

OLLI 2021 Syllabus Course 740 Thursdays 9:45 AM

History of Slavery in America: 1619 to the Civil War

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Text: Many Thousands Gone Ira Berlin Belnap Press of Harvard University 1998 (MTG)

Session 1 3/4 Atlantic Slave Trade

Handout: Berlin The Story of Americas's First Slaves

In the first session we will look at the origins of North American slavery beginning with Atlantic Slave Trade. What was going on Europe and Africa that led to this important trade link in the 15 century? We will see how the development of the trade forged links among Europe, Africa, and the New World. We will look in detail at the development of the Atlantic Creole culture which emerged along the Atlantic litoral at this time. We will look at the late entry of the North American British colonies to the Atlantic slave trade approximately 140 years after its beginning.

Online: TedEd The Atlantic Slave Trade https://youtu.be/3NXC4Q_4JVg

Session 2 3/11 Charter Generation in the Chesapeake Preparatory reading: Many Thousands Gone PP 17-46, Introduction and Chapter 1 Emergence of the Atlantic Creoles in the Chesapeake

This session will examine the different ways slavery developed in the Chesapeake region after the arrival of slavery in Jamestown in 1619. Economic policies such as the head right system contribute to social stratification based on land ownership. We will compare indentured servitude and slavery. The legal establishment of slavery in Virginia and Maryland colonies happened over the second half of the 17th century. We will see the impact of this terrible transformation through the stories of Anthony Johnson a freed African, Nell Butler a white indentured servant, and Mary Queen a black indentured servant.

Online Anthony Johnson <https://youtu.be/p0iDeRfcCWM>

Session 3 3/18 Charter to Plantation Generations in Carolina and the Low Country Preparatory Reading MTGe pp 64-79, pp 142-176 Chapter 3 Divergent Paths in the Low Country and Chapter 6 The Rice Revolution in Low Country

In this session we will examine the differences between the founding and early settlement of the Carolina colony versus the Chesapeake colonies. We will examine the rapid transformation from the Charter generation to the Plantation generation in the Carolina and Georgia colonies in the 18th century. We will discuss the conflict between Spain and Great Britain and how it impacted the enslaved people of the low country.

Video Stono

<https://youtu.be/6zvcS2tIKS4?t=150>

Session 4 3/25 Plantation and Revolutionary generations in the Chesapeake and Carolinas

Prep reading: MTG pp 109-176, pp 256-289 Chapter 5 The Tobacco Revolution in the Chesapeake and Chapter 10 The Union of African American Society in the Upper South

In this session we will see the transformation of slave life in the Chesapeake and the Carolinas in the early 18th century. The population of enslaved Africans grew enormously in the mid Atlantic. Initially the quality of life for the enslaved population plummeted as mortality rates rose, fertility fell, and limited freedoms disappeared. Chesapeake and Carolina colonies became slave societies. We will examine this transformation had on the lives of the enslaved Africans as the 18th century progressed. An examination of the Somerset decision in England will demonstrate how world events impacted local lives in the colonies. We will look at the coming of the Revolution and the Dunmore Proclamation We will see the different decisions enslaved blacks in their gamble for freedom.

Video: Blacks in the American Revolution <https://youtu.be/Z3p-uo03CtE>

Session 5 4/1 Slavery in the North Preparatory Reading: Many Thousands Gone MTG: pp 47-63 pp 177-194
Chapter 2 The Expansion of Creole Society in the North and Chapter 7 Growth and Transformation of Black Life in the North

In this session we examine the experience of enslaved people in the Northern colonies. We will return to the charter generation in the 17th century and see how the experience of enslaved Africans differed in Northern Colonies. We will focus on New England colonies. We will also discuss the other ways of participating in the slave trade focusing on RI. Why did slave societies not develop in the Northern colonies? How did the American Revolution impact enslaved people in the northern colonies?

Mum Bet Judicial Abolition of Slavery https://youtu.be/dxPKrMfV_Yo?t=39

Session 6 4/8 French and Spanish Colonies Louisiana and Florida MTG pp 77-92 and pp 195-216 Chapter 4 Devolution on the Lower Mississippi Valley and Chapter 8 Stagnation and Transformation in the Lower Mississippi

In this session we will look at competing colonies to the British. We will see how they differ in purpose and development. We will see how developments in Europe impact the history of colonial Americana and the new American nation. the early development of slavery in the Louisiana Territory and the impact of foreign and domestic wars on its development.

Session 7 4/15 Slavery and the Revolutionary War preparatory reading MTG pp 219-255 and 290-324 Slave and Free the Revolutionary Generations Introduction and Chapter 9 The Slow Death of Slavery in the North and Chapter 11 Fragmentation in the Lower South

In this session we will continue our discussion of the impact of the ideas leading American Revolution as well as the uprising in Sainte Domingue on slavery in the US. We will look at the impact of the actual war on the coastal colonies and the British strategy to use the discontent of the enslaved to weaken the American position in the revolution. We will see how this strategy was continued in the War of 1812.

Video <https://youtu.be/Z3p-uo03CtE>

Session 8 4/22 King Cotton and Antebellum South and Growing tensions leading to War.

In this session we will examine the changes that came in post revolutionary America including the migration west, the economic importance of cotton as a cash crop, the complicity of northern colonies in the growing slave society. We will see the conflict of north and south over the status of new territories. We look at the period from the Missouri Compromise to the Compromise of 1850 and the Fugitive Slave Act and see how it led to war.

Session 9 The War Before the War

In this session we will look at the westward expansion of the nation and the conflict over admitting new states to the union as slave or free. We will examine the compromises and their eventual failure. We will see how the Mexican war and the discovery of gold in California each led the nation closer to war. We will see how the Kansas Nebraska Act precipitated Bleeding Kansas the Civil War in the west.

Session 10 5/6 Fort Sumter, the Confederacy and initiation of the Civil War. In this final session we will see the struggle of black men to included in the Civil War. We will follow the evolution of President Lincoln's thinking on the role of black soldiers in the War and black citizens in the Nation. We will see how black soldiers helped shift the thinking of many in the North on the possibility of black citizenship after the war. We will reserve some time this week for a class discussion of the course as a whole.