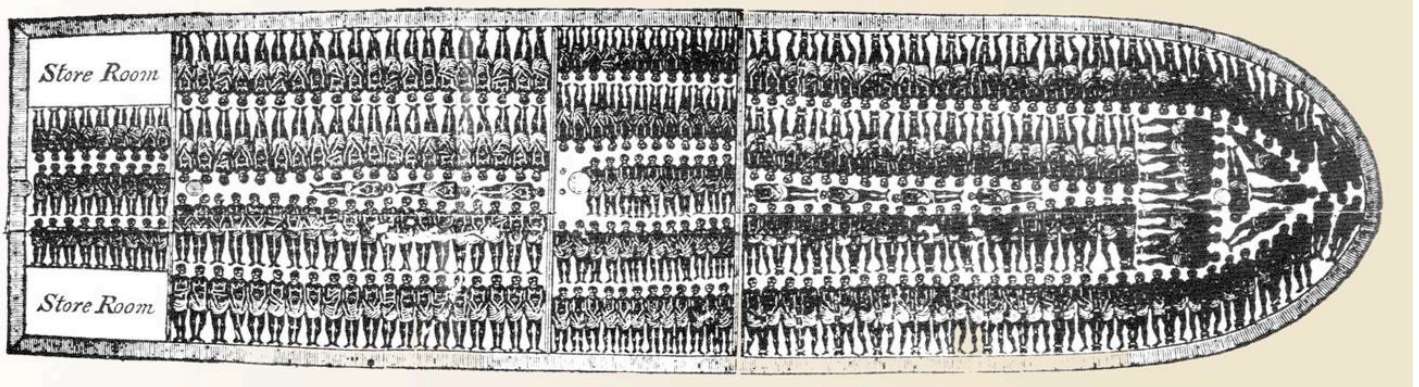


University of Miami
Africana Studies Program
Fall 2009

AAS 290: Special Topics A History of the Atlantic Slave Trade



Instructor: Marten Brien

Section P: T-R 11:00 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF THIS COURSE:

This course is intended as a broad look at the emergence and eventual destruction of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and its effects on both the Old World and the New. Using a variety of sources, we will examine the traditions and existing system of unfree labor that allowed for the development of one of the greatest forced migrations in the history of man. We will look at the economics of the slave trade, discovering how the emergence of the "Triangular Trade" affected the economies of Europe, Africa, and the Americas. In addition, we will learn about the human aspect of the trade; tracing the voyages made from the interior of Africa to a variety of destinations in the Americas over the "Middle Passage," we will learn about both the mechanics of the trade and the socio-cultural consequences. We will attempt to discover the many ways in which those subjected to a life in bondage found ways not only to preserve their cultural heritage but also resisted their masters. Ultimately, of course, we will trace the slow demise of the Atlantic slave trade, to finally turn our gaze to the effects it has had on the societies it touched.