

History Practicum:
HIS3942: Nineteenth-Century Brazilian Slavery and Abolition.
Fall 2018

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Purpose of the course:

The word **practicum** is related to Latin and Greek words having to do with the idea of an academic exercise involving practical work. The department's history practicum is an apprenticeship for those in the major. It is designed to provide the student with the skills necessary to succeed in the department by introducing the student to the nature and practice of history as a discipline. The skills involved should be useful to the student no matter what his/her profession after earning the degree. They include critical analysis of various kinds of evidence, critical analysis of written accounts and arguments, the nature of written argument, discussion skills, oral presentation skills, the practice of peer review, and an introduction to lucid, organized writing.

This particular practicum was developed as the first in the department to address the tasks and challenges specific to the history of the world beyond Europe and beyond what is now the United States. Thus, a good deal of the instructor's task is to explain and to demonstrate the difficulties and delights of such study. Beyond attempting to understand what happened in the past, such research also invites us to attempt to understand what happened in a different culture. Portuguese is the language in which most of the relevant documents and many of the best secondary sources are written. Thus, in this class, we shall be limited to certain kinds of documents, translations, and the work of Anglophone scholars. This presents interesting intellectual problems, many of which are common in the analysis of the world beyond the United States.

Organization:

Students attend three sessions each week; two are lectures on the history of Brazilian slavery and abolition; the third is one dealing with what used to be called a "precept." The word comes from a Latin word for a command or instruction and is related to the idea of correct conduct; here, it has to do with a session designed to provide practical exercise in the skills of the historian. Thus, these third sessions will be devoted to the actual practice of history research and writing. It is designed to provide training, and emphasizes more interaction with the instructor in learning the practice of the discipline.

Texts to be Purchased:

Costa, Emilia Viotti da. *The Brazilian Empire: Myths and Histories*, 2nd ed. Chapel Hill: Univ. North Carolina, 2000.

Rampolla, Mary. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 5th ed. Boston: Bedford/St.Martins, 2007.

Required Secondary-Source Texts on Reserve¹:

¹ These required texts are on two-hour reserve in Smathers Library West, along with a number of travelers' accounts which may serve students as primary sources in their work. Given the number of students and the deadlines, you are expected to photocopy the assigned chapter(s) of the required text and return the text immediately. Students might consider organizing in copy groups and delegating colleagues, on a rotating basis, to make a master photocopy for others to use, sharing the cost.

Bergstresser, Rebecca Baird. "The Movement for the Abolition of Slavery in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1880-1889." Ph.D. diss., Stanford Univ., 1973.

Conrad, Robert Edgar. *The Destruction of Brazilian Slavery, 1850-1888*. Berkeley: Univ. of California, 1972.

Frank, Zephyr L. *Dutra's World: Wealth and Family in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico, 2004.

Karasch, Mary C. *Slave Life in Rio de Janeiro, 1808-1850*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1987.

Toplin, Robert Brent. *The Abolition of Slavery in Brazil*. New York: Atheneum, 1971.

Grades:

Participation.....33%

Research Project.....33%

Final Examination.....33%

N.B. Participation includes regular discussion, written assignments, presentations, and work in the third sessions' practical training, as well as presence at the lectures. The instructor breaks from his normal practice regarding keeping attendance, because without consistent personal participation, the purpose of the course is defeated. While one absence will be permitted, two absences will result in a third of a grade reduction in the student's course grade, and three will result in a full-grade reduction in the student's course grade. Students absent four times will fail the course.

Schedule:

The direction below each week's roman numeral provides the students with the assignment to be done that week, **before** the third session. The instructor will review basic issues and practices (what is plagiarism, what is an annotated bibliography, etc.) during the third sessions as we go along and as the need arises.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lectures</u>	<u>Third Session</u>
I. 22 August	Orientation to the course	Special Collections & LAC ²
	Find the locations of, and learn how to access, the two library collections, the reserve site in Smathers Library West, and the practicum supplements on the instructor's website.	
II. 27 August	Cultural Artifacts	Visual Records discussion
	Read Costa, chs.1-3 in preparation for week III. Rampolla, 6-11; review visual records (see "Practicum Visual Records Guide" – this, and all other practicum supplements, can be downloaded from the instructor's website)	
III. 5 September ³	Structure of the Monarchy	Critique of Costa

² Special Collections and the Latin American Collection are in Smathers Library East, second and fourth floors, respectively.

³ Monday, 3 September, is a holiday. Only one lecture will take place this week.

Read Rampolla, 14-16. Prepare Costa for third session discussion (see “Practicum Third Session Discussion Guide”). **Begin sampling sources and thinking about the research project (see “Practicum Research Project”); first written assignment related to the project is due week VII. As part of this preparation, review Rampolla, chs.3-7, especially pp.10, 11, 14, 29-31, 36-38.**

IV. 10 September Slavery in Brazil Critique of Freyre
Read Freyre (see “Practicum Journal Articles”) and study the “Practicum Historiographical Essay Criteria” for next week’s written assignment. Prepare Freyre for third session discussion.

V. 17 September Slavery in Brazil Critique of the Literature
Read three articles on slavery or abolition (use JSTOR or HAPI,⁴ or select from “Practicum Journal Articles”) and **submit a one-page critique of one..** Prepare to discuss your articles in third session, as well.

VI. 24 September Who Ended the Slave Trade? Critique of the Revisionists.
Read the Bethell, Graden, Chalhoub articles on the slave trade (in Chalhoub’s case, the article title refers to yellow fever) (see “Practicum Journal Articles”) and prepare them for third session discussion.

