Of the estimated eleven million slaves forcefully transported from Africa to the New World between 1500 and 1870, at least two thirds ended up settling in Latin America, building new lives under bondage in places like Brazil, Argentina, Cuba, and Peru. Africans and their descendants resisted, reshaped, and eventually helped overthrow racial slavery through a long and protracted process culminating in Brazilian abolition in 1888. This course explores the history of slave emancipation from the point of view of the enslaved. Placing black men and women at the center of struggles for freedom in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, we will focus on individual and collective strategies deployed by them to navigate a political landscape characterized by the rise of global capitalism, abolitionist discourses, and popular struggles over rights to citizenship. We start with the world created by the Haitian Revolution in the late eighteenth century, explore the multidirectional flows of black activism all over the Atlantic, and conclude at the dawn of the twentieth century with a discussion of the meanings of freedom in post-emancipation societies. Some of the topics covered by this course include: slave organizing and strategies, warfare and emancipation, African ethnicity, literacy, and family life. Although focusing on Latin America, this course looks at a broad range of black experiences in comparative perspective, including the United States.