History 925
Slavery, Politics, and Citizenship in Nineteenth-Century America

Stephen Kantrowitz
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Spring 2007
Wednesday, 9 - 11 a.m.

Access to Readings

Books for purchase (Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, 426 W. Gilman):
Stephanie Camp, Closer to Freedom
Steven Hahn, A Nation Under Our Feet
Sean Wilentz, The Rise of American Democracy
Walter Johnson, Soul By Soul [e-book available]
Susan Zaeske, Signatures of Citizenship [e-book available]
Frederick Douglass, My Bondage and My Freedom [e-book available]
Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction
Amy Dru Stanley, From Bondage to Contract [e-book available]
Frederick Cooper, Thomas C. Holt, and Rebecca J. Scott, Beyond Slavery

Other readings available as marked:
* = via online databases (JSTOR, History Cooperative, Project Muse, etc.)
§ = via e-reserves (MyUW or Learn@UW)
e = e-book linked via Madcat (ACLS, Documenting the American South, etc.)
3 = 3-hour reserve at WHS (see last page of syllabus for call numbers)

Note: Books for individual reports have not been placed on reserve.

Writing Requirements

1) Six responses to readings - submit to course page at Learn@UW by 8 p.m. Tuesday
   Weeks 2 - 4 and three additional weeks during the semester (your choice)

2) Essay on My Bondage and My Freedom [due March 21 in class]
   An essay of no more than 1000 words (excluding notes) exploring how Douglass's text challenges,
   complicates, or illuminates some aspect of the historiography of slavery and/or antislavery.

3) Critical Introductory Essay [due May 22 by 5 p.m. in box 5017]
   A short (<2000 words) critical introduction to a primary text from the period of the course, explaining
   how the text reflects key themes, debates, and issues in the history and historiography. Imagine that
   this essay is a short version or preview, designed to persuade an editor that this text demands
   republication and that you are the one to do it.

   As the course unfolds, you should be shelf-reading and "auditioning" texts referenced in our readings
   as possible candidates. When you turn in the introduction, include a copy of the book or a hyperlink to
   the online version. I promise to return any personal or library copies!

Other Requirements

1) regular participation in discussion

2) one in-class presentation of a book from the "reports" list
   - an oral presentation of no more than 10 minutes
   - a one-page handout that summarizes the book's main arguments, themes, contributions, and evidence
     (with copies for everyone in the class)
Schedule of Meetings and Assignments

Week 1 – January 24: Introductions and Assignments

Week 2 – January 31: What was Antebellum American Citizenship?
Readings
§ Nancy Isenberg, *Sex and Citizenship in Antebellum America*, 15-39

Questions: How do Novak, Isenberg, and Melish complicate Kettner's and Keyssar's narratives? How do they challenge or call into question one another's arguments? What is the relationship of suffrage to citizenship?

Week 3 – February 7: Resistance, Revolt and the Politics of American Slaves
Readings
3 Stephanie Camp, *Closer to Freedom*, 1-116
3 Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*, 1-61
• Walter Johnson, "On Agency," *Journal of Social History* 37 (Fall 2003), 113-124
§ Nell Irvin Painter, "Soul Murder and Slavery: Toward a Fully-Loaded Cost Accounting," in *Southern History Across the Color Line*

reports
- James Sidbury, *Ploughshares into Swords: Race, Rebellion, and Identity in Gabriel's Virginia*

Week 4 – February 14: The National Politics of the Antebellum Era
Reading

n.b.: This book is 796 pages long. We will discuss strategies for reading it effectively in a reasonable amount of time.

reports

Week 5 – February 21: Households, Property and Citizenship in Slave Society
Readings
3g Walter Johnson, *Soul By Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*
§ Stephanie McCurry, "The Politics of Yeoman Households," in *Divided Houses: Gender and the American Civil War*, eds. Catherine Clinton and Nina Silber

reports
- Drew Gilpin Faust, *James Henry Hammond and the Old South: A Design for Mastery*
- Robin Einhorn, *American Taxation, American Slavery*
Week 6 – February 28: The Limits of Political Citizenship

Readings


- Glenn C. Altschuler and Stuart M. Blumin, "Limits of Political Engagement in Antebellum America: A New Look at the Golden Age of Participatory Democracy," *JAH* 84 (Dec. 1997), and responses by Watson, et al., 855-909

