

**HISTORY: 365G**  
**Antebellum Slavery**  
*AFR 374D & WGS 340*  
Fall 2010

**The University of Texas at Austin**

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Dr. Daina Ramey Berry  
Office: Garrison Hall Room 3.224  
Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00-3:00pm or by appointment  
Office Phone: 512-475-4310 (direct) or 512.471.3261 (dept.)  
Class: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30pm-5:00pm  
Location: GAR 0.120  
Unique: HIS 39470    AFR 35320 WGS 47085

**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 a sensitivity to the ways bondpeople experienced captivity during the last four decades of this “peculiar institution.”

**Grading Policy:**

Attendance 20%  
Class Discussion 15%  
Oral Presentation 20%  
Response Papers 20%  
Final 25%

**Texts:**

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

Dunaway, Wilma. *Slavery in the American Mountain South*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Kaye, Anthony. *Joining Places: Slave Neighborhoods in the Old South*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.

King, Wilma. *Stolen Childhood: Slave Youth in Nineteenth Century America*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996.

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).

### **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>

### **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

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

<b>Week 1</b>		
8/26/10	Course Introduction & Overview	RP#1
<b>Week 2</b>		
8/31/10	Topic – Historiography of Slavery Studies	
9/2/10	Topic – Middle Passage & Arrival in the Americas	
<b>Week 3</b>		
9/7/10	Film: Middle Passage	RP#2
9/9/10	Topic - Slave Community – Discussion of Kaye, <i>Joining Places</i> *	
<b>Week 4</b>		
9/14/10	Briscoe Center for American History – Research Workshop	
9/16/10	Film: Slavery and the Making of America	RP#3
<b>Week 5</b>		
9/21/10	PCL – Library Workshop	
9/23/10	Slavery in the North – Discussion of Melish, <i>Disowning Slavery</i> *	
<b>Week 6</b>		
9/28/10	Slave Auctions & Sales	

9/30/10 Primary Document Analysis OP Groups Assigned

**Week 7**

10/5/10 Slavery in the Appalachian Mountains – Discussion of Dunaway\*  
10/7/10 BCAH Library Work Session

**Week 8**

10/12/10 From Sun-Up to Sun-Down: Work Regimes & Slavery  
10/14/10 Gender & Slave Labor – Discussion of Berry, *Swing the Sickle*\*

**Week 9**

10/19/10 Film: Sankofa  
10/21/10 Film: Sankofa RP#4

**Week 10**

10/26/10 Gender & Family – Courtship, Love & Marriage  
10/28/10 *Enslaved Women in America*: Creating a Useful Reference Volume

**Week 11**

11/2/10 Enslaved Children – Discussion of King, *Stolen Childhood*\*  
11/4/10 PCL Work Session – rooms reserved

**Week 12**

11/9/10 Understanding Suicide During Slavery  
11/11/10 Documenting The History of Suicide & Slavery

**Week 13**

11/16/10 Religion – Discussion of Raboteau, *Slave Religion*\*  
11/18/10 Resistance **Take-Home Final Exam Distributed**

**Week 14**

11/23/10 ORAL PRESENTATIONS  
11/25/10 **No Class Thanksgiving**

**Week 15**

11/30/10 ORAL PRESENTATIONS  
12/2/10 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**FINAL EXAM DUE:**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 no later than 12:00pm**  
**The History Department Main Office - GAR 1.104**  
**\*Please leave your final exam with the department staff person**