



# HIST 588: Readings in 19th-Century U.S. History

Prof. Caleb McDaniel

Spring 2015

Tuesdays, 2:30-5:00 pm, Humanities 327

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## Objectives

The objectives of this seminar are (a) to introduce graduate students to some of the major recent problems and questions in the field of nineteenth-century American history; (b) to learn to identify the historiographical issues that recent works of scholarship address and connect their individual arguments to larger debates in the field; and (c) to write about these issues for a public audience using individual blogs.

It would be impossible in a semester-long course to provide an exhaustive survey of historiography on the nineteenth-century United States, so you should not consider this list of readings comprehensive for this field. For example, the reading list this semester tilts away from the early republic towards the Civil War and its aftermath, and also focuses on slavery, emancipation, capitalism, race, violence, and the state.

## Assignments

The semester is roughly divided into two parts. In the first half of the semester, all seminar participants will complete a “common reading”—usually a journal article or set of articles that deals with a major problem in the field—as well as an *individual* reading assignment of one book or article that somehow addresses the debate(s) introduced by the common reading.

In these weeks, all seminar participants are responsible for:

- completing both the common reading *and* the individual reading and preparing notes that will enable you to participate in a classroom **discussion** focused on the common reading, but informed by the individual readings;

- **writing a blog post** by midnight on the Sunday preceding class that provides a brief precis of the individual reading's major arguments, points, and sources, and also discusses how the individual reading speaks to, expands on, or addresses the problems outlined in one or more of the common readings;
- **reading** the blog posts of the other participants in the seminar in preparation for the in-class discussion on Monday, and (if appropriate) adding **comments** to those posts.

Assignments of the individual readings and further guidelines for blogging will take place on the first day of class.<sup>1</sup>

In the second half of the semester, we will all read the same book(s) each week. In this half, all participants are responsible for reading the week's common reading and writing a blog post about it. But on the first day of class, each week's book will also be assigned to **two** seminar participants who will be responsible for **leading that week's discussion** of the book in class.

The final writing assignment for the semester is to write a more formal, 12-18 page historiographical essay. I'm open to different topics for these papers, but they should be in some way inspired by questions or readings that we've done this semester. Your blog posts will be useful for beginning to plan your paper, which will be due on **Wednesday, May 6**.

## Schedule of Readings

### January 13

Organization; assignment of readings; introduction to Wordpress

### January 20

Thavolia Glymph, "Rose's War and the Gendered Politics of a Slave Insurgency in the Civil War," *Journal of the Civil War Era* 3, no. 4 (December 2013), 501-532. [Available online.](#)

Walter Johnson, "On Agency," *Journal of Social History* 37, no. 1 (2003): 113-124. [Available online.](#)

William Dusinberre, "Power and Agency in Antebellum Slavery," *American Nineteenth Century History* 12, no. 2 (2011), 139-148. [Available online.](#)

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Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made* (New York: Vintage, 1976)

<sup>1</sup>If you would like to read more about how to maintain a blog or website for your professional work, see Ryan Cordell's [Profhacker post](#), "Creating and Maintaining a Professional Presence Online: A Roundup and Reflection." Some examples of good history blogs maintained by graduate students or junior faculty members are [Religion in American History](#), [U.S. Intellectual History](#), and [The Junto](#).

- Dorita: Sylvia Frey, *Water from the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991)
- Christina: Alan Taylor, *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2013)
- Keith: Ira Berlin, Barbara J. Fields, et al., *Slaves No More: Three Essays on Emancipation and the Civil War* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992)
- Scott: Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003)
- Sean: William Dusinberre, *Them Dark Days: Slavery in the American Rice Swamps* (1996; Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2000)
- Erika: Stephanie M. H. Camp, *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004).
- Caleb: Anthony E. Kaye, *Joining Places: Slave Neighborhoods in the Old South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007)
- Hannah: Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999)
- Pat: Walter Johnson, *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2013)
- Will: Michael P. Johnson et al., “The Making of a Slave Conspiracy,” Parts 1 and 2 in *William and Mary Quarterly*, October 2001 and January 2002
- Bill: Charles F. Irons, *The Origins of Proslavery Christianity: White and Black Evangelicals in Colonial and Antebellum Virginia* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008)
- Ashley: David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation* (New York: Knopf, 2014)
- Cami: Sharla Fett, *Working Cures: Healing, Health, and Power on Southern Slave Plantations* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002)

