

Newberry Library
Undergraduate Seminar
2016

To learn more about the Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar, or to apply, please get in touch with the contact person on your campus. Applicants are required to submit an application form, an up-to-date college transcript, an essay (500 words, maximum) explaining why they want to take the course and what they hope to gain from it, and a recent research paper completed for a college course (preferably with the instructor's comments and grade). Individual universities may have additional requirements.

DePaul

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Loyola

Professor Elizabeth Tandy Shermer,
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The Newberry Library, an independent research library located on Chicago's near north side, has been free and open to the public since its founding in 1887. The Newberry's holdings number more than 1.5 million volumes, 15,000 linear feet of manuscript pages, and 600,000 maps. The collections concern the civilizations of Western Europe and the Americas from the late Middle Ages to the early twentieth century. For more information on the Newberry's holdings, visit www.newberry.org/core-collections.



From the February 1836 issue of *The Anti-Slavery Record*.
Newberry call number H 5836 .0018

The Newberry Library

Research and Academic Programs
60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610

www.newberry.org
phone: 312.255.3666

BREAK THE CHAINS
Revolt, Rebellion, and
Resistance in the World
of Atlantic Slavery

The Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar

This seminar is a unique opportunity for Chicago-area undergraduates to explore the humanities at one of America's foremost research libraries. Taught by a team of instructors from sponsoring universities, the seminar is offered each year from January to May and carries the credit of two courses. Seminar topics change each year, but all are related to the Newberry's holdings. Each class is limited to 20 participants who pursue common assignments and individual research projects.

About the Instructors

JOHN DONOGHUE is associate professor of history at Loyola University Chicago, specializing in the early modern Atlantic world. He is the author of *Fire under the Ashes: An Atlantic History of the English Revolution* (University of Chicago Press, 2013) and co-editor, with Evelyn Jennings, of *Building the Atlantic Empires: Unfree Labor and Imperial States in the Political Economy of Capitalism, ca. 1500-1914* (Brill, forthcoming 2015). His new book project is tentatively entitled *The Life and Times of Captain Morgan, or, A Short History of Outlaws, Empires, and the Bloody Birth of Piratical Capitalism*.

JEFFREY GLOVER is associate professor of English at Loyola University Chicago. He is the author of *Paper Sovereigns: Anglo-Native Treaties and the Law of Nations, 1604-1664* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014) and co-editor with Matt Cohen of *Colonial Mediascapes: Sensory Worlds of the Early Americas* (University of Nebraska Press, 2014). His next book is about the laws of war in the encounter between Europeans and Native Americans.

BREAK THE CHAINS

Revolt, Rebellion, and Resistance in the World of Atlantic Slavery

January 12 through May 5, 2016, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-5 pm

The course will meet at the Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago.

From the early 1500s until the abolition of slavery in the U.S. in 1865, the Western Hemisphere witnessed hundreds of slave revolts. Slave rebellions toppled the colonial government in Haiti and disrupted the flow of slaves, money, and goods in many other places. Slaves also engaged in untold quiet acts of resistance that challenged colonial power and asserted human dignity. Slave rebellions gave rise to some of the first multicultural communities in the New World, inspired the abolitionist movement, and saw the creation of the first anti-racist declaration of national independence (Haiti, 1804).

Drawing on the Newberry's significant collections in Atlantic materials, as well as on the most recent scholarship in history, archaeology, and literary studies, "Break the Chains" will explore the many varieties of slave resistance in the Atlantic world. Encountering primary documents from Europe, Africa, and especially the Caribbean, students will investigate the major rebellions that shook the foundations of the slave economy. They will also study the writings of major figures such as Olaudah Equiano and Frederick Douglass, who focused international attention on the plight of slaves through printed publication and tireless activism. In addition to examining groundbreaking events and writers, students will look at a variety of materials from the archive of slavery (planters' writings, slave ship logs, media coverage of fugitive slaves) with an eye toward revealing the many small ways in which slaves resisted.

In weekly class meetings that will discuss a common set of readings, the course will explore the significant sites of resistance in the Atlantic world, from slave ships and plantation fields to print shops and parliaments. Topics will include revolt among maritime laborers; the creation of multicultural communities among enslaved African and Indigenous people; Caribbean slave revolts in the era of democratic revolution in the U.S. and France; the relationship between slave resistance and the abolitionist movement; slave conspiracies in the decades before the U.S. Civil War; and the influence of slave rebellions on the philosophy, music, and literature of the period. Throughout, we will consider whether slave resistance represents an alternative history for the ideas of freedom now enshrined in the laws of Western states.

Each student will also develop an independent research project. The project will be guided by the instructors and by the Newberry staff, who will assist the students in exploring the library's extensive holdings. Although the course will focus on slave resistance, seminar participants will be encouraged to inquire into any aspect of Atlantic labor economies. A symposium at the end of the course will give students the opportunity to present their projects to the Newberry community. Proficiency in a language other than English is not required, though students will have the opportunity to pursue research in other languages.