

Central Michigan University
Department of History

HST 676A: A Comparative History of Slavery in Africa and the African Diaspora
Fall 2017

Class Time & Date: Thursdays, 06:30pm-09:20pm

Class Room: Powers 135

Office: Powers 235

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:00pm--5:00pm and by appointment

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Instructor: Professor Solomon A. Getahun, PhD

Course Description: The study of slavery in comparative perspective will explore myths, assumptions and generalizations about slavery in Africa and the African Diaspora. By exploring the institution of slavery across time and space, the course will examine and elucidate differences in concept and practices of slavery in Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Mediterranean world. The course scrutinizes some of the ideological foundations for the racialization of slavery as well.

Course Requirements: History, though it is a precise discipline with its own methodology and practice, literally encompasses all human experience and learning. It is further compounded when one deals with slavery, which is a highly contentious, all-encompassing and at times emotionally charged topic. We will thus work at it methodically and carefully, following certain themes, regions and periods. Our study of slavery in comparative perspective would lead us to new questions, issues, groups and new ways of thinking, acting and interacting. Therefore, in this course your responsibilities go beyond coming to class, taking notes, writing papers and doing exams. You are expected to listen to your colleague's opinion even if you do not agree; to be inquisitive, open minded, tolerant and respectful.

In this class you are required to:

1. Present a paper or lead a discussion on different themes at different times. These presentations should include an overview of a book, an article or a topic such as identification of major themes, arguments, methodology, sources and a critical commentary. The discussion will be based on books/articles listed as required reading. On the 1st week of the semester, you will choose a book/s or an article/s on which you will serve as a discussant.
2. Write a term paper on the concept and practice of slavery in a comparative perspective that involves at least two different countries within a continent or across continents. The term paper, too, will be presented to class from whom the writer will get a critical review that will help him/her finalize the paper. I will provide topics for your semester paper. Students who prefer to work on their own topic related to slavery are welcome as well.

❖ In this class there is no makeup!

Your grade is, therefore, based on your

- a. Constructive and critical comments that you make on your colleagues' paper.
- b. Performance as a led discussant
- c. Presentation of your term paper.
- d. Term paper.
- e. Regular attendance. Attendance is mandatory and accounts for 10 per cent of your grade. One absence equals 1% of your attendance grade. I always take attendance. Your attendance/absence will affect your grade as discussant as well as presenter.

Your Final Grade will be determined as follows:

a. Performance as a discussant	Every week	15%
b. 1 st draft of your term paper	Oct. 26	20%
c. Presentation of your term paper	Nov. 16 & 23	15%
d. Critical comment on your colleagues' paper	Nov. 9	15%
e. Revised and final paper	Dec. 7	25%
f. Attendance	Every week	10%
Total points	100%

Grade scale:

93-100 A	83-86 B	73-76 C	63-67 D
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-
87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	59 and below E

Please note "Central Michigan University provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in university activities, programs and services. Individuals with disabilities requiring an accommodation to participate in this course should contact the Student Disability Services office at (989) 774-3018 or sds@cmich.edu."

Required Books and Articles

Shihan de Silva Jayasuriy, African Identity in Asia: Cultural Effects of Forced Migration (Markus Wiener Publishers, 2009)

Bernard Lewis, Race and Slavery in the Middle East: An Historical Enquiry, New Edn. (Oxford University Press: 1992)

Ronald Segal, Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora (Farrar, Straus and Giroux: 2002)

Behnaz A. Mirzai, Ismael Musah Montana and Paul E. Lovejoe, Slavery, Islam and Diaspora (Africa World Press, Inc. 2009)

Indrani Chatterjee and Richard M. Eaton, (Editors), Slavery and South Asian History (Indiana University Press, 2006)

Deryck Scarr, Slaving and Slavery in the Indian Ocean (Palgrave Macmillan: 2014)

Herbert S. Klein and Herbert S. Klein, 2nd Edn. African Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean (Oxford University: 2007)

Laird Bergad, *The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States* (Cambridge University Press: 2007)
Paul E. Lovejoy, *Transformations in Slavery: A History of Slavery in Africa* 3rd edn. (Cambridge University Press, 2011)
Robert C. Davis, *Christian Slaves, Muslim Masters: White Slavery in the Mediterranean, the Barbary Coast, and Italy, 1500-1800* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004)
Chouki El Hamel, *Black Morocco: A History of Slavery, Race and Islam* (Cambridge University Press, 2014)

