HIST 153b: Slavery and the American Civil War
SPRING 2018
MWTh

Prof. Abigail Cooper (abcooper@brandeis.edu)
Office hours: Wed 2-4 (Olin-Sang 121)

Teaching Fellow: Hannah Jung (junghannah@brandeis.edu) Office: Rabb 358
Office hours: Thurs. 11-12

This course investigates the institution of slavery in America and grapples with the Civil War it took to bring about emancipation. Themes of this course include: slavery and capitalism, emancipation and human rights, religion and culture in systems of oppression, the development of race and slavery over time, slavery and republicanism, slavery and democracy, modern and premodern societies, political compromise, westward expansion, American imperial ambitions, the development of sectional antagonism, secession, the development of modern warfare, Civil War medicine, Confederate and U.S. nation-building in wartime, black military service, emancipation policy, experience of emancipation on the ground, migration and refugee camps, the experiences of black women, Reconstruction, 13th, 14th, and 15th Constitutional Amendments, Civil War memorialization, the evolution of historical scholarship on slavery and the Civil War.

The course normally consists of two lectures each week, on Monday and Wednesday and one weekly discussion group on Thursday. Discussion organization will be determined based on course enrollment, to be set by the second week of classes.

READINGS:
At the bookstore and on reserve at the library:

Other readings are available on LATTE. They are listed under each week in the course outline. The expectation is that students read the week’s reading before their Thursday discussion section. The professor reserves the right to make reasonable adjustments to the readings over the course of the semester, as needed.

Course Requirements & Percentage of Course Grade:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>LATTE assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Research project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Take-home exam</td>
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LATTE assignments:

LATTE posts: Post a comment or question related to the readings by 8pm the Wednesday before you participate in your Thursday discussion group.

LATTE quiz: At some point in the semester, the professor will post a LATTE quiz. This exercise functions to reinforce retention of the material of the course. Performance on the quiz goes toward your overall LATTE assignment grade.

Midterm: The midterm will comprise identification, short answer, and similarly-structured questions, as well as an essay question.

Research project: You will have a variety of options for your research project. Guidelines will be posted on LATTE.

Take-home exam: The take-home exam will be posted to LATTE toward the end of the semester. Upload your completed exam to LATTE by the deadline posted.

General expectations: include completion of assigned readings and demonstration of both comprehension and curiosity, attendance at all classes (excused absences due to extenuating circumstances may come up; please notify the professor or teaching fellow and keep such absences to a minimum), engaged and courageous participation in discussion, completion of all assignments,

Academic Accommodations: If you are a student with a documented disability at Brandeis and wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, please see me immediately.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: Violations of University policies on academic integrity can result in failure in the course or on the assignment, or in suspension or dismissal from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, it is your responsibility to ask for clarification. Please read the University’s policies on academic integrity at http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai. I will refer suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Development and Conduct.

COURSE OUTLINE:
WEEK ONE
Wed, Jan. 10: INTRODUCTORY CLASS
Thurs, Jan. 11: SLAVERY & RACE: THE VIEW FROM THE 21st Century
Mon, Jan. 15: MLK Jr. Day (Thursday is a Brandeis Monday: Monday schedule in effect.)
Thur, Jan. 18: Week 1 Discussion
Week 1 Readings:
& “The First White President” (2017)
Roxanne Gay, “I Don’t Want to Read Slavery Fan Fiction” (2017)
Fitzhugh Brundage, “Confederate Memorials” (2017)
SLAVERY

WEEK TWO
Mon, Jan.22: THE MIDDLE PASSAGE & NEW WORLD SLAVERY
Wed, Jan. 24: THE MIDDLE PASSAGE & NEW WORLD SLAVERY
Thur, Jan. 25: (Brandeis Monday but for us, a discussion day) Week 2 Discussion
  Week 2 Readings:
  Heather Williams, American Slavery, Chapter 1
  Saidiya Hartman, Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route
  (selection)
  Exhibit: “In Motion: The African American Migration Experience” by The Schomburg
  Center for Research in Black Culture

