

Global History of Slavery and Freedom

HIST 506:224

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DESCRIPTION

- ♣ This lecture course is about the history of slavery and freedom – two topics that have a combined past. Everywhere there was slavery, there were people who sought to be free.
- ♣ The course covers a vast geography. We will examine how people experienced slavery and liberty in distinct regions around the world – from Brazil to India, the Philippine Islands to Mexico, and Rome to the United States – to understand human bondage as a global phenomenon.
- ♣ We will study this history over the course of some two thousand years, with a focus on the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries. This emphasis on the 1500s-1800s will allow us to chart the expansion of European slave trading from Africa to the Americas and the racialization of slavery in the Atlantic World.
- ♣ We will examine slave trading as a commercial activity to appreciate its economic importance in world history.
- ♣ We will learn about the lives of varied people, including Angolan artisans, English pirates, Mamluk soldiers, and Roman gladiators, among others, to understand the institution of slavery and the practice of freedom from a global perspective.
- ♣ We will read historical documents, scientific magazine articles, scholarly journal articles, watch videos and films, and access quantitative databases to understand this history.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course helps students acquire the following knowledge and analytical and technical skills:

1. Identify and analyze multiple forms of primary evidence (textual, visual, oral, statistical, material artifacts) and use them to make historical arguments;
2. Examine the history of slavery and freedom from a global perspective by reading secondary sources (articles, essays, and other works by historians and scholars in other disciplines);
3. Locate regions around the world where the laws of bondage and liberty shaped political discourse;
4. Understand how the Atlantic Slave Trade shaped the economic development of the Americas, including the rise of capitalism;
5. Make historical arguments about present-day issues related to labor and race;
6. Recognize the long-term economic and social effects of 400+ years of transatlantic slave trading on the countries of Western Africa and the Americas.

ASSIGNED READINGS

All required readings are available on Canvas and/or online with URL

- ~ Listed in the course schedule and bibliography.
- ~ Students must come to class having read the assigned readings for that day!

Catalogue Description

01:506:224. Slavery in World History (3). Historical survey of the institution of slavery from antiquity to the present day, with attention to the relationship of human bondage to broader progress of social and economic change.