

**History 305
Slavery in the Americas
The University of Calgary**

Instructors:

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Other Information:

MWF 10:00-10:50
Craigie Hall C105

No Prerequisites

Course Description

History 305 surveys enslavement in the “New World” from 1492 to 1888. Key themes in this course include the slave trade from Africa, slavery’s expansion throughout the Americas, labor, culture and religion, resistance and rebellion, the so-called “second slavery” of the nineteenth century, abolition, and slavery’s legacy.

Through the discussion and analysis of primary sources, students in HTST 305 will learn about how historians construct arguments based on the written records left to us by past societies. The research essay assignment is designed to teach students how to use some of the main research databases for finding scholarly sources on slavery and how to use those sources in their own research. The written work is designed to assist students in developing their own arguments based on the analysis of primary and secondary sources. The exams are designed to encourage students to think about the historical significance of concepts, events, and historical processes.

The story of slavery in the Americas is a troubling chapter in human history and some of the primary sources contain language that is today considered offensive, while some of the primary and secondary sources contain accounts of the violence and brutality that were characteristic of slavery. The inclusion of these materials is not intended to offend or upset students. Rather, our goal in this course is to gain a better understanding of the nature of these slave societies and to learn how the men and women caught up in slavery resisted their exploitation, struggled to survive it, and contributed to slavery’s abolition.

Course Grading

Mid-Term Examination (Oct. 22) 25%
Primary Source Assignment (One of Six Due Dates) 10%

Primary Source Discussion Participation (Eight Fridays).....	5%
Research Essay (Due Nov. 21)	30%
Final Examination (to be scheduled by the Registrar)	30%
Total	100%

You must complete all assignments to pass the course. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of three percentage points per day, so that an essay that receives a 75% that is submitted in two days late will receive a 69%.

Assigned Readings

Several different types of readings are assigned for this course, and listed below in the “Lecture Topics and Assignments Schedule” section. You are responsible for the content of all assigned readings for the examinations. It is recommended that you complete the assigned reading at the beginning of the week in which it is listed in the schedule below.

Textbooks Available for Purchase (at the University Bookstore):

Eric Nellis, *Shaping the New World: African Slavery in the Americas, 1500-1888* (University of Toronto Press, 2013).

Manuel Barcía, *Seeds of Insurrection: Domination and Resistance on Western Cuban Plantations, 1808-1848* (Louisiana State University Press, 2008).

D2L Delivered Readings (under “Content”):

The titles of readings that are available through D2L are indicated with an asterisk (*) in the “Lecture Topics and Assignment Schedule.” They include two additional required readings and eight primary sources. In addition, the following important reference materials are available on D2L: *Glossary of Foreign Terms in the Readings*, *The History Student’s Handbook: A Short Guide to Writing History Essays*, a list of errata in Nellis, *Shaping the New World*, and a link to a chronology of slavery’s history.

Course Requirements

Your grade in this course will be based on the following assignments: a mid-term examination, a written primary sources assignment, participation in the primary sources discussions, a research essay, and a comprehensive final examination.

Mid-Term Examination (Oct. 22):

This is a fifty-minute, in-class examination. Students will be held responsible for all assigned readings and lectures up to that point in the course. A more specific description of this examination will be given in class. Those who finish in the final ten minutes are required to stay seated until the examination period is over (so as not to disturb others).

Primary Source Discussion (at the Start of Eight Friday Class Meetings):

Eight Friday class meeting will begin with small-group discussions of primary sources. Primary sources are documents produced by actors in the past; through them, historians have (imperfect) access to what happened in past times. In your small groups, you will answer a small number of questions about the week's document(s) and seek to draw conclusions about slavery from them. To prepare for these discussions, read the assigned documents carefully prior to the Friday discussions. Your grade on this component of the course will be based on your group's answers to the questions. Attendance is a necessary prerequisite for participation.

Primary Source Assignment (Due on One of Six Mondays):

Based on **one** of the assigned primary sources (your choice), you will write an analytical paragraph. The primary source paragraph is due by midnight on the Monday following the Friday class during which the document was discussed, in other words, on one of the following days: Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; or Nov. 5. It should be submitted to the correct electronic dropbox on D2L. Please note that the first and last of the assigned primary sources are not available for this assignment.

Research Essay (Due Nov. 21):

You will write a research essay of 1500 to 1750 words in length on one of the topics described in the Research Essay Assignment document. In all matters of style and documentation, the research essay should conform to *The History Student's Handbook*. The research essay should be submitted **in Word** format to the correct D2L electronic dropbox by midnight on Nov. 21. Essays not submitted in Word format will not be graded and will be returned for resubmission in the correct format.