## January 27

- Michael E. Woods, “What Twenty-First-Century Historians Have Said about the Causes of Disunion: A Civil War Sesquicentennial Review of the Recent Literature,” *Journal of American History* 99, no. 2 (2012), 415-439. [Available online.](#)
- Yael Sternhell, “Revisionism Reinvented? The Antiwar Turn in Civil War Scholarship,” *Journal of the Civil War Era* 3, no. 2 (June 2013). [Available online.](#)
- Essays in “Forum: The Future of Civil War Era Studies,” *Journal of the Civil War Era*, <http://journalofthecivilwarera.com/forum-the-future-of-civil-war-era-studies/> (read introduction and at least two of the linked essays)

Sean: Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* (New York: Knopf, 2008)

Christina: Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010)

Bill: Mark Noll, *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006)

Scott: Robert Bonner, *Mastering America: Southern Slaveholders and the Crisis of American Nationhood* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009)

Keith: James Oakes, *Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2012)

Hannah: Clinton and Silber, eds., *Battle Scars: Gender and Sexuality in the American Civil War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006)

Dorita: Gary W. Gallagher, *Causes Lost, Won, and Forgotten: How Hollywood and Popular Art Shape What We Know about the Civil War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008)

Ashley: Edward Rugemer, *The Problem of Emancipation: The Caribbean Roots of the American Civil War* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2008)

Erika: Don H. Doyle, *The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the American Civil War* (New York: Basic Books, 2015)

Cami: Chandra Manning, *What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War* (New York: Vintage, 2008)

Pat: Ari Kelman, *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling over the Memory of Sand Creek* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2013)

Will: Moon-Ho Jung, *Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 2006).

Elizabeth Varon, *Disunion! The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010)

### February 3

“Interchange: History of Capitalism,” *Journal of American History* 101, no. 2 (2014),  
<http://jah.oxfordjournals.org/content/101/2/503.full>

Seth Rockman, “What Makes the History of Capitalism Newsworthy?” *Journal of the Early Republic* 34, no. 3 (Fall 2014), 439-466

Timothy Shenk, “Apostles of Growth,” *The Nation* online, November 5, 2014,  
<http://www.thenation.com/article/188369/apostles-growth>

Pat and Bill: Edward E. Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* (New York: Basic Books, 2013)

Ashley and Christina: Amy Dru Stanley, *From Bondage to Contract: Wage Labor, Marriage, and the Market in the Age of Slave Emancipation* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998)

Cami and Dorita: Jonathan Levy, *Freaks of Fortune: The Emerging World of Capitalism and Risk in America* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2012)

Caleb and Scott: Jessica M. Lepler, *The Many Panics of 1837: People, Politics, and the Creation of a Transatlantic Financial Crisis* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Hannah and Keith: Seth Rockman, *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009)

Will and Sean: Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton: A Global History* (New York: Knopf, 2014)

Erika: Samuel Truett, *Fugitive Landscapes: The Forgotten History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008)

## February 10

Paul A. Kramer, *The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States, and the Philippines* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006)

Martha Hodes, "The Mercurial Nature and Abiding Power of Race: A Transnational Family Story," *American Historical Review* 108, no. 1 (February 2003), 84-118

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Dorita: Barbara J. Fields, "Ideology and Race in American History," in *Region, Race, and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of C. Vann Woodward*, ed. J. Morgan Kousser and James M. McPherson (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982), 143-177

Ashley: Thomas C. Holt, "Marking: Race, Race-Making, and the Writing of History," *American Historical Review* 100, no. 1 (February 1995), 1-20, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2167981>

Stuart Hall, "Race, Articulation and Societies Structured in Dominance," *Sociological Theories: Race and Colonialism* (Paris: UNESCO, 1980), 305-45

Erika: Peter Kolchin, "Whiteness Studies: The New History of Race in America," *Journal of American History* 89, no. 1 (June 2002)

Cami and Scott: Alan M. Kraut, "Doing as Americans Do: The Post-Migration Negotiation of Identity in the United States," *Journal of American History* 101, no. 3 (June 2014), 707-725

Sean: Patrick Rael, "A Common Nature, A United Destiny: African American Responses to Racial Science from the Revolution to the Civil War," in *Prophets of Protest: Reconsidering the History of American Abolitionism* Timothy Patrick McCarthy and John Stauffer (New York: New Press, 2006), 183-199

Christina: Kimberle Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory, and Antiracist Politics," *University of Chicago Legal Forum* 139 (1989), 139-67, <http://philpapers.org/rec/CREDTI>

