

THE AMERICAN SOUTH

History 3090 – Spring 2011 – MWF 2:30-3:20 – LeConte 230

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Office Hours: M/W 1-2 pm

“The past is not dead. In fact, it’s not even past.” – William Faulkner

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to provide you with a broad base of knowledge about the history of the American South – from economic, political, and social issues to music, art, and literature. We will begin the semester pondering the definition of the “South,” and end the semester discussing if such a distinction still exists today.

CLASSROOM DECORUM

Computers ARE ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED from the classroom. Cell phones ARE ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED from class. Do NOT turn your cell phone on vibrate – turn it OFF. If your phone rings or vibrates, or I catch you text messaging, you will immediately be asked to leave the classroom – and it *will* affect your participation grade. You also may be required to come and speak with me in person about a particular test or paper. Failure or refusal to meet with me may result in a W or WF in the course.

All students will be expected to behave in a manner consistent with what I consider an appropriate and non-threatening learning environment. I reserve the right to withdraw (with a W or a WF, depending on the student’s grade at the time) a student from the course if they behave in a fashion that (in my professional opinion) impairs or disrupts the learning environment of others in the class. It’s all quite simple: just demonstrate respect for your fellow students.

WITHDRAWING

Students withdrawing from the class up until first exam will receive a W. Students withdrawing after the first exam will receive a W or WF depending on their grade at the point of withdrawal. The instructor reserves the right to withdraw students who habitually miss lectures or discussions, fail to turn in assignments or take exams, or who habitually act in an inappropriate or disrespectful manner.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with university policy as written in *A Culture of Honesty: Policies and Procedures* available at: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>. It is imperative that you familiarize yourself with this policy if you have not already done so. **Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated.** Any work that does not comply with the university academic honesty code will receive a zero (0) grade. The student in question will at a minimum be referred to the Honor Council. The consequences for what I consider significant plagiarism on a paper or cheating on an exam will be suspension or expulsion.

GRADES

First Exam: 15%

Second Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Paper: 20%

Participation and Presentation: 20%

Grades are based on a 100 point scale: A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 88-89; B 83-87; B- 80-82; C+ 78-79; C 73-77; C- 70-72; D+ 68-69; D 63-67; D- 60-62; F below 60.

PARTICIPATION AND PRESENTATION (20%)

You are adults. You can choose whether or not to come to class. However, 20 percent of your grade is based on in-class participation. If you are often absent, the absolute highest grade you can make in this class is somewhere in the 80s (and that's assuming you make a 100 on everything else!). Part of your participation grade will be based upon an in class presentation. I will tell you more about this assignment the first week of class.

Student athletes or others who will be traveling on school-related business need to furnish official written documentation by the second week of the semester. Please also let me know during the first two weeks of class if you have any other extenuating circumstances that may affect your participation or attendance (examples: if you are in the military, are a parent, or work more than a part time job).

PAPER (20%)

Twenty percent of your total grade will be based on a 12-15 page historiographical essay on the "southern" topic of your choice (with my approval). You will be required to meet with me to discuss your papers after first submitting a proposal and bibliography.

EXAMS

There will be two mid-term exams and a final exam. You will be asked to supply three LARGE bluebooks, which are available for minimal cost at the UGA bookstore. Please bring me all three bluebooks during the first week of class (no later than 1/14).

MIDTERM EXAMS (15% and 20%)

The midterm exams will consist of two parts. The first part will ask you to identify several important terms. These terms may include any significant person (or group of people), event, or concept. These "IDs" will be discussed in lectures or will appear in your assigned readings. The second part of the exams will consist of an essay question that will require you to think broadly and analytically.

FINAL EXAM (25%)

The final exam will consist of comprehensive essay questions – requiring you to develop answers that will synthesize material from the entire course. We will talk more about the structure of the exams during the course of the semester, and I will do my best to teach you "how" to study.

MAKE-UP EXAMS

There will be NO make-up exams. The ONLY two exceptions to this rule will be:

- (1) the death of an immediate family member, or
- (2) a note from a doctor stating that you absolutely, positively could not have taken the exam on that date. A note simply proving you were at the doctor's office on the day of the exam WILL NOT suffice.

