

**HISTORY: 365G**  
**Antebellum Slavery**  
*AFR 374D & WGS 340*  
Fall 2011  
**The University of Texas at Austin**

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Dr. Daina Ramey Berry  
Office: Garrison Hall Room 3.224  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5:00pm or by appointment  
Office Phone: 512-475-4310 (direct) or 512.471.3261 (dept.)  
Class: Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00-3:30pm  
Location: PAR 306  
Unique: HIS 39540    AFR 30232    WGS 46935

**Course Description:**

When the first Africans arrived in North America, their status was not clear. Some arrived as part of expeditions searching to “discover” the New World, while others arrived with Europeans as “servants.” By the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the majority of Africans who came to this region were enslaved “for their natural life.” Rather than focus on the origins of the peculiar institution, this class examines slavery at its maturity, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Antebellum years represented a time when enslaved families and communities were well established, when labor in various settings was highly regimented, and when resistance movements reinforced strict legislation. This is the backdrop of which students will learn about chattel slavery in the United States. Some of the specific topics covered include community development, cultural expression, family formation, human commodification, labor systems, regional variation, religious practices, and resistance movements among the enslaved. **This course contains sensitive content and students should respect the emotions and opinions of their colleagues during class discussions.**

**Course Objectives:**

This is an independent inquiry course in which students will be expected to work inside and outside of class on group and individual projects. Using on-campus resources at the Briscoe Center for American History and the Perry-Castañeda Library, students will be exposed to a variety of primary and secondary historical records. They will learn how to research special collections and how to use original material in their presentations and papers. Students should complete this course with a solid understanding of slave life in America and sensitivity to the ways bondpeople experienced captivity during the last four decades of this “peculiar institution.”

**Grading Policy:**

Attendance and Class Discussion 20%  
Response Papers (3) 15% (choice of 2 films and a mandatory conference post)  
Conference Poster Assessment 5%  
Mid-Semester Assessment 20%  
Group Oral Presentation 15%  
Take-Home Final Exam 25%

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.**

**Final Grades:**

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	Below 60 points

**Texts:**

Berry, Daina Ramey. *Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe: Gender and Slavery in Antebellum Georgia*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2007 (2010 paperback).

Dew, Charles. *Bond of Iron: Master and Slave at Buffalo Forge*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1994.

Fraser, Rebecca. *Courtship and Love Among the Enslaved in North Carolina*. University of Mississippi Press, 2007.

King, Wilma. *Stolen Childhood: Slave Youth in Nineteenth Century America*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Edition. (available as an electronic book through UT Libraries).

Melish, Joanne Pope. *Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and "Race" in New England, 1780-1860*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998.

Raboteau, Albert. *Slave Religion: The "Invisible Institution" in the Antebellum South*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004 (revised edition).

**All books are also on Reserve at PCL or available electronically.**

**Policies and Procedures:****University of Texas Honor Code**

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

**Plagiarism**

The University's *Institutional Rules* (Section 11-802(d)) define plagiarism as including, "but not limited to, the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any other means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source . . . and presenting that material

as one's own academic work offered for credit." In other words, "**handing in someone else's work and taking credit for it as if it were your own.**" Source: History Department statement on Academic Integrity: <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/history/about/academic-integrity.php>

For examples of plagiarism see the site above or the Student Judicial Services Website.

### **Documented Disability Statement**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>

### **Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students**

E-mail is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your e-mail for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently—the university recommends daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at: <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>

Email in recent years has often mistakenly become a substitute for office hours and students sometimes abuse email by the nature of their comments, requests, demands, and questions. This practice will not be tolerated. The professor is an advocate of contact with students through office hours and prefers to meet in person. Therefore, this course will utilize email to post discussion questions for upcoming class meetings, notification of schedule changes, announcements for lectures on campus, or any other miscellaneous issues that relate to the course. Please be courteous over email and try to save questions for class discussions so that all students can benefit from the response.

### **Religious Holy Days**

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

### **Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)**

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD).

Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>

### **Emergency Evacuation Policy:**

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering

the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

The professor reserves the right to deviate or modify parts of this schedule. All changes will include written notice.

#### **Week 1**

8/25/11 Course Introduction & Overview

#### **Week 2**

8/30/11 Topic – Historiography of Slavery Studies

9/1/11 Topic – Middle Passage & Arrival in the Americas

#### **Week 3**

9/6/11 **Film: *Middle Passage***

9/8/11 Topic - Slave Community, Courtship, Love & Family

#### **Week 4**

9/13/11 Enslaved Family –Discussion of King and Fraser

9/15/11 **Film: *Slavery and the Making of America***

#### **Week 5**

9/20/11 **Mid-Semester Assessment**

9/22/11 Slavery in the North – Discussion of Melish, *Disowning Slavery*\*

#### **Week 6**

9/27/11 The Slaveholding Class

9/29/11 Primary Document Analysis

#### **Week 7**

10/4/11 Slavery in the Industrial Settings – Discussion of Dew\*

10/6/11 From Sun -Up to Sun-Down: Work Regimes & Slavery

#### **Week 8**

10/11/11 **Film: *SANKOFA***

10/13/11 **Film: *SANKOFA***

#### **Week 9**

10/18/11 Slave Labor – Primary Document Analysis (see readings posted online)

10/20/11 Gender & Slave Labor – Discussion of Berry

**Week 10**

10/25/11 Conference Poster Work Session (in-class)  
10/27/11 PCL Work Session for Group Oral Presentation

**Week 11**

11/1/11 Public History & Slavery  
11/3/11 Enslaved Religion

**Week 12**

11/8/11 *Sexuality & Slavery* Conference  
11/11/11 *Sexuality & Slavery* Conference

**Week 13**

11/15/11 Discussion of *Sexuality and Slavery* Conference  
11/17/11 Discussion of Raboteau, *Slave Religion*  
**Take-Home Final Exam Distributed**

**Week 14**

11/22/11 ORAL PRESENTATIONS  
11/24/11 **No Class Thanksgiving**

**Week 15**

11/29/11 ORAL PRESENTATIONS  
12/1/11 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**FINAL EXAM DUE:**

**Monday, DECEMBER 12 no later than 12:00pm**  
**The History Department Main Office – GAR 1.104**  
**\*Please leave your final exam with the department staff person**