

**HIST 6102/7102**  
**Seminar in 19<sup>th</sup> Century US History**  
**Professor Pippa Holloway**  
**Middle Tennessee State University**  
**Spring 2018**

This course is survey of recent scholarship in 19<sup>th</sup> century US history. While we will cover a variety of topics and themes in the context of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the organizing focus of this course is the enslavement of African Americans, the struggle to end it, and the legacy of the bondage and forced labor of African Americans through the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Within that there are some sub-themes: violence and its cultural and political impacts; gender and sexuality; courts and the law; capitalism; science and medicine; and historical memory. Although this class centers on race and slavery, the readings intentionally avoid a North vs. South orientation, and instead frame the 19<sup>th</sup> century as one of interaction and movement between East and West.

**Class meetings**

You are expected to read all of the material in advance of each class. You should be able to identify the central argument of the weekly reading, to discuss the evidence and sources the author relies on, and explain its historiographic contribution. It may be helpful to look up reviews of and/or reactions to the piece. In addition, I would like you to be familiar with the authors of each piece – what their academic credentials are, what else they have written or done, and what their career trajectory has been.

**Short Writing Assignments**

Each student will write two "paired" book reviews of 3,000 words each. On those weeks, students will read the assigned book as well as the paired book and write a review of the two. See *Reviews in American History* for examples of this kind of review. Students will select which weeks they want to read and review books, so please come to class the first day with a sense of which ones you would like to do. (For the first week, your review will be due week 2.) In addition, each student will write a review of one of the Lincoln biographies.

**Final paper**

You will write a long (15-20 page) final essay on the assigned books in the class, using a question/topic/prompt that I will give you later in the semester.

**Discussion leader**

Each student will be the discussion leader for two class meetings. These meetings will be the ones for which you are writing a book review. On these weeks, you should be prepared to give a brief overview of the book for the class as well as the paired reading that you selected. You will begin the class discussion of the book by asking the 4 – 5 discussion questions about the book.

**Grading**

Class participation: 20%

Book reviews: 45% (15% each)  
Final paper: 35%

### Weekly reading

#### **Week 1: January 18**

Walter Johnson, *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom* (Harvard/Belknap 2013)

#### Paired review:

Ed Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* (Basic Books, 2014)

#### Paired Review

Manisha Sinha, *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition* (Yale 2017)

#### **Week 2: January 25**

Rana Hogarth, *Medicalizing Blackness: Making Racial Difference in the Atlantic World, 1780-1840* (UNC, 2017)

#### Paired Review

Deirdre Cooper Owens, *Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology* (University of Georgia Press, 2017)

#### **Week 3: February 1**

Keri Leigh Merritt, *Masterless Men: Poor Whites and Slavery in the Antebellum South* (Cambridge, 2017)

#### Paired Review

Seth Rockman, *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore* (Johns Hopkins, 2009)

#### **Week 4: February 8**

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A House Full of Females: Plural Marriage and Women's Rights in Early Mormonism, 1835-1870* (Knopf 2017)

[article by job candidate]

#### Paired Review

Tera Hunter, *Bound in Wedlock: Slave and Free Black Marriage in the Nineteenth Century* (Harvard/Belknap 2017)

#### Paired Review

Rachel Hope Cleves, *Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America* (Oxford 2016)

**Week 5: February 15**

Kimberly M. Welch, *Black Litigants in the Antebellum American South* (UNC, 2018)

[Article by job candidate]

Paired Review: Laura Edwards, *The People and Their Peace: Legal Culture and the Transformation of Inequality in the Post-Revolutionary South* (UNC, 2009)

Paired Review

Bianca Premo, *The Enlightenment on Trial: Ordinary Litigants and Colonialism in the Spanish Empire* (Oxford, 2017)

**Week 6: February 22**

No class. Each student should read one biography of Abraham Lincoln and write a review of it. We will discuss these books March 1.

**Week 7: March 1**

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (Norton, 1992)

[article by job candidate]

Paired Review

Karl Jacoby, *Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves and the Hidden History of American Conservation* (California, 2003)

Paired Review

Sven Beckert, *The Monied Metropolis: New York City and the Consolidation of the American Bourgeoisie, 1850–1896* (Cambridge, 2001)

**Week 8: March 8**

No Class. Spring break.

**Week 9: March 15**

Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South* (Harvard, 2010)

Paired Review

Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* (Knopf, 2008)

Paired Review

Gregory Downs, *After Appomattox: Military Occupation and the Ends of War* (Harvard, 2015)

**Week 10: March 22**

Gregory Downs and Kate Masur, eds, *The World the Civil War Made* (UNC 2015)

Paired Review

William Blair, *Cities of the Dead: Contesting the Memory of the Civil War in the South, 1865-1914* (UNC 2014)

**Week 11: March 29**

Kate Masur, *An Example for All the Land: Emancipation and the Struggle over Equality in Washington, D.C.* (UNC, 2010)

Paired Review

Carole Emberton, *Beyond Redemption: Race, Violence, and the American South after the Civil War* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013)

**Week 12: April 4**

Heather Cox Richardson, *West from Appomattox: The Reconstruction of America after the Civil War* (Yale 2007)

Paired Review

Leslie A. Schwalm, *Emancipation's Diaspora Race and Reconstruction in the Upper Midwest* (UNC 2009)

**Week 13: April 12**

Daniel J. Sharfstein, *Thunder in the Mountains: Chief Joseph, Oliver Otis Howard, and the Nez Perce War* (Norton 2017)

Paired Review

Katherine Osburn, *Choctaw Resurgence in Mississippi: Race, Class, and Nation Building in the Jim Crow South, 1830-1977* (Nebraska, 2014)

**Week 14: April 19**

Elaine Frantz Parsons, *Ku-Klux The Birth of the Klan during Reconstruction* (UNC 2015)

Paired Review

K. Stephen Prince, *Stories of the South: Race and the Reconstruction of Southern Identity, 1865-1915* (UNC, 2014)

Paired Review

Amy Wood, *Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in America, 1890-1940* (UNC 2009)

**Week 15: April 26**

Kidada E. Williams, *They Left Great Marks on Me. African American Testimonies of Racial Violence from Emancipation to World War I* (NYU, 2012)

Paired Review

Thavolia Glymph, *Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household* (Cambridge, 2008)

**Week 16: May 3**

Carole Emberton, Bruce E. Baker, W. Fitzhugh Brundage, *Remembering Reconstruction Struggles over the Meaning of America's Most Turbulent Era* (LSU 2017)