Slavery and Emancipation Seminar

History 5xxx

Fall 2013
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www.tubmaninstitute.ca/slaveryandemancipation
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The seminar focuses on the historical study of slavery and emancipation. Slavery and emancipation is a broad theme in the history of the modern world. While the study of this theme has usually been centered on the Atlantic world and the enslavement of Africans in the Americas, slavery and emancipation was also a prominent feature of the classical world of Rome and Greece, and a theme with deep relevance for the Islamic world and the Indian Ocean. Slavery and emancipation is one of the most common historical settings in almost every period of history and in all parts of the world. How are we to study this phenomenon? How is it possible to master a vast literature that spans time and place? This seminar will explore the broad themes of slavery and emancipation through a variety of lens. Noted authorities in the field have been invited to participate in the seminar, sometimes in person and other times via skype.

Invited Guests:

Walter Hawthorne, Michigan State University
James Sweet, University of Wisconsin
Natalie Zemon Davis, University of Toronto and Princeton University
Jane Landers, Vanderbilt University
Bruce Mouser, University of Wisconsin
Toin Falola, University of Texas
Martin Klein, University of Toronto
Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, Michigan State University
Jean-Pierre Le Glaunec, Université de Sherbrooke
Suzanne Schwarz, University of Worcester
Ismael Montana, University of Northern Illinois
Nielson Bezerra, York University
Bashir Salau, University of Mississippi
Yacine Daddi Addoun, University of Kansas
Sean Kelley, Hartwick College

The focus of discussion each week will be on the work of the person who is in attendance and which focuses on materials that are essential to mastering the area of expertise covered by the guest scholar. The relevant literature for the seminar, including a bibliography, is on line at Google Drive and can be accessed through the instructor. The course has its own website, www.tubmaninstitute.ca/slaveryandemancipation, on which is posted relevant materials and information. Facebook and twitter are also accessible for interaction. Materials of relevance to the seminar are also uploaded into Google Drive under the name Slavery and Emancipation. The materials on Google Drive include the required reading for the seminar, in addition to materials that are relevant to themes being discussed by invited guests. Having accepted the invitation to access Google Drive, the materials can be found at https://drive.google.com/?tab=wo#folders/0B7ZEkYPKY6-EbDY4R1ltV0JCeFk.
Weekly assignments relate to the research being discussed at the various seminars. Specific readings are included online so that weekly seminars will focus on the publications of guests and specific themes of seminars, as listed in the schedule below. Each student will write an essay on one of the seminar topics. Assessment will be based on seminar participation (40%), website input (20%) and essay (40%). Essays will focus on particular set of readings, and hence its theme, and the interaction with one of the guest scholars. Essays will be posted on the seminar website, viz., www.tubmaninstitute.ca/slaveryandemancipation, and website input will include design, imaging, sourcing, maintenance of inventory and metadata, and addition of new materials. It may be that some information, data or analysis will be appropriate for specific websites. As appropriate, seminar participants will contribute to such websites as Equiano’s World - www.equianosworld.tubmaninstitute.ca, which is devoted to the life and time of abolitionist Gustavus Vassa, who is better known by his African birth name, Olaudah Equiano. Participants will also be able to contribute to SHADD: Studies in the History of the African Diaspora – Documents - www.tubmaninstitute.ca/shadd, which contains primary source materials that can be useful to scholars and students. Each contribution has a short introduction that explains the context of the document(s) and provides full reference to sources and relevant publications.

Freetown, Sierra Leone
Seminar Schedule

Monday, 4:00-7:00
Tubman Institute
York Lanes

Week One: September 9: – Paul Lovejoy – Africanist Perspectives on the African Diaspora

Assigned readings:


Week Two: September 16: – Gwendolyn Midlo Hall (Michigan State University) – Databases: How to live with them

Assigned readings:

Voyages: Transatlantic Slave Trade Database
Louisiana Slave Database: http://ibiblio.org/lasclave
Biographies: Atlantic Slave Database Network http://slavebiographies.org/project/\ Matrix » Blog Archive » Africa Past and Present: Episode 60
www2.matrix.msu.edu/africa-past-and-present-episode-60/
Week Three: September 23: – Walter Hawthorne (Michigan State University) – Life Stories and Lives Lived in Diaspora

Assigned readings:

Walter Hawthorne, “Being now, as it were, one family”: Shipmate Bonding on the Slave Vessel *Emilia*, in Rio de Janeiro and throughout the Atlantic World,” *Luso-Brazilian Review* 45:1 (2008), 53-77

Week Four: September 30: – Natalie Zemon Davis (University of Toronto) – Captivity or Slavery: The Case of al-Wazzan, also known as Leo Africanus

Assigned readings:

Mohammed Ennaji, *Slavery, the State and Islam* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Week Five: October 7: – James Sweet (University of Wisconsin) – Trans-Atlantic Passages under Slavery

Assigned readings:


**Week Six: October 14: – Thanksgiving – Toyin Falola (University of Texas) – Yoruba and the Making of the Diaspora**

**Assigned readings:**


**Week Seven. October 21: – Bruce Mouser (University of Wisconsin) – The Upper Guinea Coast and Diaspora**

**Assigned readings:**


Bruce Mouser, “Trade, Coasters, and Conflict in the Rio Pongo from 1790 to 1808,” *Journal of African History* 14:1 (1973), 45-64


Bruce Mouser on SHADD – [www.tubmaninstitute.ca/shadd](http://www.tubmaninstitute.ca/shadd)
**Week Eight: October 28: – Jane Landers (Vanderbilt University), The Meaning of Creole**

**Assigned readings:**

Jane Landers, in *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010)


**Week Nine: November 4: – Ismael Montana (University of Northern Illinois), Mohammed Bashir Salau (University of Mississippi), and Yacine Daddi Addoun (University of Kansas) – Slavery in the Islamic World**

**Assigned readings:**


**Week Ten: November 11: – Martin Klein (University of Toronto) – Slavery under Colonialism in West Africa**

**Assigned readings:**


**Week Eleven: November 18: – Jean-Pierre Le Glaunec (Université de Sherbrooke) – Fugitive Slaves in St. Domingue**

**Assigned readings:**


**Week Twelve: November 25: – Suzanne Schwarz (University of Worcester) and Nielson Bezerra (York University) – Liberated Africans and the Suppression of the Slave Trade**

**Assigned readings:**


**Week Thirteen: December 2: – Biographies – Sean Kelley (Hartwick College)**

**Assigned readings:**


Sean Kelley, *From Sierra Leone to South Carolina: Tracing the Captives of the Sloop Hare*, manuscript


**Bibliography on Google Drive**

https://drive.google.com/?tab=wo#folders/0B7ZEkYPKY6-EbDY4RlltV0JCeFk
