Department of History

HTST 565
Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1492-1888
Winter 2020

Instructor: Hendrik Kraay
Office: SS 624
Phone Number: 403-220-6410
Email: kraay@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: MF 11:00, W 9:00 (and by appointment prior to class)
Class Time: M 17:00-19:45
Location: SS 623

Course Description:
This course focuses on the social and cultural history of slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean. In it, we seek to understand how slaves and masters struggled over the contours and nature of the institution. A 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 is, therefore, to elucidate the ways in which slaves and masters struggled over their unsettled and unequal relationship.

Through intensive reading of recent and classic 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. While this focus gives the course coherence, it inevitably leaves out much that is important to understanding slavery, and students are encouraged to use their research papers to pursue other topics of significance to slave societies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Course Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students will be able to do the following:
1. Identify and explain key issues in the scholarship on slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. Analyze historians’ arguments about slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean; this includes summarizing historians’ arguments and comparing different approaches to the same topic.
3. Interpret primary sources on slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Find primary and secondary sources on slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean at the University of Calgary library and in other repositories.
5. Make oral presentations based on primary and secondary sources.
6. Research and write a substantial essay based on both primary and secondary sources.

**Required Text:**
The History Student’s Handbook, available on course D2L site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
<th>Due Dates (See Below for Descriptions)</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library and Primary Sources Assignment</td>
<td></td>
<td>20 January</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Seminar Preparation Essays</td>
<td></td>
<td>To Be Selected</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper Proposal</td>
<td></td>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper First Draft</td>
<td></td>
<td>27 March or 3 April</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper Presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td>30 March or 6 April</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Document Presentations</td>
<td></td>
<td>Throughout the Semester</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</table>

**Course Requirements:**
HTST 565 is a seminar course, with substantial weekly reading assignments in both primary and secondary sources. If you cannot attend all the class meetings and carefully read all the assigned material, this course is not for you.

If you are unfamiliar with Latin American or Caribbean history, you should do some background reading in a textbook on the region. Four surveys of slavery in the Americas are strongly recommended as background reading for students who feel that their preparation for this course is weak (all are on reserve at the library):


In addition to these textbooks, you will find much useful reference and background material in the following works (also on reserve):
Knowledge of languages other than English is not required in this course, but if you read French, Spanish, Portuguese, Danish, or Dutch (the languages of the other Euro-American master classes), you should select an essay topic which will permit you to use primary sources in their original language and scholarship published only in that language.

Your grade will be based on the following five components:

1. **Library and Primary Sources Assignment (5%)**: This assignment serves three essential purposes: (1) to familiarize you with the research tools and primary sources for the study of slavery available at the University of Calgary; (2) to ensure that you use a wide range of sources for your research paper; (3) to ensure that you know how to prepare footnotes and bibliographies correctly according to *The History Student’s Handbook*. The former will facilitate your research project while the latter is an essential part of historical training. Incorrectly-prepared footnotes and bibliographies will be returned for correction. This assignment is due in the D2L Dropbox before the start of class on 20 January.

2. **Two Seminar Preparation Essays and Seminar Leadership (20%)**: You will write two short, analytical essays on the secondary readings for seminar discussions. As their name suggests, these essays are designed to prepare you to share in the leadership of the seminar. Seminar Preparation Essays should be no longer than 1250 words and are due in the D2L Dropbox at noon on the day of the seminar (3 February to 23 March); this will give me time to review the essays prior to the seminar. No one will write a Seminar Preparation Essay for 27 January, but we will use this seminar to discuss how to write a good Seminar Preparation Essay. Because these essays constitute preparation for class meetings, late ones cannot be accepted.

   During the classes for which you have done a Seminar Preparation Essay, you should take a leading role in the discussion. You should prepare a brief (up to five minutes long) presentation to start the discussion. Please consult with the other students writing Seminar Preparation Essays prior to the class meeting to coordinate your introductions and leadership of the seminar.

   Because Seminar Preparation Essays are designed to prepare you to share in the leadership of the seminar, they should reflect a careful reading of the articles and a consideration of the major issues that they pose individually and collectively for our understanding of slave societies. Beyond the requirements that these essays not simply summarize the articles and that they conform to the word limit, there is no set form for this essay; rather, its shape and form will flow from your understanding of the issues involved. In general, a good Seminar Preparation Essay will include the following:

   1. A statement or summary of each articles’ thesis, in other words a statement of the author’s argument about the topic.
   2. Some discussion of evidence and methodology, considering both the sources that the author uses and his or her research strategy.
   3. It may be appropriate to include some criticism of individual articles, including their use of evidence, assumptions, and alternative conclusions that might be drawn.
from the same evidence.

