Discovering the Crafts on the Underground Railroad:

A 3-Week JanTerm Experience for Westminster Students in Atlanta, Georgia

Week 1: Discovering the Underground Railroad

Day 1 - Defining the Underground Railroad ... What we know and what we don't.

AM: Look at statistics for runaways and runaway ads and petitions in papers.

Introduce William and Ellen Craft with William Still's Notes in *The Underground Rail Road*

Assign "Kidnapping and Resistance" by L. Horton

Option: "Massachusetts Abolitionists Document the Slave Experience" by Robert Hall

PM: Bus downtown to visit locations of possible slave auction blocks (5 Points and Atlanta Underground) and Whitehall Street ... Show famous 1864 picture

Georgia Historical Society or UGA Prof Pratt to provide a tour?

Day 2 - Abolitionism

AM: Discuss the Underground Railroad in New England - Fact and Fiction

Show timeline overview of slavery and abolition in New England

Discuss " Kidnapping and Resistance" by L. Horton

Note the active role of abolitionists by legal and illegal/active and passive means

Focus on the Crafts and their time in Massachusetts

Discuss William Lloyd Garrison, *The Liberator* facsimiles,andGarrison's commentary on the Craft story

PM*: 12 Years a Slave* (whole film or excerpts) and discussion

Assign Chap. 1-5, *Moby Dick*

Day 3 - Maritime Whaling Culture

AM: Discuss *Moby Dick* chapters 1-5.

Why does Ishmael go to sea? What are his reasons?

How does Ishmael describe New Bedford? How is it a unique place in America?

What are his initial impressions of Queequeg?

Read and discuss Frederick Douglass Description of New Bedford

PM: Look at New Bedford Whaling Crew Lists, Protection Papers, New Bedford 1807 and other multiethnic maritime paintings

Assign "New Bedford and Maritime Culture" by Kathryn Grover

Day 4

AM: Discuss Grover's assertions about New Bedford, Maritime Culture, and Abolitionists

Listen to Jeff Bolster Lecture ("The African American Maritime Experience"--specifically part 2,3, and 5) from the Mystic Educator's site: http://educators.mysticseaport.org/scholars/lectures/african\_american\_experience/

Highlight key insights from "The Way of the Ship" chapter from *Black Jacks*

PM: Select passages from *Moby Dick ...*

For small group close-reading ...

Chap 16 The Ship, Quakers Bildad and Peleg

Chap 26-27 Knights and Squires ... Worldly Mates and Harpooneers

What does Moby Dick tell us about whaling as we have looked at it historically? Note consistencies and inconsistencies.

Assign *Moby Dick,* Chap. 6-10

Day 5

AM: Discuss Ishmael's lesson.

What does Ishmael learn?

How does he come to accept Queequeg? Why does he? Look closely at the passages.

How is this a rite-of-passage for the whaling ship?

PM: Note a few famous fugitive slaves who subsisted or escaped by boat.

Return to William and Ellen Craft ... Assign *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*

Imagination & Empathy Journals Assigned

We will write an entry every day. Some days we will merely reflect on what we've seen and learned and other times we will take on imaginary voices of the past. I want you to write a few paragraphs each day. This can be exploratory writing; in other words, you don't always have to know exactly where you are going with this assignment. Write to explore your thoughts and feelings which might not be completely processed, but also consider striking facts or ideas that you encounter along the way. When we return home, we will share passages from our journals together.

Week 2 - Massachusetts

Sunday Night - Flight to Boston ... Journal Entry - Expectations

Monday AM: Black Heritage Trail/Beacon Hill

Park Street Church ... Reading William Lloyd Garrison's first speech if possible

Visitor Center

Shaw/54th Regiment Memorial

Middleton House

Phillips School

Smith House

Charles Street Meeting House

Hayden Lewis House

Coburn House

Smith Court

Abdiel Smith School

African Meeting House

Note places where the Crafts stayed and were pursued in Boston and comment on the Craft narrative along the tour

Monday PM: William Lloyd Garrison House

Journal Entry - Impressions

Bus to New Bedford ...

Tuesday AM: The Docks, Mariner's House, Seaman's Bethel, Whaling Museum

Tuesday PM: Kendall Research Center - Primary Docs ... Look at *New Bedford Medley*, Whaling Protection Papers, Crew Lists

Journal Entry - Imagining the Maritime Underground

Dinner and Discussion/Reading

Dinner at the Black Whale/Waterfront Grill

Wednesday AM: UGRR tour to Nathan and Polly Johnson's House with New Bedford Historical Society, Henry Box Brown Experience ... Walking tour of Whaling Mansions?

Stop by Liberty Hall location where the Crafts once spoke

Wednesday PM: Bus through Fall River, Taunton, to Worcester and eventually Concord

Liberty Farm ... Journal Entry - Imagining the Underground

Singing the Underground Railroad on the bus or on site using Kim and Reggie Harris Materials

Planning Tableau with William and Ellen Craft Narrative on bus

Assign "Civil Disobedience" by Henry D. Thoreau

Thursday AM: The Wayside and Tour

Thursday PM: Walden Pond and Sleepy Hollow Cemetery

Discuss "Civil Disobedience" and perform tableaus from the Craft story at Walden Site

Journal Entry - Impressions

Friday AM: Bus to Boston

Friday PM: The Jackson House, Tappan-Philbrick House, and Mount Auburn Cemetery

Note more locations of the Crafts

Journal Entry - Impressions

Saturday - Flight Home - Conclusions in Journals

Week 3 - Retrospective

Day 1 - AM: Sharing from Journals ...

PM: *Traces of the Trade* and Discussion

Day 2 - All day: Bus to National Archives in Morrow, Georgia to look for the Crafts

Research in groups?

Focus on Southern Newspapers on the escape in Dec 1848-1849, the pursuit in Massachusetts in 1850 after the Fugitive Slave Law, and eye Crafts return in 1870

Day 3 - All day: Continue research at Fulton County Library, looking for the Crafts

Day 4 - AM Share findings. Discuss what to do with what we've learned.

Introduce Modern Day Slavery ... Free the Slaves/Disposable People/Kevin Bales website

PM: Discuss possible historical marker, possibly a means to bring slavery to Atlanta's attention?

Write proposals?

Assign "What the Fourth of July Means to a Black Man" by Frederick Douglass

Day 5 - AM: Discuss Frederick Douglass's speech

PM: Action Plan