VII. 1 October Politics of the Slave Trade Critique of Needell
Read Needell, “Abolition” (see “Practicum Journal Articles”) and prepare for third session discussion.

Project plan due at the beginning of your third session meeting: submit a one or two-page plan for the research project including two or three possibilities for the topic with one possible primary source and two possible secondary sources for each possibility, for a minimum of six to nine sources total.

VIII. 8 October⁵ The Milieu of Abolitionism Critique of Graham & Costa
Read Lauderdale Graham (see “Practicum Journal Articles”) & Costa, chs.6&7 and prepare them for third session discussion.

IX. 15 October Abolitionism Critique of Conrad
Read Conrad, *Destruction*, chs.9&10 (See “Practicum Bibliography”) and prepare them for third session discussion

Over the next four weeks, find and use at least one article from *The Rio News* (under “periodicals” in the Practicum General Bibliography) in either your research project or as the subject of one of the primary-source critiques due 9April.

X. 22 October Abolitionism Critique of Toplin
Read Toplin, *Abolition*, chs.3&4 (See “Practicum Bibliography”) and prepare them for third session discussion.

⁴ One can access JSTOR from the university’s library website; one can access HAPI from the website for the Latin American Collection (via the library website). HAPI is a search engine specialized for Latin American studies but does not include older articles, which are sometimes critical. JSTOR accesses these older pieces as part of the complete runs of the major journals in the field.

⁵ Friday, 12 October, is a holiday. There will be no second lecture, instead, what would have been the third session, critiquing Graham and Costa, will take place 10 October.

XI. 29 October Abolitionism Critique of Bergstresser
Read Bergstresser, "Movement," chs.2&3 (See "Practicum Bibliography") and prepare them for third session discussion.

Submit a two-page research project topic and preliminary bibliography, along the lines of items 1 and 2 of the "Practicum Research Project," due at the beginning of your third session meeting. The bibliography should include at least six sources (of these, at least two should be primary sources and at least two should be secondary sources).

XII. 5 November Parliamentary Parameters Critique of the Literature
Read Needell, "Brazilian Abolitionism" (See "Practicum Journal Articles") studying the discussion of the literature in text and notes for the third session discussion.

XIII. 14 November⁶ End of Slavery Critique of Primary Sources
Select primary sources and prepare for oral third session presentation of critiques⁷ (See "Practicum General Bibliography" and Rampolla, 6-13). **On 16 November, submit two one-page written critiques of two selected primary sources, using Rampolla, 10, as a guide.**

XIV. 19 November Oral presentations preparation

XV. 26 November⁸ Aftermath of Abolition Oral presentations

XVI. 3 December⁹ The Etiquette of Racism
Costa, ch.9 and prepare for third session discussion, using Rampolla, 10, 12-13, as a guide.

Research projects due 5 December.

Advice:

Prudent students will note that the assigned reading, when combined with the additional reading for the research project, demands disciplined, constant attention. Some weeks have less reading than others, and the instructor urges students to use those weeks to read ahead for other weeks or to apply to the research project.

⁶ Monday, 12 November, is a holiday; there will be only one lecture, on 14 November, and the third session will take place 16 November and will involve a discussion of what is expected in the students' oral presentations to follow on the week of 26 November.

⁷ The week of 19 November is Thanksgiving week. No class will take place 19 November; rather, students may use the time to prepare their oral presentations. Each student will have the opportunity to make a very brief oral presentation of one of his/her two primary sources, using the written critique submitted 16 November. A one-page critique takes two minutes to read, leaving a moment or two for questions. Every student should be prepared for presenting on either 26 or 28 November, as the instructor will choose at random the students who are to present at each of these sessions.

⁸ Lectures will not be presented Monday and Wednesday (26 and 28 November); instead, these sessions will be used for oral presentations. The whole class will meet together each of these days to hear and/or present critiques. The instructor will give the first lecture on the aftermath of Abolition on 30 November.

⁹ Week XI ends on Wednesday, 5 December; the second lecture on the aftermath of Abolition will take place on 3 December, and 5 December will be used for the critique of Costa's ch.9. Students will submit their research project at the beginning of the 5 December session.

Penalties, Catastrophes, and Warnings:

Note that there are severe penalties for missing the deadline of any written assignment. (it must be turned in at the beginning of the session indicated; if it is turned in during the session, it is penalized a half grade; if it is turned in within the twenty-four hour period following the deadline, it is penalized a full grade; if it is turned in within the second twenty-four hour period, it is penalized two full grades; and so on). All written assignments of the course must be submitted to the instructor and a grade for each recorded by the instructor in order to earn a course grade. Thus, students who fail to submit one or more written assignments will fail the course.

As life has been arranged so that unexpected catastrophes occur for which even the prudent and virtuous student cannot prepare, the instructor will be willing to review student petitions for a waiver of penalty (or lessening of penalty). Such waivers will be granted at the discretion of the instructor, and are most likely to be granted in those cases in which the instructor deems that the catastrophe is credible and reliably documented.

There is no extra credit option or possibility in this course.

The instructor will not tolerate cheating. The instructor will not tolerate plagiarism (the use of others' materials without appropriate citation, credit, or permission). A student guilty of either will fail the course and the matter will be referred to, and recorded by, the appropriate University authority.

Students requesting classroom accommodation because of a disability must first register with the Dean of Students' Office. That office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide that same documentation to the instructor when requesting the appropriate accommodation.