International History

Academic year 2019-2020

Humanitarians and Human Trafficking: The Global History of Slavery and Abolition, 1800-Present

HI018 - Autumn - 6 ECTS
Thursday 12h15 - 14h00

Course Description

This course critically examines the changing nature of humanitarian activism against slavery from the abolition of the slave trade in the early 19th century to international action against human trafficking in the 21st century. The first part of the course covers the rise of anti-slavery movements in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The second part considers the changing nature of slavery under colonial rule and the evolving context of humanitarian campaigns in the twentieth century including the efforts undertaken by the League of Nations, the ILO and the UNO. Some of the key themes discussed include the ideological foundations and economic motives for abolition, the contested definition of slavery, the relationship between new forms of slavery and the rise of colonialism in Africa and Asia, and the formulation of international conventions against slavery, child labour and forced labour and the challenges confronting humanitarian NGOs today.

Syllabus

Course Structure

Requirements and Assessment

1. Seminar participation (20%)
You are expected to attend each seminar and regularly participate in discussions. It is essential that you read the required readings.
2. Reading reports and presentation (30%)
Based on your readings, you will submit a fortnightly report (ca. 500 words including 3 questions for discussion) one day before our meeting (starting in week 3). You will also prepare one presentation on a seminar topic.

3. Term Paper (50%)
The final term paper should be related to one of the themes raised during the class. Papers should be approximately 3000-3500- words in length. You are expected to think independently about your possible research question for the term paper, but you should consult with one of us once you have proposals in mind. You should have a proposal by week 9, which you will submit to me and to my teaching assistant in written form by email. The paper should demonstrate an understanding of the class content and the readings and an ability to analyze them critically and to make connections between them. Attention will be paid to clarity of expression and appropriate use of terminology. You are welcome to carry out some primary research (interviews / use of archival sources) but this is not compulsory.

Readings: All of the required readings and some of the suggested readings will be available electronically. In addition, relevant books will be held on reserve in the library.

General Bibliography:


**Schedule**

**WEEK 1 / September 19: Course Overview / Introduction: The Global History of Slavery and Abolition: Linking the Historical and the Contemporary**

*No required readings*

**Suggested readings:**


**WEEK 2 / September 26: Researching Slavery and Abolition: Blurry Definitions, Archival Silences and Tricky Comparisons Across Time and Space**

**Required readings:**


**Further readings:**


PART I SLAVERY AND ABOLITION, CA. 1780-1880

WEEK 3 / October 3 The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Connecting Europe, Africa and the Americas

*Required readings:*


Mintz, Sidney W., *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History* (Harmondsworth, 1985), Chapter 2 ‘Production’.

*Further readings:*

Austin, Ralph A., ‘The Slave Trade as History and Memory: Confrontations of Slaving Voyage Documents and Communal Traditions’, in *William and Mary Quarterly* 58 (2001), 229-244.


WEEK 4 / October 10 Slavery and Resistance in the Americas: From Everyday Resistance to Rebellion and Revolution
**Required readings:**


**Further readings:**


**WEEK 5 / October 17 Women and Slavery**

**Required readings:**


**Further readings:**


WEEK 6 October 24 NO CLASS- READING WEEK

PART II Abolition, The Rise of Humanitarian Concern and the Continuation of Slavery: 1880-PRESENT

WEEK 7 / October 31: Social Mobilization and Economic Transformation

Required readings:


Further readings:


WEEK 8 / November 7: From Slavery to ‘Freedom’? Emancipation and its Discontents in the Age of Empire

Required readings:


Further readings:


Klein, Herbert and Francisco Vidal Luna, Slavery in Brazil (Cambridge, 2010), Chapter 10 Transition from Slavery to Freedom, 295-320.


WEEK 9 / November 14: The Congo Campaign: A Test Case for Humanitarianism?

DEADLINE For SUBMISSION OF OUTLINE FOR RESEARCH PAPER (Working title and abstract of 500 words)

Required reading:

**Further readings:**


**WEEK 10 November 21 REVIEW SESSION / Or Session on Slave Narratives**

**WEEK 11 November 28 The League of Nations and Slavery: Interwar Internationalization and Norm-Building in Geneva**

**Required readings:**


**Further readings:**


WEEK 12 / December 5: Children and Slavery:

**Required reading:**


**Further readings:**


WEEK 13 / December 12: The United Nations and Slavery: Extending the Definition

**Required readings:**


**Further readings:**

Datta, Monti Narayan & Kevin Bales, ‘Slavery in Europe: Part 1 Estimating the Dark Figure’, *Human Rights Quarterly* 35 (2013), 817-829

Campbell, Gwyn and Elizabeth Elbourne (eds), *Sex, Power and Slavery* (Ohio 2014).


**WEEK 14 / December 19: Conclusion** Submissions of research paper, 5 pm