Courses for Carolyn A. Brown, Spring 2010

History 508 325:01 Africa 15th- 19th Centuries  MW 4  MU 112

Course Description
This is a course on African history during the period of the slave trade, roughly from 1500 to the late 19th Century. The course is designed to complement two other history department courses: Ancient Africa (from ancient times until 1700) and Modern Africa (from 1850 to the present). However, it does not assume that a student has had either course. Finally, while the slave trade is in the title and is a pivotal event in the history of the continent it will not be the dominant focus of the course. Most of the course examines internal continent-wide political developments that may or may not be related to the slave trade. This will include, in southern Africa, the Mfecane (the foundational wars of the Zulu kingdom), the formation of ancient states (Ghana, Mali, Songhai) as well as the more recent states (Oyo, Zanzibar, Asante, etc.) the spread of Islam in West and East Africa, the Yoruba wars, state formation and collapse, gender and state formation. The course concludes with a sociological study of African immigrants in New York, to help explain the contemporary relevance of understanding African history.