Eng273.01w: Lives in Slavery
Dr. Gabriel Cervantes, Fall 2009
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Meetings: MWF 10:10-11:00
Office Hours (in 422 Benson hall): MW 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

Course site: log into http://oak.vanderbilt.edu
On Twitter: http://twitter.com/livesinslavery (dynamic course communication)

Description

A primary goal of abolition campaigns in Britain and the United States was to demonstrate the great costs of keeping human beings in bondage and treating them as property. Life stories of slaves and (to a lesser extent) of reformers and persons involved in the slave trade proved to be among the most powerful evidence to this end. The success of these campaigns helped bring an end to slavery and also changed the way people thought about personal narratives as evidence of injustice, complicity, political agency, and freedom. Through autobiography, antislavery poetry, fictional memoirs, historical novels, and film, this course will examine how African slavery and its abolition transformed a host of biographical genres from the mid-eighteenth century to the twentieth. We will consider the documentary role of such texts, as well as the way narrative techniques constitute memory and how sentimental rhetoric serves the cause of reform. Our writing component will focus on a process-oriented development of argumentative essays.

Schedule

[TBD] = to be distributed

1. Introduction and parables of perception

Week 1:
W 8/26  Introduction
F 8/28  Introduction to the study of representations of slavery
        Charles Chesnutt, “The Passing of Grandison” [TBD]
        Langston Hughes, “Slave on the Block” [TBD]

Week 2:
M 8/31  Parables of perception [all TBD]
W 9/2   Herman Melville, “Benito Cereno”
        Charles Chesnutt, “The Goophered Grapevine,” “Dave’s Neckless”
F 9/4   John Edgar Wideman, “Doc’s Story"
        Charles Chesnutt, “The Wife of His Youth”
        Response Paper Due
Search term

EmersonRalphW's feed:

EmersonRalphyW

Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be. - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Men love to wonder, and that is the seed of science. - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Courage consists in equality to the problem before us. - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The soul of God is poured into the world through the thoughts of men. - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The only thing grief as taught me is to know how shallow it is. - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

People only see what they are prepared to see. - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Every great and commanding movement in the annals of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm. - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

When nature has work to be done, she creates a genius to do it. - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The god of victory is said to be one-handed, but peace gives victory on both sides. - Ralph Waldo Emerson.
MY SAMPLE FEED:

livesinslavery • Amazing Grace screenings: 10/1 @ 6pm in Garland 101 and 10/4 @8pm in Buttrick 101
4:11 PM Sep 9th, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • Rhetoric of Sensibility readings (for 9/21) posted to OAK
3:21 PM Sep 8th, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • Check your email for changes to the reading schedule.
6:43 AM Sep 4th, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • Presentation schedule posted to OAK. Let me know if you didn't sign up.
12:02 AM Sep 2nd, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • For our next meeting think of Dave and the ham he is chained to as a key symbol in Chesnutt's text. What does it encode?
11:29 AM Sep 2nd, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • Next week's readings (apart from Cugoano, which you bought at the bookstore) are posted to OAK.
11:19 AM Sep 2nd, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • Grading Criteria posted to OAK under Course Documents.
4:09 PM Aug 31st, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • Next week's readings all uploaded to OAK. Enjoy!
4:01 PM Aug 28th, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • Charles Chesnutt: "Dick hoped that they would speedily inoculate him with the virus of freedom."
2:25 PM Aug 28th, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • We're moving on up! Our meetings will now be held in Buttrick 316, a much nicer and less noisy room.
1:55 PM Aug 28th, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • Melville reading are posted to OAK now!
10:09 AM Aug 28th, 2009 from web

livesinslavery • First two weeks readings going up on OAK in pdf format.
5:05 PM Aug 25th, 2009 from web
RESULTS:

my ( @livesinslavery ) writing professor twitters class updates. thank you 2009 technology. awesome.

9:10 AM Aug 31st, 2009 from web
livesinslavery  Language must be raked ...
less than 5 seconds ago from web
rake, v.²

1. To draw or drag with

†2. *trans.* To pull apart, scatter; to sweep

a1325 (c1250) Gen. & Exod. 2132 Al þat þis Coventriae 173, I xal rappe þo rebawdys and

3. *trans.* To draw or drag in a specified direction with various prepositions and adverbs.

1859 R. Thompson Gardener's Assistant 123 work

1878 Scribner's Monthly Nov. 50/2 When the hay is raked a

A. Franck Wandering Northern China xxiv. 448 When the field is

from a small space at a time and then quickly replaced.

1980

After sowing, mow the area when the seedlings reach a height

clearly use freq.: to seek out or bring to wider notice (all that

e: esp. to revive the memory of (an incident or period the

meaning.

ER Let. 23-8 Feb. (1933) 261 These wer sore arguments in his t

ner make an end of talk, but rake up everye thing that their dull

J. Foxe Against Jerome Osorius 398 The Pope..raketh uppe

1620 L. Andrewes 96 Serm.: Holy Ghost (1629) 738 But it we

persuasive to Peace & Unity 27 By raking up, and then scattering

Wilson (1863) 698 Raking up and ransacking..several articles of i

355 Ad! thoas es rakad up and tuck en be tha collar. 1775 W. M
livesinslavery • • • the secrets of slaughter-houses and infamous holes that cannot front the day, must be ransacked, to tell what negro-slavery has been.

less than 5 seconds ago from web

livesinslavery • Language must be raked • • •

about 21 hours ago from web
Language must be raked, the secrets of slaughter-houses and infamous holes that cannot front the day, must be ransacked, to tell what negro-slavery has been.