to a dropbox on blackboard. You should think of these as very short essays on a topic of your choosing based on the reading and not as a shapeless stream of words meant to demonstrate that you have done your homework. You are free to challenge the methodology of historians or to raise questions about their approach.

A midterm exam (15%) The midterm will consist of short IDs based on the reading and of an in-

class analysis of a text that you select in advance from a list of choices.

A final exam (20%) The final exam will combine IDs and essay questions drawn from group readings and at least one supplementary text that you select individually under my guidance.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

Schedule of Readings

Week 1

Thurs. 13 Sept. **Ancient Slavery in Greece**

Aristotle, *Politics*, "On Slavery"

Moses Finley, *Ancient Slavery, Modern Ideology* (Marcus Weiner, 1998)

Week 2 **Roman Slavery**

Mon. 17 Sept. William V. Harris, "Toward a Study of the Roman Slave Trade," *Memoirs*

of the *American Academy in Rome* 36 (1980): 117-140

Thurs. 20 Sept. Keith R. Bradley, "Roman Slavery and Roman Law," *Historical Reflections/Réflexions Historiques* (fall 1988): 477-495

Week 3 Slavery v. Serfdom in Early Modern Europe

24 Sept.-27 Sept. Alessandro Stanziani, "Serfs, Slaves, or Wage Earners? The Legal Status of Labour in Russia from a Comparative Perspective, from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century," *Journal of Global History* 3, no. 2 (2008): 183-202

Jerome Blum, "The Rise of Serfdom in Eastern Europe," *American Historical Review* 62, no 4 (July 1957): 807-836

Week 4 Military Slavery in the Early Modern World: Asia, Africa, and the Middle East

Mon. 1 Oct. Richard Eaton, "Malik Ambar (1548-1626): The Rise and Fall of Military Slavery," in *A Social History of the Deccan 1300-1761: Eight Indian Lives*, The New Cambridge History of India (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2005), 105-128.

Thurs. 4 Oct. Bernard Lewis, *Race and Slavery in the Middle East*, excerpts.

Week 5 Barbary Captivity from the French Old Regime to the Conquest of Algiers

Mon. 8 Oct. Gillian Weiss, *Captives and Corsairs: France and Slavery in the Early Modern Mediterranean* (Stanford: Stanford UP, 2012), chs. 3 and 4.

Thurs. 11 Oct. [The narrative of Robert Adams : an American sailor who was wrecked on the western coast of Africa, in the year 1810](#)

Week 6 African Slavery

Mon. 15 Oct. Paul Lovejoy, *Transformations in Slavery: A History of Slavery in Africa*, 3rd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2012), chs. 1-2

Thurs. 18Oct. Linda Heywood, "Slavery and its Transformation in the Kingdom of the Kongo 1491-1800," *Journal of African History* 50, no. 1 (2009): 1-22.

Week 7 Review and midterm

22 Oct. Review

25 Oct. Midterm

Week 8 Vacation

29 Oct. No class.

1 Nov. No class.

Week 9 Indian Slavery in the New World

Mon. 5 Nov. Anthony Pagden, *The Fall of Natural Man* (Cambridge, 1987), ch. 3.

Thurs. 8 Nov. Brett Rushforth, *A Little Flesh We Offer You*": The Origins of Indian

Slavery in New France, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 60, No. 4 (Oct., 2003), pp. 777-808.

Week 10 The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Africa and the Diaspora

Mon. 12 Nov. John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World 1400-1800* (Cambridge, 1992), chapters. 4, 9, 11

Thurs. 15 Nov. Class presentations.

Week 11 Trans-Atlantic Trade and the Middle Passage

Mon. 19 Nov. Marcus Rediker, *The Slave Ship* (Penguin, 2008).

Thurs. 22 Nov. Marcus Rediker, *The Slave Ship*.

Week 12 New World Plantation Societies: the Caribbean

26 Nov. Trevor Burnard, *Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and his Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World* (2004), ch. 1.

29 Nov. Vincent Brown, *The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (Harvard 2010), ch. 5.

Week 13 The emergence of slave society in North America

3. Dec. Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone* (1998)

6 Dec. Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Inside the New Orleans*
Antebellum Slave Market (Harvard, 2014).

Week 14

10 Dec. Final discussion and review.

20 Dec. 12pm. FINAL EXAM

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Other