WEEK THREE
Mon, Jan. 29: FROM AFRICAN TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN
Wed, Jan. 31: FROM A SOCIETY WITH SLAVES TO A SLAVE SOCIETY
Thur, Feb. 1: Week 3 Discussion
  Week 3 Readings:
  Ira Berlin, Many Thousands Gone (selection)
  Heather Williams, American Slavery, Chapters 2 & 3

WEEK FOUR
Mon, Feb. 5: EVERYDAY SUFFERING OF THE ENSLAVED
Wed, Feb. 7: EVERYDAY RESILIENCE OF THE ENSLAVED
Thur, Feb. 8: Week 4 Discussion
  Week 4 Readings:
  Heather Williams, American Slavery, Chapters 4 & 5
  Unorthodox readings in fragments, artifacts, materials
  The Autobiography of Omar ibn Said (primary source)

WEEK FIVE
Mon, Feb. 12: SLAVERY AND CAPITALISM
Wed, Feb. 14: WAGE LABOR AND FREE SOIL
Thur, Feb. 15: Week 5 Discussion
  Week 5 Readings:
  Heather Williams, American Slavery, Chapter 6, 7, & Epilogue
  Seth Rockman, “Liberty is Land and Slaves”
  Walter Johnson, Soul by Soul: Life in the Antebellum Slave Market (Chap. 5)
  Amy Dru Stanley, “Slave Breeding and Free Love"

***MIDTERM RECESS: NO CLASS Feb. 19-23***

WEEK SIX
Mon, Feb. 26: A POLITICAL CRISIS
Wed, Feb. 28: A LIBERAL DILEMMA
Thur, Mar. 1: Week 6 Discussion
  Week 6 Readings:
  Robin Blackburn, "Emancipation and 'Human Rights' from Empire to Decolonization,"
  The American Crucible: Slavery, Emancipation, and Human Rights (2011)
  Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Civil War Isn’t Tragic” (2012)
  Delivered in the Senate of the United States, March 4, 1858
  Abraham Lincoln, “Annual Address Before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society,” 1859
WEEK SEVEN
Mon, Mar. 5: *Possible Guest Lecture*
Wed, Mar. 7: Discussion (Review Session)
Thur, Mar. 8: MIDTERM EXAM

**CIVIL WAR & EMANCIPATION**

WEEK EIGHT
Mon, Mar. 12: WESTWARD EXPANSION AND PLANTATION EMPIRES
Wed, Mar. 14: SECESSION & THE BORDER STATES
Thur, Mar. 15: Week 8 Discussion
  
  Week 8 Readings:

WEEK NINE
Mon, Mar. 19: SO THIS IS WHAT MODERN WAR LOOKS LIKE
Wed, Mar. 21: MEDICINE & MIDWIVES
Thur, Mar. 22: Week 9 Discussion
  
  Week 9 Readings:
  McPherson, Chaps. 10, 15, 16

WEEK TEN
Mon, Mar. 26: *Guest Lecture*
Wed, Mar. 28: TURNING POINTS AND TRANSFORMATIONS
Thur, Mar. 29: Week 10 Discussion
  
  Week 10 Readings:
  McPherson, Chaps. 21, 23, 24

***Friday, Mar. 30 – Friday, Apr. 6 PASSOVER/SPRING RECESS – NO CLASS***

WEEK ELEVEN
Mon, Apr. 9: REFUGEE CAMPS
Wed, Apr. 11: REFUGEE CAMPS
Thur, Apr. 12: Week 11 Discussion
  
  Week 11 Readings:
  McPherson, Chaps. 25-28 & Epilogue
  Interactive map of the refugee camps of the Civil War

WEEK TWELVE
Mon, Apr. 16: SLAVERY TO FREEDOM REVISITED
Wed, Apr. 18: BLACK RECONSTRUCTION & RACIAL JUSTICE
Thur, Apr. 19: Week 12 Discussion
  
  Week 12 Readings:
  Leon Litwack, *Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery* (selection)
  American Freedmen’s Inquiry Commission Records (primary source)

WEEK THIRTEEN
Mon, Apr. 23: REDEMPTION TO REPAIR
Wed, Apr. 25: *Wed, Apr. 25: Brandeis Friday – NO CLASS*
Thur, Apr. 26: No class
  
  Week 13 Readings:
  *possible additional reading TBD*