N.B. The make-up exams may be longer and more difficult than the original in-class exam.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

BOOKS TO PURCHASE/CHECK OUT:

Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll*
William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom*
Angela Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*

WEEK ONE (1/10-1/14): *What Constitutes the South?*

* Nothing due this week – just bring me your three blue books by Friday, and order books online or pick them up from the library.

WEEK TWO (1/19-1/21): *The Atlantic World and the Beginnings of Slavery*

READINGS: Winthrop Jordan, *White over Black* (I will email you selected excerpts)

* Nothing is due – but we will schedule presentations on 1/19, so think about which topics interest you.

WEEK THREE (1/24-1/28): *The Colonial South*

READINGS: Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll* (first third of book)

* **Presentations 1/28**

WEEK FOUR (1/31-2/4): *Tobacco, Rice, and King Cotton*

READINGS: Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll* (second third of book)

* **Presentations 2/4**

WEEK FIVE (2/7-2/11): *Plantation Slavery – Beyond Labor*

READINGS: Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll* (finish book)

* **Presentations 2/11**

WEEK SIX (2/14-2/18): *Antebellum Class Structure*

READINGS: Charles Bolton, *The Confessions of Edward Isham* (I will email you selected excerpts)

FIRST EXAM: FRI. 2/18

* **Presentations 2/18**

WEEK SEVEN (2/21-2/25): *The Civil War*

READINGS: Gary Gallagher, *The Confederate War* (I will email you selected excerpts)

* **Presentations 2/25**

WEEK EIGHT (2/28-3/4): *Reconstruction and “Redemption”: The Birth of Jim Crow*

READINGS: Booker T. Washington, *Up from Slavery* (I will email you selected excerpts)

W.E.B DuBois: *Of Booker T. Washington and Others*

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1111>

VIEW: selections from *The Birth of a Nation* (in class)

* **Presentations 3/4; TURN IN PAPER TOPIC AND BIBLIOGRAPHY (beginning of class 3/4)**

WEEK NINE (3/7-3/11): *Populism and Progressivism in the New South*

READINGS: William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom* (first third of book)

Plessy v. Ferguson (Excerpts)

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=699>

VIEW: *Without Sanctuary: Photographs and Postcards of Lynching in America*

<http://withoutsanctuary.org/main.html>

* **Presentations 3/11**

MON. 3/14 – FRI. 3/18 – SPRING BREAK

* **Be prepared to go over your paper ideas by 3/21.**

WEEK TEN (3/21-3/25): *The Great Depression, WWII, and the Birth of the Civil Rights Movement*

READINGS: William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom* (second third of book)

VIEW: A Photo Essay on the Great Depression

<http://www.english.illinois.edu/MAPS/depression/photoessay.htm>

*** Presentations 3/25; MEETINGS ABOUT PAPERS THIS WEEK (to be scheduled on 3/21)**

WEEK ELEVEN (3/28-4/1): *Civil Rights Movement, Part I*

READINGS: William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom* (finish book)

Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

<http://www.nationalcenter.org/brown.html>

VIEW: Civil Rights Website – great study guide

<http://us.history.wisc.edu/hist102/lectures/lecture26.html>

*** Presentations 4/1**

WEEK TWELVE (4/4-4/8): *Civil Rights Movement, Part II*

READINGS: Edward Ball, *Slaves in the Family* (I will email you selected excerpts)

Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham City Jail*

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=943>

VIEW: *The Witness: From the Balcony of Room 306* (in class)

SECOND EXAM: FRI. 4/8

*** Presentations 4/6**

WEEK THIRTEEN (4/11-4/15): *The Conservative Backlash and the Idea of the Bible Belt*

READINGS: Bethany Moreton, *To Serve God and Wal-Mart* (I will email you selected excerpts)

*** Nothing is due – work on your papers!**

WEEK FOURTEEN (4/18-4/22): *The Nuevo New South: Changing Demographics*

READINGS: Carl Bankston, “New People in the New South” (I will email you this article)

*** FINAL PAPERS DUE FRI. 4/22 at the beginning of class**

WEEK FIFTEEN (4/25-4/29): *Is America the South Writ Large?*

READINGS: Angela Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*

*** Nothing is due this week – study for your final!**

WEEK SIXTEEN

MON. 5/2 – Wrap up; study tips for final (last day of class)

WEDS. 5/4 - FINAL EXAM, 3:30-6:30 pm

*****I reserve the right to change the lecture and reading schedule, including exam and due dates, at any time during the semester.**