

AM407-30 Slavery and Slave Life in the American South, 1619-1865

21/22

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Tim Lockley

Credit value

30

Assessment

60% coursework, 40% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module examines the institution of slavery in the southern United States. It allows students to study racism and slavery in America, from the early colonial period through to the mature plantation society which existed before the Civil War.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Through the study of contemporary documents, students will explore the interaction between race, class and gender in a slave society and gain an appreciation of the experiences of the slave population held in bondage. They will be enabled through the use of written evidence and quantitative data to understand why Americans turned to slavery, why some elements of the white population supported slavery and why others did not. Students will also learn the different social, cultural, religious and economic techniques used by African-Americans to survive the institution of slavery. The module involves the intensive study of a tightly focused set of topics or problems using a large quantity of primary sources. Students will acquire hands-on experience of the skills involved in working with primary sources.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1: African society and the Atlantic Slave Trade

Week 2: The origins and codification of slavery

Week 3: Colonial slavery: Challenge and response

Week 4: The Impact of the Revolution

Week 5: Internal slave trade

Week 7: The spread of slavery to the towns

Week 8: Rebellions

Week 9: Abolitionism and the end of slavery

Week 10: dissertation and essay workshops

Week 11: The work of the slave

Week 12: The informal economy

Week 13: Slave family life and death

Week 14: Slave religion

Week 15: Slave culture

Week 17: Slave gender

Week 18: Race relations: The Elite

Week 19: Race relations: The Non-Elite

Week 20: Runaways and Resistance

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of the history of the institution of slavery in the United States
- Critically analyse and evaluate a broad range of primary sources, including cultural evidence, relating to the interaction between race, class and gender in a slave society
- Effectively communicate ideas, and make informed, coherent and persuasive arguments, relating to the history of slavery in the United States.
- Critically review and consolidate theoretical, methodological, and historiographical ideas relating to the history of slavery in the United States

Indicative reading list

- Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*
- Ira Berlin, *Generations of Captivity: A History of African American Slaves*
- Peter Kolchin, *American Slavery, 1619-1877*
- Peter Parish, *Slavery: History and Historians*
- Peter Parish, *Slavery: The Many Faces of a Southern Institution*
- James Oliver Horton and Lois E. Horton, *Slavery and the Making of America*
- Kenneth Morgan, *Slavery and Servitude in North America, 1607-1800*
- James Walvin, *A Short History of Slavery*
- Gad Heuman and James Walvin (eds.), *The Slavery Reader*
- Clayton E. Jewett and John O. Allen (eds.), *Slavery in the South: A State-by-State History*
- Randall M. Miller and John David Smith (eds.), *Dictionary of Afro-American Slavery*

- John Hope Franklin, From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (90%)
Tutorials	4 sessions of 1 hour (10%)
Total	40 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D1

	Weighting	Study time
Seminar contribution	10%	

	Weighting	Study time
1500 word essay	10%	
3000 word source based essay	40%	
7 day take-home assessment	40%	

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback provided via Tabula; optional oral feedback in office hours.

[Past exam papers for AM407](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 4 of UITA-R3V2 Undergraduate History and Italian