Bill: David R. Roediger, "The Pursuit of Whiteness: Property, Terror, and Expansion, 1790-1860," *Journal of the Early Republic* 19, no. 4 (Winter 1999), 579-600, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3125134>

Hannah: Walter Johnson, "The Slave Trader, the White Slave, and the Politics of Racial Determination in the 1850s," *Journal of American History* 87, no. 1 (June 2000), 13-38, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2567914>

James Brewer Stewart, "The Emergence of Racial Modernity and the Rise of the White North, 1790-1840," *Journal of the Early Republic* (1998), <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3124888>

Pat: Kate Masur, "'A Rare Phenomenon of Philological Vegetation': The Word 'Contraband' and the Meanings of Emancipation in the United States," *Journal of American History* 93, no. 4 (2007), 1050-1084

Keith: Matthew Guterl and Christine Skwiot, "Atlantic and Pacific Crossings: Race, Empire, and 'the Labor Problem' in the Late Nineteenth Century," *Radical History Review* 91 (Winter 2005), 40-61

Will: Ariela Gross, "Beyond Black and White: Cultural Approaches to Race and Slavery," *Columbia Law Review* 101, no. 3 (April 2001), 640-690, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1123740>

## February 17

Nell Painter, "Soul Murder and Slavery: Toward a Fully Loaded Cost Accounting," in *Southern History Across the Color Line* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002)

Michael Ayers Trotti, "What Counts: Trends in Racial Violence in the Postbellum South," *Journal of American History* 100, no. 2 (2013), 375-400, <http://jah.oxfordjournals.org/content/100/2/375.full>

"At the Hands of Parties Unknown? The State of the Field of Lynching Scholarship," *Journal of American History* 101, no. 3 (2014), 832-860, <http://www.journalofamericanhistory.org/issues/1013/>

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Dorita: Saidiya V. Hartman, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997)

Erika: Paul Foos, *A Short, Offhand, Killing Affair: Soldiers and Social Conflict during the Mexican-American War* (2002)

W. Fitzhugh Brundage, *Lynching in the New South: Georgia and Virginia, 1880-1930* (University of Illinois Press, 1993)

Christina: Crystal N. Feimster, *Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011)

Will: Kidada E. Williams, *They Left Great Marks on Me: African American Testimonies of Racial Violence from Emancipation to World War I* (New York: NYU Press, 2012)

Sean: Jim Downs, *Sick from Freedom: African-American Illness and Suffering During the Civil War and Reconstruction* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012)

Scott: Brian DeLay, *War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S.-Mexican War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008)

Michael J. Pfeifer, *Rough Justice: Lynching and American Society, 1874-1947* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2006)

Ashley: David Oshinsky, *"Worse Than Slavery": Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice* (New York, Free Press, 1996)

Hannah: Hannah Rosen, *Terror in the Heart of Freedom: Citizenship, Sexual Violence, and the Meaning of Race in the Postemancipation South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009)

Cami: Thomas G. Andrews, *Killing for Coal: America's Deadliest Labor War* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2008)

Keith: Heather Andrea Williams, *Help Me to Find My People: The African American Search for Family Lost in Slavery* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012)

Pat: Elliot West, *The Contested Plains: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to Colorado* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1998)

Bill: Carol Emberton, *Beyond Redemption: Race, Violence, and the American South after the Civil War* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013)

## **February 24**

NO CLASS: Meet with me one-on-one to discuss paper ideas

## **March 3**

NO CLASS: Spring Break

## **March 10**

Scott and Keith: Stephen Kantrowitz, *More than Freedom: Fighting for Black Citizenship in a White Republic, 1829-1889* (New York: Penguin Press, 2012)

**March 17**

Christina and Erika: Thavolia Glymph, *Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008)

**March 24**

Hannah and Will: Adam Rothman, *Beyond Freedom's Reach: A Kidnapping in the Twilight of Slavery* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2015)

**March 31**

Dorita and Cami: W. E. B. Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880* (New York: Free Press, 1999)

**April 7**

NO CLASS. Work on final papers

**April 14**

Bill and Pat: Natalie J. Ring, *The Problem South: Region, Empire, and the New Liberal State, 1880-1930* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2012)

**April 21**

Sean and Ashley: Rebecca M. McLennan, *The Crisis of Imprisonment: Protest, Politics, and the Making of the American Penal State, 1776-1941* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008)

**May 6**

Final Papers Due by 5 p.m.