Britain and Slavery, 1562-1916

Class code: HIST-UA 9572 - 002

Instructor Details
Dr Philip Woods
Office hours immediately before and after class, and by arrangement via e-mail

Class Details
Fall 2013
Wednesday 2.00-5.00pm
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
None

Class Description
This course examines the place that slavery played in Britain’s past and its legacy today. In the eighteenth century, Britain prided itself on the liberty enjoyed by its people, yet it was the largest participant in the Atlantic slave trade, and grew rich on the wealth created by ports such as London, Bristol and Liverpool. In the same period some 10 to 15,000 black people lived in English ports and their presence has only recently been properly acknowledged. In the nineteenth century, however, Britain perceived itself as in the forefront of the global battle to end the slave trade and slavery itself. This pioneering campaign contributed to a more positive sense of British national identity. Yet Britain continued to depend on the importation of slave-grown produce and even began to ship hundreds of thousands of Indians as virtual slaves to many parts of the world. The ambivalent legacy of Britain’s past involvement with slavery remains important to Britain’s multi-cultural identity and its global role today.

Opportunities are taken for students to engage with primary sources of Britain’s slave trade and to visit sites of importance such as Greenwich, London docklands, the Africa Gallery at the British Museum, and the slave-trading ports of Bristol or Liverpool. Classes mix short lectures, group discussion, video viewing, and field-trips.

Lecture, discussion, video resources, fieldtrips

Desired Outcomes
On completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of key issues in the history of slavery in Britain and its empire.

2. Critically analyse contemporary historical documents, setting them in historical context.

3. Demonstrate the ability to analyse historical problems, research them and communicate findings succinctly and clearly, both orally and in writing, using supporting evidence, properly referenced.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Components</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Short Document Analysis 1</td>
<td>By week 5</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>2. Short Document Analysis 2 &amp; Presentation (in class)</td>
<td>By week 9</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>3. Research Essay (1500-2000 words)</td>
<td>By week 11</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>4. Short write-up on ONE of the field-trips</td>
<td>One week after class following trip</td>
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<td>5. Final ‘seen’ examination</td>
<td>Final week</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>6. Seminar participation</td>
<td>tutor allocated</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

Grade A: Excellent work. Shows a full mastery of the topic. Is well researched, well organised and well referenced. It shows the stamp of an individual or original approach to the problem set.

Grade B: Good work. Has done the necessary research and made a clear answer to the problem set, using reasonable referencing. Shows some insights.

Grade C: Satisfactory work. Has done necessary research but no more. Makes attempt to answer the problem but perhaps not always very clearly. Rather mechanical and lacking individual insights.

Grade D: Passable work. Meets minimum requirements but may not be very coherent or well argued. Perhaps not very well focussed on the problem set. Probably based on very limited reading

Grade F: Fails to meet the requirements

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A=94-100
A-=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).
Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

Attendance Policy

NYU London Absence policy

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted. While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill-health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL's staff.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester. See also section 11.1 - Make up days.

Absence reporting for an absence due to illness

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expeditiously at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

Absence requests for non-illness reasons

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

Further information regarding absences
Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgements, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission
The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an
account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact luke.harper@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.

8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

Required Text(s)

J. Walvin     Black Ivory: Slavery in the British Empire (Blackwells: 2001) 0631229604

Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library)

Hochschild, A.* Bury the Chains: The British Struggle to Abolish Slavery. (Macmillan: 2005.) 0333904915
M. Parker *    The Sugar Barons: Family, Corruption, Empire and War (Windmill Books: 2012) 978009958453

Olaudah Equiano The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings ed. V. Carretta (Penguin: 2003) 0142437166, but various editions available
### Internet Research Guidelines

The careful and critical use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given.

### Additional Required Equipment

None

### Session 1

#### 4 Sept

**Introduction.** Discovering a past that was preferred hidden? Slavery and its legacies in British national identity- historians and curators. Historical significance of the transatlantic slave trade- engine of capitalism, globalization and industrialization? Britain’s late start in the slave trade. Comparison with rival European powers and their use of slave labour in the Americas.

