Race, Labor, and Capitalism in the Americas  
History 510:533  
Fall 2014  
Monday, 5:00-7:30

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Office Hrs: Tuesday, 12:30-2:30, and Mon. Afternoon by Appointment

Description  
The late Stuart Hall once wrote that race is “the modality in which class is lived,” the medium through which class relations are experienced and “fought through.” Using Hall’s insights as a point of departure, this reading intensive course examines the modern history of race, labor, and capitalism in the Americas. The spread of capitalist relations introduced a spectrum of “free” and “unfree” labor between the seventeenth and twentieth centuries. Our readings will focus on how different labor systems—slavery, indentured, wage labor, and guestworker programs—produced, and were produced by, racial knowledge and systems of meaning. Through a series of case studies, students will trace the ways race and class were co-constituted in the Americas and how they evolved with changing modes of capitalist production. Students will be expected to read a book monograph and an article per week, amounting to about 250-300 pages of reading per week.

Course Requirements  
I. Participation and Discussion (20%)  
Class meetings consist of discussions with students debating historical evidence, research methods, and interpretations. Active participation and listening is expected for each session.

II. Critical Response Papers (40%)  
Students will be required to write a 1-2 page response to the readings each week. The paper is due via e-mail prior to class. Late papers will not be accepted.

III. Final Historiographical Essay (40%)  
For the final essay, students will have the opportunity to explore one of the major historiographical issues/questions raised in the class in depth, analyzing and synthesizing several texts of your choosing. (15-20 pages).

Required Texts  
- Walter Johnson, Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market (Harvard, 2001)
- Thomas Holt, Rebecca Scott, and Fred Cooper, Beyond Slavery.
- Jana Lipman, Guantanamo: A Working-Class History between Empire and Revolution (California, 2008).
• Eric Williams, *Slavery and Capitalism* (North Carolina, 1994)

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy**
All work submitted should be the student’s own. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or quoting from another source without explicitly citing it. Students need to be careful about distinguishing their own ideas and writings from other sources, whether published or unpublished. Plagiarism is grounds for automatically failing the course. Further details can be here http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity.

**Changes to Syllabus**
Professor Chang reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus.

**Course Schedule and Readings**

**Week 1**
Sept. 8  
Course Overview

**Week 2**
Sept. 15  
Defining the Terms


**Week 3**
Sept. 22  
Slavery and Capitalism

• Eric Williams, *Slavery and Capitalism* (North Carolina, 1994)
• Rebecca Scott, *Slave Emancipation in Cuba: The Transition to Free Labor*, Introduction.

**Week 4**
Sept. 29  
Making the Slave Market


**Week 5**

**Oct. 6**  
Wage Labor


**Week 6**

**Oct. 13**  
Indigenous Labor and the Mestizage


**Week 7**

**Oct. 20**  
Coolies, Indentured, and Contract Labor

• Gunther Peck, *Reinventing Free Labor*, Intro. and Chapters 1 & 2


**Week 8**

**Oct. 27**  
Emancipation and Free Labor

• Thomas Holt, Rebecca Scott, and Fred Cooper, *Beyond Slavery*.


**Week 9**

**Nov. 3**  
Managing Labor and Empire


**Week 10**
Nov. 10        Illegal Immigration


Week 11

Nov. 17        Migrant Labor and Politics


Week 12        Laboring in an Empire of Bases

Nov. 24        guest workers and postwar labor bondage

• Jana Lipman, *Guantanamo: A Working-Class History between Empire and Revolution* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008)

• Seungsook Moon, “Regulating Desire, Managing the Empire: U.S. Military Prostitution in South Korea, 1945-1970,” in *Over There: Living with the U.S. Military Empire from World War Two to the Present* (Duke, 2010).

Week 13

Dec. 1        Guest Workers and Postwar Labor Bondage


Week 14

Dec. 8        TBD