



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
Department of Cultural Sciences

4HI494 Slaveri och slavhandel i en global kontext, 7,5 högskolepoäng  
Slavery and Slave Trade in Global Context, 7.5 credits

### **Main field of study**

History, Colonial and postcolonial studies, Comparative Literature

### **Subject Group**

Cultural Studies

### **Level of classification**

Second Level

### **Progression**

A1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2020-05-07

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2021

### **Prerequisites**

1-90 credits including an independent project of 15 credits in a subject in the humanities or the social sciences or the equivalent, English B/English 6, or the equivalent.

## Objectives

After completing the course, the students are expected to be able to:

- account in detail for the main historical processes involving slavery in a global context,
- apply complex concepts and terminologies relating to slavery and bonded labour,
- compare and critically and independently discuss the main theories on the cause of enslavement and slave labour,
- apply a historical perspective in order to understand the persistence of enslaved labour in the modern world, and efforts to eradicate such practices,
- reflect on the perception and treatment of slavery in literary works.

## Content

The course offers a critical overview of slavery and slave trade on a global level, surveying the research trends of the last decades. Historical as well as literary perspectives are applied. Hitherto neglected groups with a slave-like status, in places like India, China, and Korea, are explored. Attention is also paid to the plight of humans in the contemporary world with a bonded and permanently subservient status. The course addresses the importance of looking beyond the particular slave systems of the world and to reflect on connections and comparisons between different regions. It also aims to challenge the Atlantic paradigm that has tended to see slavery from a matrix of European-led employment of slave labour. Attention is paid to recent methodological shifts, which have yielded new information about slavery as a condition and a process, not least illuminating its gendered aspects. During the course, the structural variety of enslavement and degrees of unfree status across the world will be discussed. Economic-historical theories on the rationale of slavery are surveyed. Moreover, the memories and narratives of slavery in literary texts are analyzed.

## Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

## Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The course is examined through written assignments and oral seminar assignments. Reexamination takes the form of a written assignment or another assignment decided by the examiner. The grade A is the highest grade and the grade E is the lowest grade for passing the course. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as failed. Assessment criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the students in a separate document. The students are informed about the assessment criteria when the course starts, at the latest.

If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted exam or allow the student to conduct the test in an alternative form.

## Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Aman, Robert. 2016. "Swedish Colonialism, Exotic Africans and Romantic Anti-Capitalism". *Third Text*, 30:1-2, 60-75, DOI: 10.1080/09528822.2016.1251753 (15 p)

Boomgaard, Peter, 2003 "Human capital, slavery and low rates of economic and population growth in Indonesia, 1600-1910", *Slavery and Abolition* 24:83-96.

Equiano, O., *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African*. 360 pp (sections).

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The\\_Interesting\\_Narrative\\_of\\_the\\_Life\\_of\\_Olaudah\\_Equiano,\\_or\\_](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Interesting_Narrative_of_the_Life_of_Olaudah_Equiano,_or_)

Gyasi, Yaa. 2017. *Homegoing*. London: Penguin Books. ISBN: 9780241975237. 305 pp.

Lovejoy, Paul (ed.), 2009, *Identity in the shadow of slavery*. London: Continuum. ISBN: 978 0 8264 4725 8. 244 pp (selected parts).

Miller, Joseph C., 2012, *The Problem of Slavery as History: A Global Approach*. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN: 978 0 3001 1315 0. 218 pp.

Newman, Richard s. 2018. *Abolitionism - a very short introduction*. Oxford University Press Inc. ISBN: 978 0 1902 1322 0. 176 pp.

Nimako, Kwame and Glenn Willemsen, 2011, *The Dutch Atlantic; Slavery, Abolition and Emancipation*. Pluto Books. ISBN: 978 0 7453 3107 2. 240 pp.

Plasa, Carl. 1999. *Textual politics from slavery to postcolonialism: race and identification*. New York: St. Martin's Press. ISBN: 978 0 230 28671 9. (appr. 75 selected pages)

Warren, James, 2007, *The Sulu zone 1768-1898: The dynamics of external trade, slavery, and ethnicity in the transformation of a Southeast Asian maritime state*. Singapore: NUS Press. ISBN: 978 9971693862. 390 pp.

Works of fiction chosen in consultation with the teacher. 300 p.