

**History 655: Seminar in North American Slavery
Fall 2006**

The Course: An intensive study of North American slavery with special emphasis on the American South in general and on Louisiana in particular. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of primary and secondary sources that address the social, political, cultural, and economic implications of slavery and will confront the major historiographical trends in the field.

Instructors:

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It is up to the students enrolled in the class to remain in contact with their instructors. If you have any questions, if you want feedback on your performance, if you need guidance, etc., please call, e-mail, or visit us.

Students taking the class must use their Southeastern Louisiana University WEBMAIL accounts for official business pertaining to History 655. It is the only medium that your instructors will employ.

Required Texts:

Rental: Hyde, et. al., *Carnivals and Conflicts: A Louisiana History Reader*

Purchase: Solomon Northrup, *Twelve Years a Slave*
Sylvia Frey, *Water from the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age*
Walter Johnson, *Soul By Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*
Eugene Genovese, *Roll Jordan Roll: The World The Slaves Made*

Paperback editions of the above are available in the University Bookstore. The books are also available from any reputable book dealer.

Additional/Supplemental Readings:

Ira Berlin, "Time, Space, and Evolution of Afro-American Society on British Mainland North America" *American Historical Review* (February 1980) **JSTOR**

Gaines M. Foster, "Guilt Over Slavery: A Historiographical Analysis," *Journal of Southern History* (November 1990) **JSTOR**

Donna J. Spindel, "Assessing Memory: Twentieth-Century Slave Narratives Reconsidered," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (Autumn 1996) **JSTOR**

All students will be provided with a packet containing Louisiana Slave Narratives.

Requirements:

1) Students will be expected to submit three, three page, critical reviews of the secondary works assigned in the class on the dates noted on the syllabus. These are not meant to be book reviews but an extended dialogue with the work, analyzing its major arguments, assumptions, and approach to the institution of slavery. A brief essay on what constitutes a critical review is available on Blackboard. Each review will be worth 20% of your grade and must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the due date. No exceptions.

2) Students will write a 10-12 page paper in which they formulate their own assessment of North American slavery utilizing the assigned books, articles, and any other relevant information of their choosing. You are encouraged to be creative in how you approach the assignment, so long as your paper maintains a scholarly form ie., has an argument that is sustained throughout and adheres to the Chicago Manual of Style. Please keep your instructors informed regarding your progress.

Some examples on how to approach the paper: it can focus on a single theme—such as slave religion or changes in manumission laws. It can be a broad ranging analysis in which you tackle the major issues raised in the readings. For example, what would Walter Johnson say about the existence of paternalism as described by Genovese? What would Northrup say? What examples from the slave narratives lend support to or refute this notion.

The Project will be worth 40% of your grade.

Grading:

Review I:	27 September	20%
Review II:	11 October	20%
Review III:	15 November	20%
Final Paper:	6 December	40%

An “A” will be assigned to distinguished work, a “B” to good or thoroughly acceptable work, a “C” to competent but hardly impressive work, a “D” to barely acceptable work, and an “F” to unredeemably poor work.

Other Policies:

If you are a qualified student with a disability, you are required to self-identify with the Office of Disability Services, Room 203, Student Union.

Academic dishonesty of any kind will result in an immediate failure in the class—no second chances.

Tentative (emphasis on tentative) Class Schedule

23 August	Introduction - Historical Context
30 August	Historiography of Slavery - Foster article JSTOR
6 September	Race and Slavery
13 September	Trans-Atlantic Crossings / Western Hemisphere
20 September	Colonial Slavery - Berlin article JSTOR
27 September	Revolution and Slavery (Frey review due)
4 October	Westward Movement, Staple Crops, economies of scale, Spindel article JSTOR
11 October	Slave Trade (Johnson Paper due)
18 October	Rebellions and Suppression
25 October	Cotton vs. Sugar Plantation Slavery (Northrup completed)
1 November	Politics of Slavery –Pros, Cons, and Disinterested
8 November	Politics of Slavery cont.....
15 November	Forging a Slave Community (Genovese Paper Due)
22 November	NO CLASS
29 November	War/Emancipation/Slavery's Legacy
6 December	Final Paper Due by 4:30PM