IMAGES OF MASTER AND SLAVE
IN WESTERN CULTURE
(BLS 352, LEH 300, PHI 361)
Spring 2007

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Office hours: 10:30 – 11:30 AM Tuesdays; 11:00 – 12:00 Thursdays, and by appointment
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(I) Course Description

This course will examine some of the ways in which images of masters and slaves have been used for various purposes in Western culture. We will begin with a look at the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle's treatment of natural slavery, which was one of the first attempts to theorize the nature of slavery in what later became Western culture. Images of masters and slaves were taken up later in more metaphorical forms in the work of the 19th century German philosophers Hegel (master and slave dialectic), Nietzsche (master morality and slave morality) and Marx (workers as wage slaves). I say these accounts are metaphorical because what is missing from them all is the experiences of actual slaves, in particular the experiences of Africans who were enslaved by Europeans in Europe and the European colonies. We will then look at the experiences of actual slaves, and how images of actual slaves were used both to support and oppose slavery. We will end with a look at how the theories (particularly those of Hegel and Marx) and the history of actual slavery converged in the making of the Black Radical Tradition, which included scholars such as W.E.B. Du Bois, C.L.R. James, and Richard Wright.

(II) Required Texts and Readings

        TBA. Access to the Blackboard Website for this course is REQUIRED (see other side for instructions on how to access Blackboard). Use of your Lehman e-mail account is also REQUIRED.

(III) Work for the Course

        Work for the course will include a midterm exam (25% of grade), a final exam (25% of grade), and a 15-page paper in two drafts (worth a total of 40% of grade). Students will also be graded for participation and attendance (10% of final grade).

(IV) Important Grading Notices

        Students must complete all assignments to pass the course.

        Students with special needs should see me to discuss possible accommodations.

        Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. All work turned in must be your own. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will be failed for the course.

HOW TO LOGON TO BLACKBOARD

By Robert Whittaker, http://www.lehman.edu/faculty/rwhittaker/lol/

You get to Blackboard via the CUNY Portal: *DO NOT USE* **the old Lehman Blackboard username, password, and location!**

Go to www.cuny.edu the CUNY Portal and click on "Log-in" (left side)

If you have not activated your CUNY Portal account, click on "Register now!" to activate your CUNY Portal account:

• Click on Student, and then fill in the Last Name, Social Security Number (no hyphens), Birth Date (mm/dd/yyyy), click NEXT, CONFIRM the information.

• You will get a USERNAME and you will be asked for a PASSWORD. Make a note of the USERNAME and keep a note of the PASSWORD you create. **If you forget these it is complicated to reenter your account!**

§ If you receive an error message (like "One or more fields below did not exactly match the data we have in our records. Please try again."), try again.

§ If you still cannot confirm your account USERNAME and PASSWORD, follow the instructions at this site:

§ *Questions, Answers, and Troubleshooting***:**
http://www.lehman.edu/vpstud/registrar/cunyportal/cunyportalfaq.html

Enter your USERNAME and PASSWORD, and click on Log In to get to your own CUNY Portal page – My Page.

On My Page, click on Blackboard, which will bring up the "Check In to Blackboard" Page
o You may have to reenter your USERNAME and PASSWORD again;
o This Verification page can be accessed directly (without accessing the CUNY Portal): go to https://blackboard-doorway.cuny.edu/

On the "Check In to Blackboard" Page, click on Student on the Lehman College line

This will bring up your Lehman College opening Blackboard page:
• You should find your current semester classes listed
• All your classes are listed, for all of 2004, beginning with spring semester. They are alphabetical by Course Alpha Code, e.g. ENG, POL, SOC.
• If the class has been activated you can click on the title to go to that course. Courses that are NOT activated are followed by the comment *(unavailable)*.
• Your instructor will activate the Blackboard site for your course, if it is to be used.