

Eng273.01w: Lives in Slavery

Dr. Gabriel Cervantes, Fall 2009
gabriel.cervantes@vanderbilt.edu

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/livesinlavery> (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

I. Introduction and parables of perception

Week 1:	Introduction
W 8/26	Introduction to the study of representations of slavery
F 8/28	Charles Chesnutt, "The Passing of Grandison" [TBD] Langston Hughes, "Slave on the Block" [TBD]
Week 2:	Parables of perception [all TBD]
M 8/31	Herman Melville, "Benito Cereno"
W 9/2	Charles Chesnutt, "The Goophered Grapevine," "Dave's Neckliss"
F 9/4	John Edgar Wideman, "Doc's Story" Charles Chesnutt, "The Wife of His Youth"

Response Paper Due

Eng273.01w: Lives in Slavery

Dr. Gabriel Cervantes, Fall 2009
gabriel.cervantes@vanderbilt.edu
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/livesin slavery> (dynamic course communication)



Charles Chesnut, The wife of his youth
Response Paper Due

Search term



hilltwnfamilies NY Public Library's 100 Favorite Children's Books: <http://ow.ly/15bxK> #books #literature
37 minutes ago from HootSuite



bkwrksevents Interesting essay: Is a global audience dulling our literature? <http://bit.ly/duS78d>
39 minutes ago from TweetDeck



kampuskonnnect Vijay Kumar Das replied to Prithwis Mukerjee's discussion 'Assignment : Literature Review' in the group BM60064: V... <http://bit.ly/9KE2LD>
39 minutes ago from twitterfeed



5rSoftware Just Viewed: The Norton Introduction to Literature (Shorter Edi <http://www.5r.com.au/039392615X/rd>)
39 minutes ago from API



MartinErikRock http://www.theonion.com/content/video/pragues_franz_kafka_international: one for the literature nerds.
41 minutes ago from web



OliveTonic @fupeezy Yeah you'll probably like it so I say get the hardback if anything it's a beautiful artbook. As literature I liked 3/4ths of it
41 minutes ago from TweetDeck



freshalina @NecoleBitchie "These names aren't insulting, for they're not true" sounds like hoe shit literature from the 1800's.
43 minutes ago from web



summer_noel so i almost drooled all over my literature book, i shoul probably wake up. haha
43 minutes ago from txt



helloimstephi @muffins817 I have tests in math, history, writing, spanish, and literature :(
44 minutes ago from Echofon



DCShoutOuts Erica R. from NY: "I helped because I'm a strong believer in Literature & Writing education." <http://bit.ly/aGV6q6>
about 1 hour ago from Twitter4J



DiscoverPsy New blog post: how difficult is Alevel English Literature? <http://bit.ly/9CkTHs>
about 1 hour ago from Twitter Tools

EmersonRalphW's feed:



EmersonRalphW

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

about 21 hours ago from API

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

4:30 PM Feb 8th from API

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

4:16 PM Feb 7th from API

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

4:12 PM Feb 6th from API

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

4:56 PM Feb 5th from API

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

4:58 PM Feb 4th from API

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

4:20 PM Feb 3rd from API

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

4:48 PM Feb 2nd from API

The god of victory is said to be one-handed, but peace gives victory on both sides. - Ralph Waldo Emerson. #quote

4:02 PM Feb 1st from API

MY SAMPLE FEED:



livesinslavery Amazing Grace screenings: 10/1 @ 6pm in Garland 101 and 10/4 @6pm 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.

8:40 AM Sep 4th, 2009 from web



livesinslavery Presentation schedule posted to OAK. Let me know if you didn't sign up.

12:02 PM 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 Chesnut's text. What does it encode?

11:20 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 Chesnut: "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 ([@livesinlavery](#)) 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



livesinslavery Language must be raked ...

less than 5 seconds ago from web

rake, v.²

Pronunciation

Spellings

Etym

I. To draw or drag with

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

1325 (c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* 2132 Al ðat ðis
Coventriae 173, I xal rappe þo rebawdys and

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

... any moss. **1859** R. THOMPSON *Garaener's Assistant* 123 w.c.
... **1878** *Scribner's Monthly* Nov. 50/2 When the hay is raked a
A. FRANCK *Wandering Northern China* xxiv. 448 When the field
... from a small space at a time and then quickly replaced. **1980**
... tor, a square £100 counter on to red to restore his loss. But it to
After sowing, mow the area when the seedlings reach a height

... rly use freq.: to seek out or bring to wider notice (all the
... e: esp. to revive the memory of (an incident or period th
... leaning.

ER *Let.* 23-8 Feb. (1933) 261 These wer sore arguments in his t
... er make an end of talk, but rake up everye thing that their dullth
& J. Foxe *Against Jerome Osorius* 398 The Pope..raketh uppe
1620 L. ANDREWES 96 *Serm.: Holy Ghost* (1629) 738 But it we
... suasive to Peace & Unity 27 By raking up, and then scattering
... ilson (1863) 698 Raking up and ransacking..several articles of i
355 Ad! thoa es rakad up and tuck en be tha collar. **1775** W. M

DRAFT

us



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 slaughterhouses and infamous holes that cannot front the day, must be ransacked, to tell what negro-slavery has been.

