



Freedom and Slavery in American Literary Imagination

figs.wisc.edu/2019fall23

FIG 23 • Fall 2019

main class instructor: **Cherene Sherrard-Johnson**

9 credits

MAIN CLASS

English 173

Ethnic and Multicultural Literature

LINKED CLASS

Afro-American Studies 231

Introduction to Afro-American History

LINKED CLASS

Gender and Women's Studies 102

Gender, Women, and Society in Global Perspective

What does the Haitian revolution have to do with Nat Turner's and Denmark Vesey's revolts in the United States? Is science fiction an appropriate genre to examine the relationship between slavery's past and present legacies? We will examine how global conceptions of freedom and slavery shaped nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature and culture. The relationship between these

two identity-forming ideas in the political, social and cultural history of the United States has been artistically rendered, challenged, and re-invented through literature. We will explore how evolving definitions of what it meant to be enslaved informed American understandings of freedom. The organization of this course will be thematic rather than chronological; however, the majority of the works studied will address how the aftermath of slavery and the Reconstruction era affected literary and cultural productions, particularly, though not exclusively, between the Civil War and World War II.

To augment readings by authors such as Herman Melville, Harriet Jacobs, Colson Whitehead, Toni Morrison, Octavia Butler, and Frederick Douglass we will also discuss how visual culture, from Kara Walker's silhouettes to Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained*, reimagines the antebellum era by using its powerful media to engage, transform, and transmit images of the inevitably intertwined ideas of freedom and

slavery. The other classes in this FIG will supplement our analysis of these issues.

Afro-American Studies 231: "Introduction to Afro-American History" — This class provides a survey from the African beginnings to the present day. It includes analysis of the slave trade and slavery; major black figures of the past; and social, economic, and political trends within the black community.

Gender and Women's Studies 102: "Gender, Women, and Society in Global Perspective" — This introductory class provides students with an understanding of the essential concepts and methods of feminist inquiry, as well as a wide range of global women's and gender issues. When the class concludes you should be able to use the basic tools of feminist inquiry to explore how power relations based on gender, class, race, sexuality, location and ability impact the lives of others in local, national and global contexts. In addition, you should be able to use these tools to examine your own experiences and social situatedness. ●

[more on the other side](#)

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FIG 23 • Fall 2019

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am					
9:00 am					
10:00 am		AFROAMER 231 LEC 1 9:55–10:45 am		AFROAMER 231 LEC 1 9:55–10:45 am	
11:00 am				AFROAMER 231 DIS 301 11:00–11:50 am	
12:00 pm					
1:00 pm	GEN&WS 102 LEC 1 12:05–12:55 pm		GEN&WS 102 LEC 1 12:05–12:55 pm		
2:00 pm		ENGL 173 LEC 1 1:00–2:15 pm	GEN&WS 102 DIS 301 1:20–2:10 pm	ENGL 173 LEC 1 1:00–2:15 pm	
3:00 pm					
4:00 pm					
5:00 pm					
6:00 pm					

Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.

So, here's what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

- You can drop all the classes on your own at enroll.wisc.edu. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.
- After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.
- **Wednesday, September 11, 2019** is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.
- **Friday, September 13, 2019** is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.

MAIN CLASS

English 173

Ethnic and Multicultural Literature

LEC 1: TR 1:00–2:15

- Ethnic Studies
- Literature
- Elementary
- Honors Optional

credits: 3

class number: **51148**

LINKED CLASS

Afro-American Studies 231

Introduction to Afro-American History

LEC 1: TR 9:55–10:45 +

DIS 301: R 11:00–11:50

- Ethnic Studies
- Social Science
- Elementary

credits: 3

class number: **63582**

LINKED CLASS

Gender and Women's Studies 102

Gender, Women, and Society in Global Perspective

LEC 1: MW 12:05–12:55 +

DIS 301: W 1:20–2:10

- Social Science
- Elementary

credits: 3

class number: **51171**



University of Wisconsin–Madison • figs.wisc.edu

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get help from **Kari Fernholz**, assistant director
608-262-7375 • kari.fernholz@wisc.edu

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