Pr. Pablo Sierra  
Spring 2014

HIS 350W/450  History of Slavery in Latin America

Wednesdays, 2:00 - 4:45 p.m.
Rush Rhees Library 456

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This upper-level seminar covers analyzes the pervasiveness of slavery as an institution of labor, political domination and sexual control in Latin America. Various forms of pre-Columbian slavery existed in Mexico, Peru and Brazil millennia before the arrival of millions of African slaves to the region. As a result, Indigenous systems of slave-ownership clashed with Iberian notions of chattel slavery during the colonial period. More recently, a flourishing trade in sex slaves throughout Central America has recently come to light. This reading- and writing-intensive seminar prompts us to consider why slavery remained and remains so firmly entrenched in Latin America.

Students will produce a short, comparative book review (4-5 pages) and an extensive research paper (16-20 pages). This course requires submission of a polished rough draft with bibliographic sources and proper citation. As an advanced seminar, students are expected to come to class with reading notes, questions, and specific points to debate. Poor preparation will impact your participation grade.

Class Requirements:

Essay: 20%
Rough Draft: 20%
Research Paper: 50%
Class Participation: 10%

Assigned Books (Print):


**E-Books (available for free through Voyager catalog)**


* indicates articles available on JSTOR (jstor.org)

**Course Outline**

**Week 1 – Slavery and Freedom – January 15**
- What is slavery? What is not? Definitions
- Primary Source, Puebla 17th c.

**Week 2 – “Claiming absolute power” or the Theory of Slaving – January 22**
- Miller, *The Problem of Slavery*, ix-72, 119-162

**Week 3 – Prehispanic Slavery, pt. I – January 29**
- Santos Granero, *Vital Enemies*

**Week 4 – Prehispanic Slavery, pt. II – February 5**
- Hans Staden, *True History*

**Week 5 – The Iberian Context and the Early Conquest Phase – Feb. 12 Essay Due**
- Thomas Ward, “Expanding Ethnicity in 16th c. Anahuac,” 419-452 *
- William Sherman, “Indian Slavery and the Cerrato Reforms,” 25-50 *
Week 6 – The Portuguese in Brazil – February 19
- James Sweet, “The Iberian Roots of American Racist Thought,” 143-166 *
- Stuart Schwartz, “First Slavery: From Indian to African,” 83-102 *
- Tarciso Botelho, “Labour Ideologies and Labour Relations,” 275-296 *

Week 7 – Colonial Spanish America – February 26
- Rachel Sarah O'Toole, Bound Lives

Week 8 – Brazil in the Eighteenth Century – March 5
- Ferreira Furtado, Chica da Silva

Week 9 – Spring Break (No Class) – March 12

Week 10 - Slaves, Subjects and Subversives in the 19th Century – March 19
- Stuart Schwartz, “A Hausa Rebellion in Bahia” in SS&S, 247-272
- Seth Meisel, “The Fruit of Freedom” in SS&S, 273-305

Week 11 - Cuba, Sugarcane and Soldiers – March 26
- Miguel Barnet, Biography of a Runaway Slave, 17-155

Week 12 – Alternate Slaveries? – April 2 Rough Draft Due
- Leslie Bethell, “The Decline and Fall of Slavery,” 71-88 *
- Alan Knight, “Mexican Peonage,” 41-74 *

Week 13 - Children and Domestic Servitude in Latin America – April 9
- Nara Milanich, “Children’s Tutelary Servitude,” in Child Slaves, 104-123
- Levinson & Langer, “Counting Child Domestic Servants,” 125-149 *

Week 14 - Modern Slavery and Sex Trafficking – April 16
- Kevin Bales, Disposable People, vii-33, 121-148, 265-278
- Andressa Bento, “The Myth of Maria,” 195-227*
- Lucia Suarez, “The Restavêk Condition,” 27-43 *

Week 15 – Research Preparation – April 23

Week 16 – Final Paper - April 30 Final Paper Due