

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Fall 2012
Professor E. Foner
email: ef17

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Monday, 4:10-6 pm
Office Hours: Tuesday, 2-4 pm

HISTORY W4518x

SLAVERY AND EMANCIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES

This course examines the central turning point of American history and a few influential examples of the historical literature that has sought to understand it.

For each week, one student will be assigned to prepare four or five discussion questions for the class. These should be sent by email to participants and the instructor at least one day before the class meeting. In addition, each student will write a 15-20-page historiographical essay examining the literature on a problem or question related to the era covered by the course. The paper is due on Friday, December 14.

The readings below are all required. All books are available in paperback except Delbanco's. The books are available at Book Culture on 112th Street east of Broadway. Copies of the articles are available online via the library website. All books are also available in the Reserve Room in Butler.

September 10: The Origins of Slavery

Ira Berlin, Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America

September 17: No Class

September 24: Master and Slave

Eugene D. Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll, Books 1, 2, 4

October 1: Slavery and the Nation

Adam Rothman, Slave Country

October 8: The Old South at the Local Level

Melvin P. Ely, Israel on the Appomattox

October 15: The Politics of Slavery

Manisha Sinha, The Counter Revolution of Slavery: Politics and Ideology in Antebellum South Carolina

October 22: The Antislavery Crusade

Andrew Delbanco, The Abolitionist Imagination

Gary Kornblith, "Rethinking the Coming of the Civil War: A Counterfactual Exercise," Journal of American History, June 2003, 76-105

Michael E. Woods, "What Twenty-First Century Historians Have Said About the Causes of Disunion," Journal of American History, September 2012, 415-39

October 29: Lincoln and Emancipation

Eric Foner, The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery

Frederick Douglass, "Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln," 1876

November 5: Election Day Recess: No Class

November 12: The Confederate Experience

Stephanie McCurry, Confederate Reckoning

November 19: Black Politics After Slavery

Steven Hahn, A Nation Under Our Feet

November 26: The North in the Civil War Era

Sven Beckert, The Monied Metropolis

December 3: The Memory of the War

David Blight, Race and Reunion

December 10: The Aftermath

Theodore Rosengarten, All God's Dangers