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
Office Phone No: 989-774-3592
Department Phone No: 989-774-3374
E-mail: getahlsa@cmich.edu
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:

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<tr>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Performance as a discussant</th>
<th>1st draft of your term paper</th>
<th>Presentation of your term paper</th>
<th>Critical comment on your colleagues’ paper</th>
<th>Revised and final paper</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Every week</td>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Nov. 16 &amp; 23</td>
<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td>Every week</td>
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Total points ........................................................................................................................................................................ 100%

Grade scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
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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
Ronald Segal, Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora (Farrar, Straus and Giroux: 2002)
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)
Robert C. Davis, Christian Slaves, Muslim Masters: White Slavery in the Mediterranean, the Barbary Coast, and Italy, 1500-1800 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004)

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
Orlando Patterson, Slavery and Social Death: A Comparative Study (Harvard University Press, 1990) Optional reading

Week 3: Sep. 14  Slavery in Africa

Week 4: Sep. 21  Slavery under Islam
Ronald Segal, Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora (Farrar, Straus and Giroux: 2002)
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
Deryck Scarr, Slaving and Slavery in the Indian Ocean (Palgrave Macmillan: 2014)

Week 6-7: Oct. 5 & 12.  Slavery in Asia
Indrani Chatterjee and Richard M. Eaton, (Editors), Slavery and South Asian History (Indiana University Press, 2006)

No Class

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


❖ 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*


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. EXAM