

Summer 2017

AP/EN 4999 3.0M (S2)

American Antislavery Writings

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm

Description:

In his 2012 introduction to *American Antislavery Writings* editor James G. Basker describes antislavery writings as a body of texts which "emerged as one of the most energetic, voluminous, and transformative traditions of literature in the history of American letters" (xxix). Accordingly, this seminar pursues three core aims: first, to make students familiar with the diversity of antislavery literature; second, to reflect upon the impact of the social and economic institution of slavery and the emerging discourse of racial difference on the cultural history of the United States from the colonial period up until the present, and third, to discuss key political as well as aesthetic discourses inherent in this body of texts. In this course, we will read key texts from the colonial era, the American Revolution to the end of the Civil War. We will also look at selected texts that reflect on the legacy of slavery from a contemporary perspective. We will discuss texts written by founding fathers, fugitive slaves, and white abolitionists; texts that range from poetry, drama, satire, and sentimental fiction, to slave narratives and political commentary; texts written by African Americans, Anglo-Americans, Canadians, travelers, and immigrants.

Category:

N/A

Area:

N/A

Period:

N/A

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

in class presentation: 15%
essay proposal (300 words; includes a tentative works cited list; MLA style): 10%
essay (2,500 words): 40%
best 4 response papers: 20%
class participation: 15%

Reading List:

Appiah, Anthony Kwame, ed. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave & Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. Modern Library, 2004. (ISBN-13: 978-0345478238).

Sears, Djanet. *Harlem Duet*. Scirocco Drama, 1998. (ISBN-13: 978-1896239279)

Williams, Heather Andrea. *American Slavery: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0199922680

additional texts will be available in a course kit, or through the Internet.

Among other texts the course kit will include also excerpts from the following publications:

Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. 1852. Ed. Elizabeth Ammons. Norton Critical Editions. W. W. Norton & Company, 1st or 2nd edition. (1st. Edition, 1993: ISBN-13: 978-0393963038, 2nd Edition, 2010: ISBN-13: 978-0393933994)

Harper, Francis E. *Iola LeRoy, or, Shadows Uplifted*. 1892. Penguin, 2010. (ISBN-13: 978-0143106043)

Butler, Octavia: *Kindred*. 1979. Beacon Press, 2003. (ISBN-13: 978-0807083697)

Gardner, Eric. *Major Voices: The Drama of Slavery*. Toby Press, 2005. (ISBN-13: 978-1592641185)

Open To:

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