COURSE DETAIL

US SLAVERY AND THE LITERARY IMAGINATION
Country United Kingdom - England
Host Institution King's College London
Program(s) King's College London
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) English Comparative Literature American Studies
UCEAP Course Number 169
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title US SLAVERY AND THE LITERARY IMAGINATION
UCEAP Transcript Title US SLAVERY&LIT IMAG
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course explores the fluctuating significance of racial slavery for the development of American and African American literary tradition. It departs from investigation of the idea that particular approaches to selfhood, writing, and freedom arose from the institution of slavery and in particular grew with the slaves' forced exclusion from literacy and their distinctive relationship with Christianity. Using Uncle Tom's Cabin as a central point of reference, students look at the development of abolitionist reading publics and the role of imaginative literature in bringing about the demise of slavery. That controversial text also provides a means to consider the relationship of sentimentalism to suffering and identification as well as the problems arising from the simultaneous erasure and re-inscription of racial categories, as oppression and as emancipation. When formal slavery ended, new literary habits emerged in response to the memory of it and the need imaginatively to revisit the slave past as a means to grasp what the emergent world of civic and political freedoms might mean and involve. Other issues covered include the disputed place of imaginative writing in the educational bodies that were created for ex-slaves and their descendants, the issues of genre, gender, and polyvocality in abolitionist texts, the problems of representation that arose in the plantation's litany of extremity and suffering, and the contemporary significance of slavery in the culture of African American particularity.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
5AAEB064

Host Institution Course Title
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Host Institution Course Details
https://www.kcl.ac.uk/abroad/module-options/search?keyword=5AAEB064

Host Institution Campus

King's College London
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department English
Course Last Reviewed 2022-2023

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