Legacies of American Slavery

Reckoning with the Past

FACULTY SEMINAR
June 19–23, 2022 • New Haven, Connecticut

DIRECTED BY
DAVID W. BLIGHT

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF
Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom (2018)

STERLING PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN HISTORY
Yale University

DIRECTOR
Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at the MacMillan Center at Yale

Deadline for Nominations
March 15, 2022

This seminar is offered as part of the Council of Independent Colleges Legacies of American Slavery initiative, in collaboration with the Gilder Lehrman Center.
Seminar Description

Over four intensive days at Yale University, faculty members from CIC member institutions will explore the multiple legacies of slavery in the United States. They will consider specific ways to apply the content of the seminar to their teaching, research, and public-facing programs.

Readings will include speeches by Frederick Douglass; W. E. B. Du Bois, “The Propaganda of History” (1935); Nathan Huggins, *Black Odyssey* (1977); essays by Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, and Ta-Nehisi Coates; poetry by Gwendolyn Brooks, James Weldon Johnson, and others; and a digest of recent op-eds and essays in the press that address relevant issues of public commemoration, racial violence, health inequities, mass incarceration, voting rights, racial violence, and other legacies. Members of the seminar will be invited to propose additional readings they have used in their own courses or research.

The seminar will include a visit to Yale’s magnificent Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library to view original sources and documentary treasures. Participants will also have an opportunity to conduct individual research in the Yale libraries for two days beyond the end of the seminar.

About Legacies of American Slavery

The past and present collide in the most divisive and compelling of American questions: How have slavery and racism formed the central thread of our national history, and how do they continue to shape our contemporary predicaments? Americans struggle to commemorate, to learn from, to face, and to repair the afterlives of slavery that still swirl around us today. CIC and the Gilder Lehrman Center developed the Legacies of American Slavery project to help independent colleges, their students, and their communities face this challenge.

Legacies can be rooted in ideas or emotions; they can be political, economic, legal, social, or cultural; they can be expressed—and challenged—in stone and bronze, in the power of place, and in contested historical memories. For a deeper look, read David Blight’s essay, “What Is a Legacy of Slavery?,” and review the list of nine key themes that have been used to organize the CIC initiative at [www.cic.edu/LegaciesOfSlavery](http://www.cic.edu/LegaciesOfSlavery). CIC especially encourages nominations of faculty members whose research or teaching focus on one of the nine themes.
Eligibility and Logistics

Up to 20 participants will be selected by competitive nomination. Eligibility is limited to full-time faculty members of any academic rank who teach in history or a related field at an institutional member of the Council of Independent Colleges. The seminar will meet at Yale University between Sunday, June 19, and Thursday, June 23, 2022. Housing will be provided on campus. There is no cost to participate: lodging, most meals, and seminar materials are supported by a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Participants or their institutions are expected to arrange transportation to and from New Haven, Connecticut, but CIC will reimburse up to $500 in travel-related expenses.

Participants proposing qualifying projects will have an opportunity to extend their residency in campus housing for two additional days (i.e., departing on Saturday, June 25) to conduct individual research in the Yale libraries. Lodging and library access will be provided during this period. Nominees should use their personal statement to describe a specific research question or task to be accomplished during an extended residency. (Note that access to the Yale libraries will be contingent upon the university’s current public health restrictions.)

Health and Safety

CIC is committed to the health and safety of all program participants and their communities. As a result, we require all participants in this seminar to be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations. (For this purpose, “up to date” means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccinations, including any booster doses for which they are eligible.) Both CIC and Yale University will require proof of vaccination status. Participants will also be required to wear face masks during all indoor seminar activities (except when eating or drinking) and to abide by all local and institutional health guidelines that may be in effect when the seminar meets.

Nomination Process

Faculty members must be nominated by their institution's chief academic officer. Institutions may only nominate one faculty member. Nominations must be submitted online at www.cic.edu/LegaciesSeminar22. Each nomination package must include:

1. A nomination letter from the chief academic officer explaining how the nominee and the institution will benefit from participation in this seminar.
2. The nominee's curriculum vitae (a “short version” is preferred).
3. The nominee's statement of interest (no more than two single-spaced pages).
4. OPTIONAL: Description of a research task to be pursued in the Yale libraries (see below; no more than one single-spaced page).
The statement of interest should address the following questions: Why do you want to participate in the seminar? Are you especially interested in one or more of the Legacies project themes—and why? How will participation in the seminar support your teaching, research, and/or public-facing activities in the community? What other benefits do you anticipate for the campus and local community?

If you would like to extend your residency to conduct individual research, please include as part of your statement of interest a description of the specific research task—whether a scholarly project, a new or updated course, or a public facing program—to be accomplished. We strongly encourage you to identify particular collections of interest at the Beinecke Library or other Yale repositories.

Please submit all nomination materials online by March 15, 2022.

CIC will notify the selected participants in mid-April.

Questions

For questions about the faculty seminar or nomination process, contact Philip M. Katz, CIC director of projects, at (202) 466-7230 or pkatz@cic.edu.