From African to Afro-American: Blacks in the United States From 1600-1865

This course will focus on the experiences of blacks in the United States prior to 1865. Rather than pursue one or two topics, it will provide a general overview of the lives of blacks in various sections of the country, and it will investigate the lives of both slaves and free blacks. For this investigation the course will be divided into four sections: West Africa and the Atlantic Slave trade; the Colonial Period and the development of American slavery (1660-1739); Slaves and free blacks before the Compromise of 1850, (1789-1850); and blacks during the Civil War Period, (1850-1865). The first two sections are intended to show the transition required from various African lifestyles to becoming Afro-Americans. The last two sections will receive the greatest attention, for these are the periods that saw slavery become entrenched as an institution in this country: this resulted in blacks (slave and free) being preoccupied with slavery as the overriding concern that shaped and defined their lives. And, it is during these periods that the development of Afro-Americans as distinct from Africans and Americans became virtually complete. The course is structured in a manner to complement a general survey in United States history, however, it is the lives, thoughts and actions of Afro-Americans that will be explored and interpreted primarily.

In addition to the weekly reading assignments all students will be required to submit a book report that evaluates and analyzes Eugene Genovese's Roll Jordan Roll and Ulrich B. Phillips's American Negro Slavery. Also, a mid-term and final examination will be required. Specifics concerning the book report and the exams will be explained during the first week of classes.
Books to be purchased in paperback by the students:

John W. Blassingame - *The Slave Community*
Stanley Elkins - *Slavery*
John Hope Franklin - *From Slavery to Freedom*
Leon Litwack - *North of Slavery: The Negro in the Free States, 1790-1860*
August Meier and Elliot Rudwick - *From Plantation to Ghetto*
Kenneth Stampp - *The Peculiar Institution*
Books which should be available in the library, hopefully 2-3 copies of each

Herbert Aptheker - *American Negro Slave Revolts*

David Donald - *Why the North Won the Civil War*

Eric Foner - *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men*

George M. Fredrickson - *A Nation Divided: Problems and Issues of the Civil War and Reconstruction*

Eugene Genovese - *Roll Jordan Roll*

Herbert Gutman - *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925*

Tamara Hareven - *Anonymous Americans*

Alex Haley - *Roots*

Wintrop D. Jordan - *The Negro Versus Equality, 1762-1826*

James M. McPherson - *The Struggle for Equality*

Ulrich B. Phillips - *American Negro Slavery*

Benjamin Quarles - *The Negro in the Civil War*

Edwin C. Rossweno, ed. - *Slavery as a Cause of the Civil War*

Charles M. Wiltse, ed. - *David Walker's Appeal*

C. Van Woodward - *American Counterpoint*
Weekly readings:

1st week  Haley, pp. 1-55; Franklin, pp. 11-41.
2nd week  Haley, pp. 55-160; Franklin, pp. 42-59; Meier & Rudwick, pp. 1-22.
3rd week  Franklin, pp. 89-111; Meier & Rudwick, pp. 23-64; Jordan, pp. 1-58; Stampp, pp. 3-33.
4th week  Franklin, pp. 166-184; Stampp, pp. 34-85; Elkins, pp. 1-80.
5th week  Stampp, pp. 86-191, Elkins pp. 91-139.
6th week  Franklin, pp. 185-213; Blassingame, pp. 1-131;
8th week  Aptheker, pp. 162-324.  
        Mid-term exam
9th week  Meier & Rudwick, pp. 65-122, Litwack, pp. 3-112.
10th week Litwack, pp. 113-246; Walker, pp. introduction – 34.
12th week Aptheker, pp. 325-374; Litwack, pp. 247-279; McPherson, pp. 3-74.  
        Submit Book Reports
13th week Franklin, pp. 271-296; Foner, pp. 226-317; Rozwenc, pp. 1-11, 26-78.
15th week Quarles, pp. 233-347; Donald, pp. 15-112.