Atlantic Slavery
Christopher Schmidt-Nowara
Professor of History, Fordham University
Tuesdays at Rose Hill Campus, Spring 2009
schmidtnowar@fordham.edu
212.636.7221

This course will look at the origins and transformations of African slavery in the Americas through an Atlantic-world framework. Among the topics that will receive particular attention this semester:
- Understanding the Atlantic slave complex in a global context.
- Comparing and connecting slave societies in Latin America and British America.
- The origins of African American cultures.
- Slave narratives as historical sources.
- The rise of antislavery and the politics of abolition.

Course books:

- Moses Finley, Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology (Markus Wiener, 1998).
- Stephanie Smallwood, Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora (Harvard University Press, 2008).
- Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative (Penguin).
- Robin Law and Paul Lovejoy, eds. The Biography of Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua (Markus Wiener, 2007).
- Marixa Lasso, Myths of Harmony: Race and Republicanism during the Age of Revolution, Colombia, 1795-1831 (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007).
Assignments:

- Regular participation and attendance.
- One 4-5-page book review and in-class presentation of that book.
- 10-page paper on the debate over Equiano’s *Interesting Narrative*. Due March 24th.
- Annotated bibliography for final paper. Due March 24th.
- 15-page final paper. Due May 5th.
- Presentation of final paper.

Reference books:

- Seymour Drescher et al., eds., *A Historical Guide to World Slavery*
- Stanley Engerman, et al., eds. *Slavery*
- Rebecca J. Scott, et al., eds. *Societies after Slavery*

Note: These works are excellent starting points for compiling your own bibliographies.

Week 1. January 13: Introduction

Week 2. January 20: The Atlantic World in Historical Context


Week 3. January 27: Iberian Colonization and Slavery


**Week 4. February 3: The Slave Traffic**


**Books for reviews:**

David Eltis, *The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas*
Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*
Herbert Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*
Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, *The Many-headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic*
Marcus Rediker, *The Slave Ship: A Human History*
John K. Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*

**Week 5. February 10: Slavery and African American Culture I**

**Reading:** Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint*

**Books for Review:**

George Reid Andrews, *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000*
Ira Berlin and Philip Morgan, eds., *Cultivation and Culture: Labor and the Shaping of Slave Life in the Americas*
Darlene Clark Hine and David Barry Gaspar, eds., *More than Chattel: Black Women and Slavery in the Americas*
Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*
Michael Gomez, *Black Crescent: The Experience and Legacy of African Muslims in the Americas*
Michael Gomez, *Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South*
Joseph M. Murphy, *Santería: An African Religion in America*
João José Reis, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprising of 1835 in Bahia*
Robert Farris Thompson, *Flash of the Spirit*
Week 6. February 17: No Class, President’s Day, Monday classes meet Tuesday

Week 7. February 24: Slavery and African American Culture II
Reading: Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint*

**Books for review** (see previous week)

Week 8. March 3: Slave Narratives

**Books for review**
Ira Berlin et al., eds., *Remembering Slavery: African Americans Talk about Their Personal Experiences of Slavery and Freedom*  
Trevor Burnard, *Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and His Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World*  
Henry Louis Gates, jr., *The Slave’s Narrative*  
Adam Hochschild, *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire’s Slaves*  
Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina, *Black London: Life before Emancipation*  
Richard Price, *First-Time: The Historical Vision of an Afro-American People*  
James Walvin, *An African’s Life: The Life and Times of Olaudah Equiano, 1745-1797*


Week 10. March 17: No class. Spring break.

Week 11. March 24: Debating Equiano’s *Interesting Narrative*
**Readings:** Carretta, *Equiano, the African*; Carretta-Lovejoy exchange in *Slavery & Abolition* 27 (December 2006) and 28 (April 2007). **Articles available online through Electronic Journals.**

Paper and bibliography due in class.
Week 12. March 31: Slavery and Freedom in the Revolutionary Era


Books for review:

George Reid Andrews, *The Afro-Argentines of Buenos Aires, 1800-1900*
Robin Blackburn, *The Overthrow of Colonial Slavery, 1776-1848*
Peter Blanchard, *Under the Flags of Freedom: Slave Soldiers and the Wars of Independence in Spanish South America*
Christopher Leslie Brown, *Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism*
Christopher Leslie Brown and Philip Morgan, eds., *Arming Slaves: From Classical Times to the Modern Age*
David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution*
Seymour Drescher, *Capitalism and Antislavery: British Mobilization in Comparative Perspective*
Seymour Drescher, *Econocide: British Slavery in the Era of Abolition*
Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*
Laurent Dubois, *A Colony of Citizens: Revolution and Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804*
Sylvia Frey, *Water from a Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age*
C.L.R. James, *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint Louverture and the Revolution of San Domingo*
Gary Nash, *The Forgotten Fifth: African Americans in the Age of Revolution*
Richard S. Newman, *Freedom’s Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, and the Black Founding Fathers*
Emilia Viotti da Costa, *Crown of Glory, Tears of Blood: The Demerara Slave Rebellion of 1823*
Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*

Week 13. April 7: The Second Slavery and Emancipation in Brazil and Cuba


Books for review

George Reid Andrews, Blacks and Whites in São Paulo, Brazil, 1888-1988
Laird Bergad, The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States
Laird Bergad, Cuban Rural Society in the Nineteenth Century
Robert E. Conrad, The Destruction of Brazilian Slavery, 1850-1888
Luis Figueroa, Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico
Alejandro de la Fuente, A Nation for All: Race, Inequality, and Politics in Twentieth-Century Cuba
Ada Ferrer, Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898
Manuel Moreno Fraginals, The Sugarmill
João José Reis, Death is a Festival: Funeral Rites and Rebellion in Nineteenth-Century Brazil
Francisco Scarano, Sugar and Slavery in Puerto Rico: The Plantation of Ponce, 1800-1850
Christopher Schmidt-Nowara, Empire and Antislavery: Spain, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, 1833-1874
Rebecca J. Scott, Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery
Rebecca J. Scott, Slave Emancipation in Cuba: The Transition to Free Labor, 1865-1899
Emilia Viotti da Costa, The Brazilian Empire: Myths and Histories

Week 14. April 14: Presentations

Week 15. April 21: Presentations

Week 16. April 28: Library day

Week 17. May 5: Final papers due in class.