**Required Reading**

Institute for the Public Understanding of the Past and the Institute of Historical Research, 2007 ‘1807 Commemorated - The abolition of the slave trade’

Topic one: ‘Memory matters - Britain and the abolition of the slave trade 1807-2007’

http://www.history.ac.uk/1807commemorated/discussion/memory.html

R. Blackburn *The Making of New World Slavery, 1492-1800*, introduction; ‘slavery and modernity’

Columbus letter (handout)- document critique practice

### Session 2

#### 11 Sept

Britain’s slave-trading with Africa. The Development of Plantation society in Barbados, Jamaica, Virginia and the Carolinas. Planters, their social life and attitudes. Slavery and the origins of racism in England, the Caribbean and North America.
### Required reading:
- J. Walvin, Questioning Slavery, ch. 5 "Colour, Race and Subjugation"
- E. Williams, Capitalism and Slavery, ch. 1 ‘Origin of Negro Slavery’
- Ira Berlin, Interview for PBS programme ‘Race- the Power of an Illusion’
- [http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-02-08.htm](http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-02-08.htm) (accessed 3.02.2010)

### Session 3
#### The Planters and their World
##### Required Reading
- J. Walvin, *Black Ivory*, ch. 14 ‘Sex in the Slave Quarters; ch. 15 ‘Violence’

Document handout 1  Thomas Thistlewood

*Visit to the City of London & Museum of Docklands. Meet at 10am at the island outside the Bank/Royal Exchange- exit 4 at Bank underground station*

### Session 4
#### Slave Demography: The role of Women slaves: contrast between North American patterns and that of the British Caribbean
##### Required Reading
- J. Walvin, *Black Ivory*, ch. 9 ‘Women’; ch. 10 ‘Disease and Death’

Document handout 4  ‘Barbadians describe their plantation system to Parliament’

*Fieldtrip essay on Museum of Docklands due*

### Session 5
#### Slave Resistance in the West Indies
##### Required Reading
- J. Walvin, *Black Ivory*, ch. 16 ‘Rebellions’; ch. 17 ‘Runaways’

*Document 1 essay due*

### Session 6
#### Slave Culture: African continuities- creole culture.
##### Required Reading
- J. Walvin, *Black Ivory*, ch. 11 ‘Slaves at Ease’; 12. ‘Religion’; 13 ‘Families and Communities’

### Session 7
##### Required Reading
### Session 8
**23 Oct**

**Visit to Africa Gallery, British Museum**

**The Slave Trade and Africa: Visit to the British Museum Africa Gallery:**

**Required Reading**

- J. Walvin *Black Ivory*, ch. 3 ‘Slaves, Traders and Africa’; ch. 4 ‘Crossing the Atlantic’
- Kenneth Morgan *Atlantic Trade and the British Economy, 1660-1800*, ch. 7 ‘Atlantic Trade and British Ports’

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### Session 9
**Friday 25 Oct**

**Slavery in the Age of Enlightenment and Revolution: the Haitian Revolution and its impact:**

**Olaudah Equiano’s autobiography and the problem of slave narratives**

**Required Reading**

- Olaudah Equiano Document Extract 2 from *Interesting Narrative*

**Doc Analysis 2 (including presentation) to be completed by this date- by arrangement**

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### Session 10
**30 Oct**

**Abolition of the Slave Trade- Capitalism and the anti-slavery movement: the Williams thesis**

**Required Reading**

- E. Williams *Capitalism and Slavery*, chs. 7-11 and conclusion (parts of this book)

**Africa Gallery essay due (Turnitin not required on fieldtrip essays)**

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### Session 11

**Emancipation : Religion, slave resistance, popular protest and Parliamentary intervention**

- J. Walvin *Questioning Slavery*, ch. 10
### Session 12

#### 20 Nov

**The Impact and legacy of Emancipation (1834) in the Caribbean in the 19th century and early 20th centuries. The Use of Indian Indentured Labour in the Empire- a New Form of Slavery?**


J. Walvin  *Black Ivory*, ch. 20 The Problems of Freedom

**Bristol fieldtrip essay due (Turnitin not required on fieldtrip essays)**

### Session 13

#### 27 Nov

**Representations of slavery: public history**


http://www.brh.org.uk/articles/eng_abolition.html - accessed 3.3.10

E.K. Wallace  *The British Slave Trade & Public Memory* (Columbia University Press, 2006) ch. 3

‘Seeing Slavery and the Slave Trade’

**Research Essay due**

### Session 14

#### 4 Dec

**Legacy of Slavery: The Reparations Debate and Revision**

**Required Reading**


### Session 15

#### 11 Dec

**Final Seen Examination. Two hours 10-12**

**Classroom Etiquette**

Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.

Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.

Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies.

Laptops are only to be used with the express permission of the teacher.

Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided
Required Co-curricular Activities

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

None

Your Instructor

Dr Philip Woods lectured at Kingston University, London until recently. He studied History at the London School of Economics and at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. His doctorate, which was published, was on British-Indian politics after the First World War. His current research is on the British use of film propaganda in India and on War Correspondents in Burma during World War Two. He has published in a number of academic journals including *Historical Journal of Film Radio and Television*, *South Asia* and *Indian Horizons*. 