

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of Afro-American Studies  
**Fall 2006**

Course 106-467  
Fall 2006-2007  
Time: 2:25-4:55 W  
4275 White Hall

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**SLAVERY IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH**

Course Content:

Afro-American Studies 467 provides students with an opportunity to envision black American slavery as an economic institution of great historical and cultural importance. In addition to studying the origins of slavery and racism, the mechanisms and ideology of enslavement, and the black response to slave status, we will examine several major controversies involving historical interpretation and plantation reality which should concern all serious students of black history. These controversies serve to make the course materials highly relevant to the modern-day observer of the antebellum world. This semester, our required readings will focus on (a) landmark conceptual studies and (b) original period documents and oral histories. In order to explore the connections between the African-American experience, prevailing notions about race, and popular cultural expression, we also will view several films which mirror changing societal views on blacks and slavery.

Moving beyond discussing the issues raised and events described in the readings and films, class members will conduct and discuss their own research into various personally-selected aspects of black bondage. This research project and a comprehensive in-class exam constitute the graded elements of the course. Regular attendance and spirited classroom participation may cause an individual's final grade to be raised. Obvious lapses in these areas may cause it to be lowered. Graduate and Honors students must complete additional readings and an additional paper assignment to receive course credit.

By the end of the semester, it is hoped that all will have learned a good deal about the workings of the southern system of bondage, about how racial ideology influences one's impression of that system, and about how to formulate a personally meaningful interpretation of the black slave experience.

Required Texts (Available at University Bookstore, State Street)

Course 467 photocopied reader  
Ira Berlin, ed., Remembering Slavery (New Press, 2000)