

OPTIONAL BONUS CREDIT ESSAY ASSIGNMENT FOR COURSE FINAL EXAMINATION

For all History 1301 United States to 1877 courses

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- This is an optional extra credit assignment attached to the final examination for the course.
- Completion of the assignment can see the addition of a maximum possible score of twenty (20) points to the final examination score before it is converted to the assigned percentage for the semester grade.
- The technical requirements (formatting, font size, *et al.*) are the same as they are for the course term paper. Refer to them on the course page.
- This assignment is to be based **solely** on your own written observations and efforts. Do **not** use any **film reviews** or **documentary reviews** or other external resources; any use of such material will result in an **automatic cancellation** of this assignment's submission!
- The due date for this optional assignment is on the day of the final examination where you will **attach** the hard-copy to your final examination answer sheet/bluebook. The soft – copy is to be **uploaded** to the specific folder on the turnitin.com website before **the start of class** on the day of the **final examination**.
- **Both versions** are required for the submission to be **considered complete**.
- As this is an optional assignment **no late submissions** will be accepted, under any circumstances. No exceptions!

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Write a **5 – 6 page** review of any 1 of the following 2 (film or documentary) on topics covered in the course on U.S. history to 1877
 - You will not need a title/bibliographic page
 - Do not fall below or exceed the range set for the length of this review as this may lead to penalties!
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1) *Belle*, directed by Amma Assante (2014; Los Angeles, California: 20th Century Fox, 2015, 100 minutes), DVD.

An eighteenth - century historical drama depicting the life of Dido Elizabeth Belle, the child of a British officer and an African mother, who grows up in Britain in the household of her uncle, William Murray, Earl of Mansfield (a situation, noted by the historian Gerald C. Horne, as ‘unthinkable’ in British North America at the time). Based on true historical events, the film depicts the impact the young woman had on her uncle, who, as Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, would deal decisive blows against the institution of slavery which also had consequences for the relationship between Great Britain & her settler-colonies in British North America.

2) *Frederick Douglass and the White Negro*, directed by John J. Doherty (2008; Dublin, Republic of Ireland: Camel Productions Ltd, 2008, 52 minutes), DVD.

“I can truly say, I have spent some of the happiest moments of my life since landing in this country,” Frederick Douglass wrote after arriving in Ireland after his dramatic escape from bondage in the United States of America. Yet, the genuine warmth, friendship and goodwill with which Douglass was received by Irish people in Ireland did not always cross over across the Atlantic into the complex racial divide of the United States, leading to at times a fractured and tragically violent relationship between the Irish-American and African-American communities; culminating for instance in one of the worst race riots directed against African- Americans in the United States.
