

**History Department  
University of Pennsylvania**

**The African Diaspora (Tentative Syllabus)  
Prof. Roquinaldo Ferreira  
Spring 2019**

**Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30am-12:00pm**

**Office: College Hall 306D**

**Office hours: Thursday (2pm-3:30pm)**

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**Course Description**

This class examines the global cultural and social ramifications of the African diaspora, with special attention to the Lusophone world. We will analyze the background to the European exploration of the Atlantic and will focus on the intellectual and ideological underpinnings of slavery in the Iberian Peninsula. We will explore the interaction of Europeans and Africans along the West Coast of Africa, centering on the Gold Coast, Bight of Benin, and Bight of Biafra. The class will pay considerable attention to the early development of the slave trade in Kongo, considering its appropriation of Christianity and diplomatic relations with Portugal.

**Evaluation method: Final grades for the course will be determined by three exams and participation in class and discussion sections.**

<b>Written Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Participation</b>	<b>25%</b>

**Schedule**

**Week 1**

1/17 Introduction/Course Dynamic and Organization.

## **Week 2 Intellectual Foundations**

1/22 Movie: Herskovits: At the Heart of Blackness (documentary by Vincent Brown).

1/24 Philip Morgan, "Africa and the Atlantic, c. 1450 to c. 1820", in Jack Greene and Philip Morgan (eds.), *Atlantic History: A Critical Appraisal* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), pp. 223-248.

## **Week 3 Atlantic Slavery**

1/29 John Thornton, "The Portuguese in Africa", in Francisco Bethencourt & Diogo Ramada Curto (eds.), *Portuguese Oceanic Expansion, 1400–1800* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), pp. 138-160.

1/31 David Eltis, *The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 1-29.

## **Week 4 The First Scramble for Africa**

2/5 Stephanie Smallwood, *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007), pp. 33-65.

2/7 Stephanie Smallwood, *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007), pp. 9-65.

## **Week 5 The Bight of Benin and Kongo**

2/12 Robin Law, TBD

2/14 Linda Heywood, "Slavery and its Transformation in the Kingdom of Kongo: 1491-1800", *Journal of African History*, 50, 2009, pp. 1-22.

## **Week 7 Enslavement and Community in Angola**

2/19 John Thornton and Linda Heywood, *Central Africans, Atlantic Creoles, and the Foundation of the Americas, 1585–1660* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), chapter three

2/21 Roquinaldo Ferreira, *Cross-Cultural Exchange in the Atlantic: Angola and Brazil during the Era of the Slave Trade* (NY: Cambridge University Press, 2012), chapter III.

## **Week 8**

2/26 Review

2/28 Midterm

## **Week 9 Developing African Slavery in Brazil**

3/12 Brazil: An Inconvenient History (BBC Documentary)  
3/14 Early Phase

## **Week 10 Brazil's Ties with Africa**

3/19 Roquinaldo Ferreira, "From Brazil to West Africa: Dutch-Portuguese Rivalry, Gold Smuggling, and African Politics in the Bight of Benin," in Michiel van Groesen (ed.), *The Legacy of Dutch Brazil* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), pp. 77-103.  
3/21 Robin Law and Kristin Mann, "West Africa in the Atlantic Community: The Case of the Slave Coast," *William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 56, no. 2, 1999, pp. 307-334.

## **Week 11 Resistance**

3/26 David Geggus, "The Haitian Revolution", Franklin Knight and Colin Palmer, *The Modern Caribbean* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1989), pp. 21-50.  
3/28 Independent Haiti, TBD

## **Week 12 Haiti's Impact Abroad**

4/2 James Sidbury, "Saint Domingue in Virginia: Ideology, Local Meanings, and Resistance to Slavery, 1790-1800", *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. LXIII, 3, 1997, pp. 531-552

4/4 João José dos Reis and Flávio Gomes, "Repercussions of the Haitian Revolution in Brazil, 1791-1850", in David Geggus and Norman Fiering, *The World of the Haitian Revolution* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009), pp. 284-313.

## **Week 13 Islam in Brazil**

4/9 Jihad in Brazil, Paul Lovejoy (TBD)

4/11 João José dos Reis, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprising of 1835 in Bahia* (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University, 1993), pp. 73-129.

## **Week 14 Back to Africa Movement**

4/16 O Atlântico Negro: na Rota dos Orixás (Brazilian Documentary)

4/18 Robin Law, "Yoruba Liberated Slaves who returned to West Africa", in Toyin Falola and Matt Childs (eds.), *The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World* (Bloomington, 2004), pp. 349-361; Lisa Lindsay, "To Return to the Bosom of their Fatherland: Brazilian Immigrants in Nineteenth-Century Lagos", *Slavery and Abolition*, 15, 1, 1994, pp. 22-50.

## **Week 15**

**4/23** Review

**4/25** Exam

**Final paper due on 4/30**