Week 7 – March 7: Whiteness and Citizenship

Readings


Week 8 – March 14: Black Citizenship

Readings


Week 9- March 21: Freedom

Readings

- Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*
- Robert S. Levine, *Martin Delany*, 99-143

1000-word paper on Douglass and antebellum historiography due in class
Week 10 – March 28: Wartime and Alternate Citizenships

Readings
3  Steven Hahn, *Nation*, 62-115
§  Stephen Kantrowitz, "Fighting Like Men: Civil War Dilemmas of Abolitionist Manhood," in *Battle Scars: Gender and Sexuality in the American Civil War*, eds. Catherine Clinton and Nina Silber
•  Stephanie McCurry, "The Two Faces of Republicanism: Gender and Proslavery Politics in Antebellum South Carolina," *JAH* 78 (March 1992), 1245-1264

reports
- Drew Gilpin Faust, *The Creation of Confederate Nationalism*
- Richard F. Bensel, *Yankee Leviathan*

Week 11 – April 11: Reconstruction as an Unfinished Revolution

Reading
3  Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction*

reports
- Barbara J. Fields, *Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground: Maryland in the Nineteenth Century*

Week 12 – April 18: Reconstruction as Slaves' Politics in New Circumstances

Readings
3  Steven Hahn, *Nation*, 116-363

reports
- Michael Fitzgerald, *Urban Emancipation: Popular Politics in Reconstruction Mobile, 1860-1890*

Question: What are the important differences between Foner's and Hahn's depictions and analyses of Reconstruction?

Week 13 – April 25: Women's Rights, Contract, and National Citizenship

Readings
3§  Amy Dru Stanley, *From Bondage to Contract: Wage Labor, Marriage, and the Market in the Age of Slave Emancipation*
§  Elsa Barkley Brown, "Negotiating and Transforming the Public Sphere: African American Political Life in the Transition from Slavery to Freedom"

reports
- Hendrik Hartog, *Man and Wife in America: A History*
- Michael Goldberg, *An Army of Women: Gender and Politics in Gilded Age Kansas*

Week 14 – May 2: White Supremacist Citizenship

Reading
3  Stephen Kantrowitz, *Ben Tillman and the Reconstruction of White Supremacy*, 110-286
reports
- Heather Cox Richardson, *The Death of Reconstruction: Race, Labor, and Politics in the Post-Civil War North, 1865-1901*

**Week 15 – May 9: Looking Outward and Forward**

**Readings**
- Frederick Cooper, Thomas Holt, and Rebecca Scott, *Beyond Slavery: Explorations of Race, Labor, and Citizenship in Postemancipation Societies*

**Report**
- Rebecca Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery*

**Works requested for 3-hour reserve at Wisconsin Historical Society**

- Stephanie Camp, *Closer to Freedom*
  E443 C36 2004

- Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet*
  E185.2 H15 2003

- Sean Wilentz, *The Rise of American Democracy*
  E302.1 W55 2005

- Walter Johnson, *Soul By Soul*
  F379 N59 N4 1999 - also available as an e-book via Madcat

- Susan Zaeske, *Signatures of Citizenship*
  HQ1236.5 U6 Z34 2003 - also available as an e-book via Madcat

- Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*
  E449 D744 1962 - also available via docsouth.unc.edu and in other e-versions

- Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction*
  E668 F662 1990 (may not be available at WHS)

- Amy Dru Stanley, *From Bondage to Contract*
  HD4903.5.U6 S7 1998 - also available as an e-book via Madcat

- Eugene Genovese, *Roll Jordan Roll*
  E443 G46 1976

- Dylan Penningroth, *The Claims of Kinfolk*
  E185.8 P39 2003

- David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness*
  HD4903.5 U58 R64 1991

- Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color*
  E184 E95 J33 1998 - also available as an e-book via Madcat
Robert S. Levine, *Martin Delany, Frederick Douglass, and the Politics of Representative Identity*
PS366 A35 L48 1997 - also available as an e-book via Madcat

Richard Bensel, *The American Ballot Box in the Mid-Nineteenth Century*
JK1967 B46 2004

Barbara Welke, *Recasting American Liberty*
HE2757 W45 2001

Stephen Kantrowitz, *Ben Tillman and the Reconstruction of White Supremacy*
E667 T57 K36 2000

Frederick Cooper et al., *Beyond Slavery*
HT731 C66 2000 (may not be available at WHS)