Final Examination (To Be Scheduled by the Registrar):

A comprehensive two-hour final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar during the examination period. It will consist of both short-answer questions and one essay question. A more specific description of the examination will be given in class. The examination will be comprehensive, but with emphasis on readings assigned and lectures given after the midterm examination. This examination may take place in a different location than our normal class meetings. It is the responsibility of students to check the examination schedule for its time, date, and place. Faculty members may not arrange make-ups of final examinations. Should extenuating circumstances cause students to miss this examination, they must contact the Registrar's Office for a deferral.

General Information

Office Hours:

You are welcome to consult with the instructors during scheduled office hours, especially if you are having difficulty with this course. If you cannot meet one of us during scheduled office hours, we can consult before or after class or schedule an appointment for another time. Feel free to telephone during office hours (on the understanding that those present in person take precedence) or to send e-mail messages anytime. Please e-mail **only one of the course instructors**, include History 305 in the subject line, and include your full name in the message.

D2L:

The D2L site for this course will help connect you to some of the assigned readings. The instructors will also post course handouts, instructions for assignments, many of the announcements made in class, and outlines of the lectures. Grades will also be recorded on this site. Students are encouraged to check D2L regularly. Please note that to access D2L you must have a University of Calgary IT account and be officially registered in the course.

Classroom Environment and Course Material Distribution:

It is important that students respect one another's needs in the classroom. Students should turn off the sound and vibration on devices that they are using for class and should not engage in texting, e-mailing, gaming, and other leisure activities during our class meetings. Please also avoid private conversation during class. Using laptops, tablets and similar devices to take notes and engage with the lectures is encouraged, but your screens not be distracting to other students.

In accordance with university privacy policies, it is forbidden to tape or digitally record lectures and/or discussions without the explicit consent of the instructor and any students affected. This policy is strictly enforced and violations will be immediately referred to the Dean's Office for disciplinary action.

Lecture Topics and Assignment Schedule

Sep. 7: Welcome and Introduction

Sep. 10-14: The Setting for New World Slavery

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chap. 1.

Sep. 17-21): The Atlantic Slave Trade

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chap. 2.

Primary Source: *"An African Man Remembers the Middle Passage that He Experienced as a Child."

Sep. 24-28: Slavery in Colonial Latin America, Part I

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chap. 3.

Primary Sources: *"Nineteenth-Century Sugar Plantation Labor on St. Vincent Described by a Former Slave."

Oct. 1-5: Slavery in Colonial Latin America, Part II

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chap. 3.

Alan Gally, "Indian Slavery," in *The Oxford Handbook of Slavery in the Americas*, ed. Robert L. Paquette and Mark M. Smith (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 312-35.

Primary Source: *"An Italian Jesuit Advises Sugar Planters on the Treatment of Their Slaves (1711)."

Oct. 8-12: Caribbean and North America, Part I

8 October: Thanksgiving (No Class Meeting)

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chaps. 4-5.

Primary Source: *"Extracts from the 1688 Law Regulating Slavery in Barbados."

Oct. 15-19: Caribbean and North America, Part II

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chaps 4-5.

Primary Source: *[Letter from John Carter to Richard Gildart, Shirley, 1 Aug. 1738.](#)

Oct. 22-26: Slave Culture and Society, Part I

Oct. 22: Midterm Examination

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chap. 6.

Barcía, *Seeds*, chap. 1.

Primary Source: *"Five Runaway Slave Advertisements from across the Americas, 1771-1847."

Oct. 29-Nov. 2: Slave Culture and Society, Part II

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chap. 6.

Barcía, *Seeds*, chaps. 2-4.

Primary Source: *"Account of the Negroe Insurrection in South Carolina."

Nov. 5-9: Slave Culture and Society, Part III

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chap. 6.

Barcía, *Seeds*, chaps. 5-6 and Conclusion.

Primary Sources: *"The Slaves' Proposals for Peace, ca. 1789."

Nov. 11-17: Reading Week (No Class Meetings)

Nov. 19-23: Revolutions and Second Slavery

Nov. 21: Research Essay Due

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chap. 7.

Nov. 26-30: Abolitions

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, chap. 7.

*Laird W. Bergad, *The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), chap. 8.

December 3-7: Post Emancipation Societies

Nov. 7: Final Exam Review

Readings: Nellis, *Shaping*, conclusion.

Dec. 10-20: Final Examination (to be scheduled by the Registrar).

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.

Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK (7625), visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block (MLB) or their website at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL). Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: 1) **course name and number**, 2) **instructor**, 3) **your name** and 4) **your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages

in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook* (http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI surveys.

Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Campus Resources for Mental Health:

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Other Useful Information:

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- Campus Security & Safewalk: 403-220-5333, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.
- Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.
- Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>.
- Student Union Information: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.
- Graduate Student Association: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>.
- Student Ombudsman Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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