Course Outline:

THIS COURSE OUTLINE & CALENDAR IS TENTATIVE AND MAY BE CHANGE AS NEEDED

- Week 1: Aug. 31 **Introducing the course, distributing course syllabus and assigning topics.**
- Week 2: Sep. 7 **The Concept, definition, context . . . etc. of Slavery**
Igor Kopytoff, "Slavery" *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 11 (1982), pp. 207-230. URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2155781>
Orlando Patterson, "Slavery," *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 3 (1977), pp. 407-449. URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2945942>
Orlando Patterson, *Slavery and Social Death: A Comparative Study* (Harvard University Press, 1990) **Optional reading**
- Week 3: Sep. 14 **Slavery in Africa**
Paul E. Lovejoy, *Transformations in Slavery: A History of Slavery in Africa* 3rd edn. (Cambridge University Press, 2011)
Chouki El Hamel, *Black Morocco: A History of Slavery, Race and Islam* (Cambridge University Press, 2014)
- Week 4: Sep. 21 **Slavery under Islam**
Ronald Segal, *Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux: 2002)
Behnaz A. Mirzai, Ismael Musah Montana and Paul E. Lovejoy, *Slavery, Islam and Diaspora* (Africa World Press, Inc. 2009)
Robert C. Davis, *Christian Slaves, Muslim Masters: White Slavery in the Mediterranean, the Barbary Coast, and Italy, 1500-1800* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004)
- Week 5: Sep. 28 **Slavery in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean**
Bernard Lewis, *Race and Slavery in the Middle East: An Historical Enquiry*, New Edn. (Oxford University Press: 1992)
Deryck Scarr, *Slaving and Slavery in the Indian Ocean* (Palgrave Macmillan: 2014)
- Week 6-7: Oct. 5 & 12. **Slavery in Asia**
Shihan de Silva Jayasuriy, *African Identity in Asia: Cultural Effects of Forced Migration* (Markus Wiener Publishers, 2009)
Indrani Chatterjee and Richard M. Eaton, (Editors), *Slavery and South Asian History* (Indiana University Press, 2006)

Week 8-9: Oct. 19 & 26. **Slavery in the New World**
No Class

Week 10: November. 2. **Slavery in the New World**

Herbert S. Klein and Herbert S. Klein, 2nd Edn. **African Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean** (Oxford University: 2007)

Laird Bergad, **The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States** (Cambridge University Press: 2007)

❖ **First draft of semester paper is due on November 2 via e-mail before class time. All papers are distributed to students via e-mail.**

Week 11. November 9. **Race, Gender and Slavery**

Khaled Esseissah, "Paradise Is Under the Feet of Your Master': The Construction of the Religious Basis of Racial Slavery in the Mauritanian Arab-Berber Community" **Journal of Black Studies**, Vol 47 (1), (2015), pp. 3-23.

Anthony A. Lee, "Enslaved African Women in Nineteenth-Century Iran: The Life of Fezzeh Khanom of Shiraz," **Iranian Studies**, Vol. 45, No.3 (2012), pp. 417-437. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2011.637769>

Rebecca Shumway, "Castle Slaves of the Eighteenth-Century Gold Coast (Ghana)," **Slavery & Abolition**, Vol. 35, No. 1 (2014), pp 84-98. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0144039X.2013.816520>

Cristina Ferreira Pinto-Bailey, "The Slave Women' An Introduction," **Afro-Hispanic Review**, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Spring 2013), pp. 205-218.

Randy M. Browne & John Wood Sweet, "Florence Hall's 'Memoirs:' Finding African Women in the Transatlantic Slave Trade," **Slavery & Abolition**, Vol. 37, No. 1 (2016), pp. 206-221. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0144039X.2015.1074795>

Week 12: November 16: **Commented papers are due on November 16 via e-mail.**
These papers will be presented by their respective authors for class discussion.

Week 13: November 23: Thanksgiving (NO CLASS)

Week 14-15: Nov. 30 & Dec. 7. **Student Research**

❖ **Revised and final paper due on December 7 via e-mail. The revised paper must include suggested improvements.**

Week 16: Dec. 11-15. **E X A M W E E K**