



HTST 565

Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1492-1888

Instructor: Hendrik Kraay

Pre-requisite: HTST 300 (waived for 2013-14)

Required Textbook: Robert E. Conrad, *Children of God's Fire: A Documentary History of Slavery in Brazil* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1994)

Millions of Africans and their descendants worked and lived as slaves in Latin America and the Caribbean. While slavery may seem like a simple and unproblematically brutal institution, the working premise of this course is that slavery is an uncertain institution, uncertain both to the men and women who lived through it and uncertain to the historians who, more than a century after abolition, seek to understand it. Although slavery permeated Latin American and Caribbean life for almost four centuries, neither slaves nor masters could ever take the institution for granted. Our principal goal in this seminar, therefore, is to elicit the ways in which slaves and masters worked out their unsettled and unequal relationship.

Through intensive reading of recent scholarship and careful examination of selected primary sources, HTST 565 examines historians' approaches to slave society and culture in Latin America and the Caribbean. The focus of this course is primarily on Brazil and the Caribbean region during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, during which time slave societies reached their apogee.

Note: This information is subject to change without notice.

Image Source: Maria Dundas Graham, *Journal of a Voyage to Brazil and Residence There during Part of the Years 1821, 1822, 1823*. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green, 1824.