

HIST398 section 1

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Slavery was crucial to African history. There were very few aspects of life that were not affected by it. Whether on the African continent or in the Diaspora, it shaped the social, economic, demographic, cultural, and consciousness of Africans and their descendants. The course concentrates on history of slavery in Western Africa with particular emphasis on trans-Saharan and trans-Atlantic slave trades, though the Red Sea and Indian Ocean trade will be considered, briefly. Topics to be covered include: slavery, indigenous forms of slavery, slave trading systems and Western African regions. Comparisons between these regions will follow a detailed chronological outline that examines a number of key trends that characterized each region during the slave trades. The course will also explore other aspects of slavery across the Islamic world and the trans-Atlantic or European history contexts such as problems of numbers of slaves exported, consequences and decline of slave trades, emancipation, abolitionism, legitimate trade, and legacies of slavery on African societies from the sixteenth century to the present.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND TEACHING METHODS

The course will consist of lectures and seminars. The lectures will be oriented towards a comprehensive survey that will include regional comparison and highlights of global dimensions. Along with these lectures, the course also incorporates documentary videos and other visual materials. The seminars will be devoted to discussions derived directly from assigned readings. Students will be expected to come to class and the seminars prepared to participate in the discussions.