

Lives of the Enslaved

Daina Ramey Berry

University of California, Santa Barbara

Course Description

This History U course is a study of the lives of enslaved people. Through new perspectives on an eclectic range of primary sources, we will center the experiences of enslaved men, women, and children rather than viewing them as objects in other people's narratives. The course will also challenge students to think about the silences embedded in dominant narratives of American history. The topics featured in the lectures include:

- The WPA and the Slave Narrative Collection
- Slavery in the Chesapeake region
- Slavery in the North
- Slavery in the Deep South
- Slavery in the West
- The Resistance and Resilience of Enslaved People
- Gender and Sexuality in Slavery Studies

Led by Daina Ramey Berry, the Michael Douglas Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a guest appearance by Maurie McInnis, the sixth president of Stony Brook University.

Lecture Videos

This course consists of approximately 12 hours of instruction presented by Professor Berry, split into 23 lecture videos ranging from 25 minutes to 35 minutes in length. Below are the lecture titles and major themes as identified by Professor Berry. The videos provide the content needed to answer the course quizzes.

1. "Understanding Soul Values and the Process of Studying the Enslaved" (2 videos)
2. "Engaging Slave Narratives" (2 videos)
3. "Slavery in the Chesapeake" (2 videos)

4. “Slavery at Thomas Jefferson’s University with Maurie McInnis” (2 videos)
5. “Slavery in the North” (2 videos)
6. “Slavery in the North continued” (1 video)
7. “Slavery in the Deep South” (2 videos)
8. “Slavery in the Deep South continued: Auctions and Markets” (2 videos)
9. “Slavery in the West” (2 videos)
10. “Resistance and Resilience in Urban and Rural Environments” (2 videos)
11. “Gender and Sexuality in Slavery Studies” (2 videos)
12. “Synthesizing Slavery Studies” (2 videos)

Note: Course lectures were originally recorded for the Gilder Lehrman Institute’s online graduate program. You can disregard references to assignments, other coursework, and the use of content in classrooms in the videos. They are not part of the History U program.

Resources

Select the Resources link for information about the primary and secondary resources, videos, and websites referred to in the course. History U participants are not required to read or purchase print materials. All quiz questions are drawn from the lectures.

Quizzes

The purpose of the quizzes is to review your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures. No outside reading is required to answer the questions successfully. After watching the videos for the lectures, select and complete the corresponding quiz to test your knowledge and qualify for the Certificate of Completion.

Certificate of Completion

After you finish watching all of the lectures, score an 80% or higher on each quiz, and complete the feedback survey, you will be able to download your certificate.

Please email historyschool@gilderlehrman.org with any questions.