Britain and Slavery, 1562-1916

Class code: HIST-UA 9572 - 002

Instructor Details
Dr Philip Woods
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Tel: 0208 579 2174
mobile: 07922046578
Office hours immediately before and after class, and by arrangement via e-mail

Class Details
Fall 2011
Tuesday 9:30-12:30
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
[Click here and enter information]

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 Critically analyse contemporary historical documents, setting them in historical context.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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Components</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Short Document Analysis 1</td>
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<td>2. Short Document Analysis 2 (in class)</td>
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<td>3. Research Essay (1500-2000 words)</td>
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<td>4. Short write-up on ONE of the field-trips</td>
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<td>5. Final 'seen' examination</td>
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<td>6. Seminar participation</td>
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Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Expectations</th>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade B: Good work. Has done the necessary research and made a clear answer to the problem set, using reasonable referencing. Shows some insights.</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade F: Fails to meet the requirements</td>
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<th>Grade conversion</th>
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<tr>
<td>NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:</td>
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<tr>
<td>A=94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-=90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+=87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B=84-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-=80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+=77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C=74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-=70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+=67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D=65-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F=below 65</td>
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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.

In addition, Stern School of Business classes adhere to the following Stern grading guidelines:

There should be no more than

- 25-35% A's - awarded for excellent work
- 50-70% B's - awarded for good or very good work
- 5-15% C's or below - awarded for adequate or below work

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that—it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

Attendance 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 the guidelines that follow.

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.

**Absence reporting**

1. On the first day of absence you should report the details of your illness by **calling free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) or by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk** including class missed, professor, class time and whether any work was due including exams.

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 expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at

   [http://www.nyu.edu/global/london/academics/attendance_policy.htm](http://www.nyu.edu/global/london/academics/attendance_policy.htm)

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to David Crout (freshmen) or Nigel Freeman (non-freshmen) on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Freshman Programmes (Freshmen) or Assistant Director for Academic Affairs (non-freshmen) prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for non-illness purposes can
be applied retrospectively.

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

3% will be deducted from the student’s final course mark for each unexcused absence. 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.). In the past, students have asked about early departure from the program at the end of the semester. This will not normally be allowed. Under no circumstances will we allow a student to take a final exam at any time other than it has been scheduled - neither before the other students in the class, nor afterwards. Students have been informed not to make return travel plans before the end of the exam week. Exams may not be held during your regularly scheduled class meeting. Please do not make plans during the exam period until you know the exact times of your exams.

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.

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**Late Submission of Work**

(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs in office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above. Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

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

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

(5) **Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

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**Plagiarism Policy**

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher/Year</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Walvin</td>
<td>Black Ivory: Slavery in the British Empire</td>
<td>Blackwells: 2001</td>
<td>0631229604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Williams</td>
<td>Capitalism and Slavery</td>
<td>University of North Carolina: 1994</td>
<td>0807844888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Further Reading
(recommended).
Copies in NYU-L course collection at Senate House Library

Hochschild, A.  *Bury the Chains: The British Struggle to Abolish Slavery.* (Macmillan: 2005) 0333904915


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


J. Walvin  *Questioning Slavery,* (Routledge: 1996) 0415153573[ a thematic approach]


R. Blackburn  *The Overthrow of Colonial Slavery 1776-1848* (Verso: 1989 ) 0860919013


*The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database*  [http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces](http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces) (a resource for essays, statistics, maps, and a searchable database of all voyages)

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

6 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](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

**Friday 9 September: Required Fieldtrip to Greenwich**
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" (file)
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 (accessed 3.02.2010)

The Planters and their World

Required Reading
J. Walvin Black Ivory, ch. 14 ‘Sex in the Slave Quarters; ch. 15 ‘Violence’
Dr Karl Watson ‘Slavery and economy in Barbados’
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/barbados_01.shtml, May 2001 but still accessible

Document handout 1 Thomas Thistlewood

Greenwich fieldtrip essay due (Turnitin not required on fieldtrip essays)

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’
B. Bush Slave Women in Caribbean Society, 1650-1838, ch.1

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

Saturday 1 October Bristol fieldtrip (Turnitin not required on fieldtrip essays)

Slave Resistance in the West Indies

Required Reading
J. Walvin Black Ivory, ch. 16 ‘Rebellions’; ch. 17 ‘Runaways’
H. Beckles "The Two Hundred Years War: Slave Resistance in the British West Indies- An Overview of the Historiography", Jamaican Historical Review, xiii (1982), pp 1-10 (file)

Document 1 essay due

Slave Culture: African continuities- creole culture.

Required Reading
J. Walvin Black Ivory, ch. 11 ‘Slaves at Ease’; 12. ‘Religion’; 13 ‘Families and Communities’
Mervyn . C. Alleyne Roots of Jamaican Culture (1988) Intro & ch. 1 discuss the theories of cultural contact and change (file)

Bristol fieldtrip essay due
**Session 7**

**Friday**

14 Oct. make-up


**Required Reading**

- E. Williams *Capitalism and Slavery*, chs. 2, 3 & 5
- J. Walvin *Black Ivory*, ch. 3 ‘Slaves, Traders and Africa’; ch. 4 ‘Crossing the Atlantic’

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**Session 8**

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

**Required Reading**

- J. Walvin *Black Ivory*, ch. 19 ‘The Plight of Africa’
- P.E.H. Hair *The Atlantic Slave Trade and Black Africa* (Historical Association) (file)

Visit to Africa Gallery, British Museum

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**Session 9**

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**

- Hochschild, A. *Bury the Chains: The British Struggle to Abolish Slavery*
  London: Macmillan, 2005, ch. 15 (file)
- Olaudah Equiano Document Extract 2 from *Interesting Narrative*
- Brycchan Carey’s website entry on Equiano http://www.brycchancarey.com/equiano/

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

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**Session 10**

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

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

**Required Reading**

- J. Walvin *Questioning Slavery*, ch. 10
- E. Williams *Capitalism and Slavery*, ch. 12

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**Session 12**

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?

**Required Reading**

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

Last date for independent essay on Museum of Docklands exhibition (Turnitin not required
on fieldtrip essays)

Session 13

29 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

6 Dec

Legacy of Slavery: The Reparations Debate and Revision

Required Reading


Session 15

13 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

A field-trip to the British Museum will take place within normal teaching hours.

Students are required to join the student life trips to Greenwich (9 September) by boat from Westminster Pier and to Bristol (15 October) by railway from Paddington Station

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

To be announced