4. Most important, Seminar Preparation Essays should focus on the historiography of the issue, as represented by the articles. How and why do the articles differ? On what points do they agree? Do you agree or disagree? Which approaches do you consider most convincing? Why?

Seminar Preparation Essays are best organized thematically, not article by article, and should focus on the main issue or issues that you see in the readings; they should be considered mini-essays on the historiography of an issue or a theme.

If you are not satisfied with your grade on your first Seminar Preparation Essay, you may write an additional one for a later week in the semester. If you choose to take advantage of this opportunity, the highest two of your three Seminar Preparation Essay grades will be recorded.

Improperly footnoted Seminar Preparation Essays will be returned ungraded for correction and resubmission.

3. Research Paper Proposal (5%): This document should normally not exceed two or three pages. One page should consist of a tentative bibliography of twelve to fifteen substantial secondary sources and at least one major primary source. The other page or two should include a tentative thesis, a description of the topic that you wish to address, as well as a tentative outline of your research paper. This proposal is due in the D2L Dropbox any time before 28 February. If your grade on the final research paper is higher than that on the proposal, I will raise the proposal’s grade to the same grade as the research paper.

4. Research Paper and Oral Presentation (50%): You will write a research paper (at least 4000 words) on an aspect of slavery in Latin American and the Caribbean. On 30 March and 6 April, HTST 565 will turn into a mini-conference on slavery. On one of these dates, you will make a fifteen-minute presentation on your research and one of your fellow students will act as commentator on your paper, after which the rest of the class will discuss your work. You must submit the first draft of your research paper to me (via the D2L Dropbox) and to the student commentator (via e-mail) by noon on the Friday before the class meeting at which you will present (respectively, 27 March or 3 April), so that we can prepare comments. First drafts of your research paper must be properly footnoted and must include a bibliography. I will only release the assessed first draft to you after we have discussed it in person, so please make an appointment to see me after your oral presentation. The final research paper is due in the D2L Dropbox on 15 April (because of the university deadline for the submission of final grades in courses without registrar-scheduled final examinations, this is a firm due date, and extensions will require a deferral of term work approved by the registrar).

Research papers should be based on at least twelve to fifteen substantial sources (books and articles, excluding textbooks and surveys). Research papers must also include the analysis of at least one major primary source. Documents extracted from readers such as Robert Conrad’s Children of God’s Fire or Gloria García Rodríguez’s Voices of the Enslaved alone do not satisfy this requirement, but it is certainly acceptable to use the full version of a primary source excerpted in such readers. Several categories of primary sources are readily available at the University of Calgary library, and you will have already sampled them in the research and sources assignment for completed in the second week of the semester. The University of Calgary library also provides access to numerous online databases that contain relevant material. If you
have any difficulty with this portion of the research paper assignment, please see me immediately.

Research papers must follow The History Student’s Handbook in all matters of style and footnoting. Improperly footnoted research papers will be returned ungraded for correction and resubmission.

5. Class Participation and Document Presentation (20%): This is an often poorly-understood component of grades. It is not a grade for attendance, but attendance is the essential prerequisite for participation. In other words, you must attend the seminar to participate. Under this rubric, I assess the quality of your weekly contributions to our discussions. High-quality participation does not necessarily require that you understand everything that you have read. Useful contributions to the seminar discussion might run something like this: “After reading the article, I follow Fulano’s reasoning up to point X. Then it doesn’t make any more sense to me. I think that he is arguing against Beltrano, but I can’t figure out what the fuss is all about over issue Y.” Useful comments about the documents might include something like this following: “It is clear from the document that slave Sicrano had a large social network and close ties to fellow Africans, but I can’t think of any logical reason for why he did Z.” High-quality participation does not require that you dominate the discussion to the exclusion of others; rather, it requires that you pay attention to other members’ contributions and treat them with respect, even if you disagree with them.

Each document will have a presenter, a student not doing a Seminar Preparation Essay for that week, assigned to it. The document presenter should introduce the document, discuss the issues that it raises, and relate it to the readings and topic for the week. It is certainly acceptable to point our curious, unexpected, or surprising elements in the document.

Access to Readings:
In conformity with the University of Calgary’s interpretation of the Copyright Act, readings will be made available on the course D2L site, either in the form of links to electronic versions or as pdf documents. Some of the electronic versions to book chapters may have restrictions on the number of concurrent users, so please download the chapter (if permitted) and log out before reading so that other students can have access to them.

