

American Slavery and the Law Seminar
Fall, 2008

Syllabus

This seminar will meet each Monday morning in the fall semester, 1:00PM–2:50AM in room 240A. The semester is divided into two parts. The first part is led by the instructor. The second part is led by the students.

But for the week of 10/13, reading assignments for the first part will come from either Finkelman, The Law of Freedom and Bondage—a casebook or the American Slavery and the Law Supplement. In the second part students will prepare readings of up to 15 pages for each of their presentations. Readings will be given to the instructor in class a week before each student's presentation. The instructor will copy the readings and have them available for the students in the class.

The advanced assignment is American Slavery and the Law Supplement pages 1-21.

I will expect students to prepare all of the readings assigned for each class and be ready to discuss them during the class session. This is a seminar, not a lecture course.

Grades will be assigned as follows: class participation--15%, class presentation--25%, final paper--60%.

Outlines for students' papers will be due in class on September 29th. First drafts for students' papers will be due in class October 27th. Final papers will be due in class December 1st.[†]

The assignment schedule follows in the next page.

Computer use in Class:

I permit the use of computers for note-taking in class. There may be times I will ask students to look up information during the class session. Students may, at times, check a question that has come up without my asking for an answer. Computer use is not a substitute for listening and participating in class. I reserve the right to prohibit a student or students generally from computer use in class if such use has interfered with the learning process.

**AMERICAN SLAVERY AND THE LAW
FALL, 2008
ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

	<u>Hour 1</u>	<u>Hour 2</u>	
8/25	Introduction	Origins of the African Slave Trade Supp 1-21 Meet with students	
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9/8	Origins of Slavery in North America Casebook Chap. 1	Founding Fathers and Slavery Supp. 36-66 Abolition of Slavery in England Casebook 27-35	
9/15	Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade and the Illegal Slave Trade Supp. 67-123; 127-131		
9/12	Manumission of Slaves in the South Casebook 95-169		
9/29	Abolition debate in Virginia Supp. 127-141		
10/6	Criminal Law of Slavery Casebook 191-261		
10/13	Slavery, The Civil War and Emancipation Material to be Prepared		
10/20	Student 1	Student 2	Student 3
10/27	Student 4	Student 5	Student 6
11/3	Student 7	Student 8	Student 9
11/10	Student 10	Student 11	Student 12
11/17	Student 13	Student 14	Student 15
11/25	Student 16	Student 17	Student 18
12/1	Student 19	Student 20	