

THE SLAVE NARRATIVE
AFA 3930 (Section 1110)
ANT 3930 (Section 08H5)

SPRING 2012

Turlington Hall, Rm. 2319

MWF Period 6 (12:50 – 1:40 pm)

Instructor: James M. Davidson, Ph.D.

Office: Turlington B134

Email: davidson@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Monday 2-5 pm (and by appointment)

Course Website: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/davidson/courses.htm>

Description: This course presents a historical overview of the American Slave Narrative. Participants will obtain knowledge of the narrative form as it evolved through time, first as a force for social change in the broader abolitionist literature, then as biography for selected African-American leaders, and finally as an attempt to record a history, through the ex-slave narratives of the 1930s. The narratives will be viewed through various lenses -- as literature, as political discourse, as biography, and ultimately as a window through which we may view the conditions of slavery. Through lectures, I will introduce the readings and provide broad overviews of the overarching topics and issues within the Slave Narrative as a genre. A good portion of class time, however, will be spent discussing and critiquing the readings.

Required Readings:

1. 2002 *The Classic Slave Narratives*. Edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Signet Classics. New American Library, New York.
2. 2000 *Voices From Slavery: 100 Authentic Slave Narratives*. Edited by Norman R. Yetman. Dover Publications.
3. 2000 (1901) *Up From Slavery*, by Booker T. Washington. Signet Classics. New American Library, New York. (or read digital text on line, at: <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/WASHINGTON/cover.html>)
4. 1988 *The Slave Narrative: Its Place in American History*, by Marion Wilson Starling. (Second Edition; originally published 1981). Howard University Press, Washington, DC.

Requirements: Participation in class discussions is expected, and each student's input will be crucial. Students are expected to have read the readings for that day, and come to class prepared to discuss them.

The writing component for this class consists of two critical essays on key readings to be assigned throughout the semester. Each essay will be three to five pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font, and one-inch margins. These will be corrected and returned with comments.

There will be three non-cumulative exams, the format of which will be a mixture of objective questions (e.g., true false, multiple choice, etc), and short answer or essay questions. There will also be a final exam, following this same format, but comprehensive and cumulative.

Grading:

Exams 1 thru 3 (20% each)	60%
Essays 1 and 2 (5 % each)	10%
Attendance/Class Participation:	10%
Final Exam (comprehensive)	20%

A final letter grade will be assigned at the end of the semester, according to this scale:

A	(93-100%)
A-	(90-92%)
B+	(88-89%)
B	(83-87%)
B-	(80-82%)
C+	(78-79%)
C	(73-77%)
C-	(70-72%)
D+	(68-69%)
D	(63-67%)
D-	(60-62%)
E	(59% or below)

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Excessive unexcused absences will detract from the student's final grade (see above).

Make-up Exams:

If an exam is missed, and the absence was pre-arranged, or in the event of illness accompanied by a physician's note, a make-up exam will be given. No make-up exams will be given for students who miss the testing period due to unexcused absences.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who in turn must provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

Academic Honesty:

The University reminds every student of the implied pledge of Academic Honesty: “on any work submitted for credit the student has neither received nor given unauthorized aid.” **THIS REFERS TO CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM, WHICH WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS CLASS**

Consult the Student Guide at www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/ for further information. To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use another person’s idea, opinion, or theory; any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings (any pieces of information) that are not common knowledge; quotations of another person’s actual spoken or written words; or paraphrase of another person’s spoken or written words.

Students caught cheating will be referred to the University administration for disciplinary action, the consequences of which can include failure of this course, and possible expulsion from the University.

Schedule and Topics:

Week 1 (Jan 9 thru Jan 13)

Starling -- pages xiii – xxx; Chapter 1 (pages 1-49)

Week 2 (Jan 16 thru Jan 20)

NO CLASS Monday – Jan 16: Martin Luther King Jr., Day

The Life of Olaudah Equiano (Preface; Chapters 1 through 4)

Starling --- Chapter 2 (pp. 50-75)

Week 3 (Jan 23 thru Jan 27)

The Life of Olaudah Equiano (Chapters 5 through 8)

Starling --- Chapter 2 (pp. 76-105)

Week 4 (Jan 30 thru Feb 3)

The Life of Olaudah Equiano (Chapters 9 through 12)

Starling --- Chapter 3 (pp. 106-127)

Week 5 (Feb 6 thru Feb 10)

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas (Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2)
Starling --- Chapter 3 (pp. 128-144)

*******Exam 1 (Friday -- February 10)*******

Week 6 (Feb 13 thru 17)

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas (Chapters 3 through 6)
Starling --- Chapter 3 (pp. 145-190)

Week 7 (Feb 20 thru Feb 24)

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas (Chapters 7 through 9)
Starling --- Chapter 3 (pp. 190-220)

Week 8 (Feb 27 thru March 2)

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas (Chapters 10 through 11 and Appendix)
Starling --- Chapter 4 (pp. 221-248)

Week 9 (March 5 thru March 9)

NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK (March 3-10)

Week 10 (March 12 thru March 16)

Booker T. Washington *Up From Slavery* (Introduction and Chapters 1 through 5)
Starling --- Chapter 6 (pp. 294-310)

*******Exam 2 (Wednesday – March 14)*******

Week 11 (March 19 thru March 23)

Booker T. Washington *Up From Slavery* (Chapters 6 through 10)

Week 12 (March 26 thru March 30)

Booker T. Washington *Up From Slavery* (Chapters 11 through 17)

Week 13 (April 2 thru April 6)

Voices From Slavery (Yetman edited volume)

*******Exam 3 (Friday – April 6)*******

Week 14 (April 9 thru April 13)

Voices From Slavery (Yetman edited volume)

Week 15 (April 16 thru April 20)
Voices From Slavery (Yetman edited volume)

Week 16 (April 23 thru April 27)
Voices From Slavery (Yetman edited volume)

Last Day of Class: Wednesday, April 25

Final Exam Period 3C: (Thursday - May 3 – 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm)

*******The Final Exam is at least in part, comprehensive and cumulative*******