

**The Foreboding Storm: Freedom, Capitalism, and
the Enigma of Slavery (1607-1861)
Thursday, 4:30pm – 6:30pm
5300 Discovery Park Blvd, Room 136
(757) 221-1506
5/5/2022 - 5/19/2022**

(as of 5/2/2022)

- I. Religious and philosophical perspectives of involuntary servitude in British North America and the United States prior to the Civil War**
 - a. The impact of Enlightenment on perceptions of racial hierarchy and discrimination
 - b. Historical religious and philosophical perspectives on the practice of slavery
 - c. Settler colonialism, imperialism, and questions of sovereignty
- II. The drafting of the Declaration of Independence and The Constitution**
 - a. Concept of “natural” freedoms and the inalienable rights of all men
 - b. The conflict of slavery in drafting the Declaration of Independence
 - c. Articles of Confederation
 - d. Regional challenges with creating The Constitution
- III. Practical challenges of implementing the founding ideals of the colonists**
 - a. Difficulties in ratification
 - b. Implications of Article 1, Section 9 (The Constitution)
 - c. The three fifths compromise
 - d. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1793
- IV. Interim strategies for dealing with slavery post the Declaration of Independence**
 - a. Importation of slaves prohibited in 1807
 - b. Missouri Compromise of 1820
 - c. Nullification Act of 1832
 - d. Kansas Nebraska Act of 1854
- V. Capitalism and slavery**
 - a. Antebellum investment and banking influences
 - b. Industrialization and regional consequences
 - c. Political and philosophical Issues involving race
 - d. Consequences of pricing and market efficiency

VI. Economic considerations

- a. Involuntary servitude as a hybrid of capitalistic theory
- b. Residual results of commodifying involuntary servitude
- c. Potential exposure of market specialization
- d. Complication of supply and demand involving a global economy

VII. Conclusions

- a. The ramifications of inconsistent economic and philosophic ideologies
- b. Lessons learned from emphasizing market efficiencies and profit
- c. Final contemplations and closing comments

Supplemental Readings

O'Sullivan, John, L. "White Slavery." The United States Magazine, and Democratic Review, September 1842.

William L. Garrison speech at the New England Anti-Slavery Convention, Boston, Massachusetts, May 31, 1855.

Frederick Douglass Speech to the Scottish Anti-Slavery Society, Glasgow, Scotland, March 26, 1860.

Several in the class are having a tough time finding the readings I referenced in the outline. I was able to locate the John O'Sullivan piece on the Hathi Trust Digital Library (which I understand has limited availability for guests, but should provide access), this is the correct site for access:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=coo.31924080782133&view=1up&seq=274>

<https://www.hathitrust.org>

The Frederick Douglas speech is available at:

<https://www.blackpast.org/tag/speech-time-frame-1801-to-1860/>

And the Williams L. Garrison speech can be found by pasting:

<http://fair-use.org/the-liberator/1855/06/15/on-the-dissolution-of-the-union>