

**Colorado State University, Fall 2022**  
**HIST 460: Slavery in the Americas**  
**MWF 2:00-2:50, Eddy 100**

Dr. Robert Gudmestad  
[robert.gudmestad@colostate.edu](mailto:robert.gudmestad@colostate.edu)

Help Times:  
MW 1:00-1:50  
and by appointment

## **BASIC STUFF TO KNOW**

**Course Description:** We will examine the origins of slavery, the influence of slavery in Africa, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the growth of plantations in the Americas, the lives of enslaved people, rebellion and resistance, and the end of slavery in the Americas. Just importantly, you will hone your History skills as you examine primary sources, critique the arguments of historians, do research, write papers, and create a unique research product.

**Subject Matter:** This course should make you uncomfortable. We will study a time in History when Black lives did not matter. It was a time when most people held racial assumptions that are abhorrent. You will encounter ideas, language, and images that are disgusting. We need to study these things to understand -- and improve -- our contemporary society.

**Communication:** Besides talking to me before or after class, the best way to reach me is via email. I am in my office nearly everyday during normal work hours. Since I need to build a barrier between my work and my home life, I will not use my email after 5:00 on weekdays nor on weekends.

**Canvas:** The Canvas site has detailed information on assignments, additional readings, uploading assignments, the gradebook, and other resources.

**COVID:** If you contract COVID or have to care for someone who has COVID, contact me immediately and we will work through the details together. For the latest information about the University's COVID resources and information, please visit the **CSU COVID-19 site:** <https://covid.colostate.edu/>.

**Books:** I've assigned three books for this class -- David Brion Davis, *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*; Rafe Blaufarb and Liz Clarke, *Inhuman Traffick: The International Struggle Against the Transatlantic Slave Trade (A Graphic History)*; and Vincent Brown, *Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War*. The Davis book is a resource to supplement lecture material, You will have specific assignments on the other two books. If you have difficulty purchasing any of the books, let me know and I will try to help you.

**Grading Policy:** Every assignment gets a numerical value and at the end of the semester I become a bean counter and tally up your points.

**Attendance:** History teaching has changed dramatically in the twenty-first century. In-person classes in the Department of History at CSU emphasize engaged and active learning, so

fundamental course objectives cannot be achieved outside of scheduled class meetings. Our classes are frequently discussion-based, dynamic and fluid, and employ a multi-media approach. The History faculty encourages students to commit to regular attendance and meaningful and regular participation in all history courses. You are expected to attend class unless you have a good reason for missing.

## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Most people think that History is, to paraphrase Woodrow Wilson, just one damn thing after another. That line of thinking has some validity in that History is composed of information from the past. But History is also a way to put that information into a meaningful interpretation. Thus, it is one thing to know that the England outlawed slavery in its empire but a different thing to explain *why* England outlawed slavery. Reasonable people disagree over such things. You will learn the basic facts about slavery in the Americas in this class. However...

History is also a way of thinking. This class will also teach you how to *do* History. To that end, here are some “Hows” that you will learn:

How to read and interpret primary sources (documents from the time period being studied).

How to explain and evaluate historical interpretations.

How to express and support historical arguments in public discussion and writing.

How to evaluate the credibility and reliability of sources.

Like it or not, you will also become a Historian because you will construct your understanding of a specific corner of History related to slavery in the Americas.

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

**CPA:** Several days, you will read material prior to class, prepare a CPA (Class Preparation Assignment), and submit it to Canvas. The material is found on Canvas and will discuss it in class. I will grade these on as Complete/Incomplete and you will need to complete a minimum number of them to pass the class.

**Research Project:** You will become an expert on a particular aspect of slavery in the Atlantic World through this research project. A third of your grade will be from the research process, a third will come from your use of ClioVis to organize and think about your research, and the final third will be from the research product. You will have a choice of products: a research paper, a lesson plan for a high school History classroom, a virtual exhibit using Timeline JS, or a spatial analysis project using ArcGIS StoryMaps. Your project must have some type of temporal (time) component to it.

**Papers:** You will write several papers, most of which require skills that are related to being a historian. These papers involve evaluating websites, the content of two History books, comparing two book chapters, and working with *Slave Voyages*, a database related to the forced relocation of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic World.

## OTHER STUFF

**Missing and Late Work:** You are expected to submit assignments on time. If you have a good reason for handing in work after the due date, let me know and I will work with you.

**CSU Honor Pledge and Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. It also included handing in your own material from another class in this class and pretending that is “new.” Done on purpose, it is cheating. Done accidentally, it is no less serious. Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding “credit be given where credit is due.” If you plagiarize in your work you could lose credit for it, fail the assignment, or fail the course. Plagiarism could also result in expulsion from the university. Each instance of plagiarism, classroom cheating, and other types of academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the principles published in the CSU General Catalog. In short, don't cheat. Leave it to Tom Brady and Bill Belichick.

**Accommodations:** Qualified students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. We should have a conversation and then please follow up with an email.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THIS SYLLABUS OVER THE COURSE OF THE SEMETER.

## SCHEDULE

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Davis</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Aug. 22	Introduction		What Every Student...
Aug. 24	1619 Project		CPA1
Aug. 26	Roots of Slavery and Race	27-76	
Aug. 29	The Atlantic World	77-86	
Aug. 31	Rise of Atlantic Slavery	86-102	CPA2
Sept. 2	Research Training in Library		
Labor Day			
Sept. 7	Rise of Atlantic Slavery		CPA3
Sept. 9	Research Training		Evaluating Websites Paper
Sept. 12	Africans and the Slave Trade		CPA4
Sept. 14	No Class		
Sept. 16	Middle Passage		
Sept. 19	Middle Passage		CPA5
Sept. 21	Middle Passage		
Sept. 23			Slave Ship Paper
Sept. 26	ClioVis Training		
Sept. 28	Brazil and Sugar	103-23	
Sept. 30	Spanish Caribbean		CPA6
Oct. 3	French Caribbean		Research Prospectus
Oct. 5	British Caribbean		
Oct. 7	No Class		
Oct. 10	British North America	124-40	
Oct. 12	Discussion		Fuentes and White
Oct. 14	Slavery and the American Rev	141-56	
Oct. 17	Enslaved Life in Caribbean		CPA7
Oct. 19	Discussion		<i>Tacky's Revolt</i>
Oct. 21	Enslaved Life in Caribbean		
Oct. 24	Haitian Revolution	157-74	
Oct. 26	Discussion		<i>Inhuman Traffick</i>
Oct. 28	British and European Antislavery	231-67	CPA8

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Davis</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Oct. 31	Expansion of Slavery in U.S.	175-92	
Nov. 2	Work		CPA9
Nov. 3	Religion	193-204	
Nov. 7	Culture		ClioVis
Nov. 9	Revolts	205-30	CPA10
Nov. 11	No Class		
Nov. 14	Resistance		
Nov. 16	Anti-Slavery in America	250-67	CPA 11
Nov. 18	Abolitionism		
<b>FALL BREAK</b>			
Nov. 28	Slavery and Politics	268-96	
Nov. 30	Civil War: Eman. Proc.	297-322	CPA 12
Dec. 2	Civil War: Black Troops		
Dec. 5	Emancipation in PR, Cuba, Brazil	297-331	Research Product
Dec. 7	Reconstruction		
Dec. 9	Slavery by another name		CPA13
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 4:10-6:10: Final Exam			