Many of you will want to consult the same books for your research papers. Please be considerate when signing out books; avoid keeping them out and recalling them unnecessarily (please share books whenever possible). If you wish to consult a book on semester loan (due in late May), place a hold on it immediately; likewise, do not be shy about placing holds in books stored at the High Density Library (HDL).

Policy on Electronic Device in the Classroom:
During class time, please turn off and put away your cell phones. If you bring a tablet or notebook computer to the class to consult electronic copies of the readings during the discussion, please download the readings before class so that you can disable the wireless access and not be distracted by incoming e-mail or tempted by Facebook or the many other distractions that the internet offers.
Do You Need Any Other Help?
This course is intended for all University of Calgary students who meet the prerequisites, and I am committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. If you have any foreseen or unanticipated conditions or circumstances that require reasonable accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the campus resources outlined below or to contact me by e-mail, phone, or during office hours to discuss how I can help you to be successful in this course.

Office Hours:
Please come to see me during scheduled office hours, especially if you are having difficulty with this course. If you cannot meet me during this time, we can consult before class or schedule an appointment for another time. Feel free to telephone me during office hours, or to e-mail me at any time. I usually answer student e-mails at the end of the workday and normally do not attend to student e-mails on weekends.

Weekly Topics and Readings

13 January: Course Organization

20 January: Library Research, Sources, and Travelers
Complete the assignment, available on D2L, as discussed on 13 January.
27 January: The Slave Trade and the Origins of Slavery

Documents:


Readings:


3 February: **Plantation Labor Regimes**

**Documents:**


“The Slaves on the Cafetal Catalina Walk Out on Their Mayoral in Protest and Run off into the Scrub (Excerpts from the Suit),” in *Voices of the Enslaved*, ed. García Rodríguez, 105-9 (doc. 5.1).

**Readings:**


10 February: **Other Labor Regimes: Urban and Domestic Slavery**

**Documents:**


**Readings:**


17-21 February: **Reading Week** (No Class Meeting)
24 February: **Resistance**

**Documents:**

- “Account by Francisco (Pancho) Mina, Captain of the Maroons,” in García Rodríguez, *Voices of the Enslaved*, 164-65 (doc. 8.5).

**Readings:**

2 March: **African Culture and Identity**

“Documents on Afro-Brazilian Religion,” translated by Hendrik Kraay (pdf).

**Readings:**


9 March: **Catholicism and Islam**

**Documents:**


“A British Resident of Pernambuco Describes the Beneficial Effects of Catholicism ....,” in *Children of God’s Fire*, ed. Conrad, 185-92 (doc. 4.8).


**Readings:**


16 March: **Slavery and the Law in Spanish America**

**Documents:**

“Excerpts from the Slave Code, November 14, 1842,” in García Rodríguez, *Voices of the Enslaved*, 80-84 (doc.3.3).


**Readings:**


23 March: **The Haitian Revolution**

**Documents:**
- Mary Hassal, *Secret History, or the Horrors of St. Domingo in a Series of Letters*...
  (Philadelphia: Bradford & Inskeep, 1808), 1-27.

**Readings:**

**Background Reading:**

30 March: **Research Paper Presentations**

6 April: **Research Paper Presentations**
Departmental Grading System:
The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>Approaching excellent performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>Exceeding good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>Approaching good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Exceeding satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>Approaching satisfactory performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-55</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Failure. Did not meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
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Program Advising and Student Information Resources:
- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or book an appointment with an ASC advisor at https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate.
- For further information on academic advising and degree planning for arts students, see https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising.
- For registration issues, paying fees, and assistance with MyUofC, contact Enrolment Services in MacKimmie Tower Room 116, call 403-210-ROCK (7625), or visit http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/.
- **Attention history majors:** History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.
- Registration Changes and Exemption Requests: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals
Writing:
All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented according to the format described in the History Student’s Handbook.

D2L: Throughout the course, important material such as lecture outlines and study guides will be regularly posted on D2L. Students are advised to check this regularly.

Red Box Policy:
If your instructor requires paper copies of an essay and/or assignment, and the essay/assignment can be handed in outside of class, you can drop them in the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: 1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name, and 4) your student number. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. are date stamped the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one’s work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one’s own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Please see The History Student’s Handbook.
Plagiarism may take several forms:
• Failing to cite sources properly
• Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
• Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
• Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works
Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Art’s associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the University of Calgary Calendar, Section K.

Academic Accommodations:
The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.
Copyright:
The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary’s copyright policy, see http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright.

Other Useful Information:
- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Please see https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for information on:
- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

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