

*History 3090: History of the American South*  
University of Georgia, Department of History  
Summer Through-Term 2011/LeConte Hall Room 323/2:15-3:15 PM, M-F  
Professor: Lesley-Anne Reed [Office LeConte Hall 336/ Email: lreed@uga.edu]

*"In the South the war is what 'A.D.' is elsewhere; they date from it." (Mark Twain)*

*Course Description*

This is an upper-level history course that explores the lives and words of southerners from the colonial era through the present, with a focus on the cultural meanings of an "Old" versus a "New" South and the collective memory of the Civil War. While no intense prerequisite of American or southern history is necessary, this is no traditional "textbook" course! We will approach readings, discussions, and assignments with an intellectual drive and interact with one another to ask and answer important questions. This course is chronological, but it is also thematic. Each lecture and/or discussion will center around a historical question that addresses facets of political, economic, social, and cultural events.

*A Few Ground Rules*

This classroom will be a comfortable and safe learning environment where you, as students, should feel welcome to voice your observations and opinions about the material we address. Part and parcel with this is listening to and respecting others' views as well. This is a tolerant zone, in other words. We will be studying some intense topics—race, class, gender, politics—and cooperation with each other is key.

Cell phones are ubiquitous, I understand that. But make sure that yours is turned to silent mode for the duration of the class. Texting (or doing any of the one million things you can do on a phone now) during class is strictly forbidden. So is chatting with fellow students about things irrelevant to the classroom setting—save that for before or after class. You may take notes on your laptop, but you may not surf the internet during class. If I see your screen pulled up to anything but Word or a similar word processing program, your laptop privileges will be immediately revoked for the duration of the term.

I reserve the right to alter this syllabus or any assignments as the term progresses.

*Attendance*

Attendance is mandatory in this course. Because I know that life just "happens" sometimes, you will have two "free pass" days for the summer. This means that you do NOT need to provide me an excuse for these two missed days. These pass days DO NOT, however, apply to exam or due dates. After your two "free" absences, every unexcused absence will directly affect your quiz and daily discussion grade. Make-up exams will be given only in extreme situations—a death in your family (with documentation) or extreme illness (with a note from your doctor explaining that you absolutely could not be in class that day).

*Readings*

Readings, which consist of essays and sections of the required books as well as material from websites, will be listed under the day they should be COMPLETED for class discussion and/or lecture. Many of them are on the JSTOR or Project Muse databases, and I will go over how to access and use these sites. Since this is a thematic course, we'll be reading mostly scholarly articles and excerpts from larger works. The exceptions are these required books (available on sites like Amazon for very affordable prices—come and speak with me ASAP if you have an issue with ordering online, we will work it out):

- Stephen Berry, *All That Makes a Man: Love and Ambition in the Civil War South*  
–Karen Cox, *Dreaming of Dixie: How the South was Created in Popular Culture*

*Note: The number of readings may seem alarming. But please keep in mind: This is a summer course, so we are required to pack in a LOT of information into a short amount of time. Also, many excerpts and articles are short to moderate lengths (many are less than 20 pages). I have included websites and more interactive readings assignments wherever possible.*

#### Assignments

Three exams. The first two will be worth 15% percent of your final grade, and the third (final exam) will be worth 20%. Each exam will consist of five identifications (from a pool of eight) and an essay (from a pool of three topics). This means that exams are, literally, half of your final grade in the course.

Book review (15%) You will read and review a book on a more specific topic of southern history that interests you. I will provide a list of approved books for you to choose from.

Annotated playlist assignment (10%) I will explain this assignment in person and through a separate assignment sheet.

Discussion and class participation (15%)

In-class quizzes over assigned readings (10%)

*Course Schedule (subject to change if necessary)*

Friday, June 10: Presentation of syllabus and course expectations

Monday, June 13: Introduction: What is southern history, and where is it?

Reading: Excerpt from W.J. Cash, *The Mind of the South* (handout available on E-learning site)

Tuesday, June 14: The Othering of the Southerner

Reading: David R. Jansson, “American National Identity and the Progress of the New South in *National Geographic Magazine*” *Geographical Review* Vol. 93, No. 3 (Jul., 2003), pp. 350-369 (available on JSTOR)

#### **Part I: The “Old” South**

Wednesday, June 15: Introduction to the Colonial South

Thursday, June 16: The (Not-so-Mythic) Founding of Georgia

Reading: Phinzy Spalding, “South Carolina and Georgia: The Early Days,” *The South Carolina Historical Magazine*, Vol. 69, No. 2 (Apr., 1968), pp. 83-9 (JSTOR)

Friday, June 17: The Southern Environment and Early Agriculture

Reading: Drew Swanson, “Wormsloe’s Belly The History of a Southern Plantation through Food,” *Southern Cultures*, Volume 15, Number 4, Winter 2009, pp. 50-66 (Project Muse)

\*\*\*Playlist Assignment Due

Monday, June 20: Race, Culture, and Power in New Orleans

Reading: Michael P. Bibler, “Always the Tragic Jezebel New Orleans, Katrina, and the Layered Discourse of a Doomed Southern City,” *Southern Cultures*, Volume 14, Number 2, Summer 2008, pp. 6-27 (Project Muse)

Tuesday, June 21: The Slave Trade in America

Reading: Excerpt from Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (E-

learning)

Wednesday, June 22: A Look at Women in the Early Nineteenth Century

Reading: Excerpt from Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (E-learning)

--Exam Review

Thursday, June 23: Exam I

## **Part II: The Civil War and its Aftermath**

Friday, June 24: And Then the War Came

Monday, June 27: The Civil War in the North

Tuesday, June 28: The Civil War in the South

Reading: Excerpts from *Mary Chesnut's Civil War* (E-learning)

Wednesday, June 29: Discussion of Berry's *All That Makes a Man*, Part I

Thursday, June 30: Discussion of Berry's *All*, Part II

Friday, July 1: Emancipation: Not Just the Stroke of a Pen

Reading: Excerpt from Eric Foner, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* (E-learning)

Monday, July 4: Holiday/no class!

Tuesday, July 5: The Origins of a Lost Cause Mentality

Reading: Joan Marie Johnson, "Remember the Ladies: Ladies' Memorial Associations, the Lost Cause, and Southern Women's Activism," *Reviews in American History*, Volume 36, Number 4, December 2008, pp. 529-536 (Project Muse)

Wednesday, July 6: Reconstruction and Beyond: A "New" South?

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

## **Part III: The Struggles of a New South**

Thursday, July 7: The Forgotten South: Appalachia

Reading: Karen Roggenkamp, "Seeing Inside the Mountains: Cynthia Rylant's Appalachian Literature and the "Hillbilly" Stereotype," *The Lion and the Unicorn*, Volume 32, Number 2, April 2008, pp. 192-215 (Project Muse)

Friday, July 8: The Rural Slowly Becomes the Urban

\*\*\*Book Review Due

Monday, July 11: The Great Migration and a Great Depression

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

Tuesday, July 12: Huey P. Long: Dixie Demagogue

Wednesday, July 13: Without Sanctuary: Lynching in America

Website: <http://www.withoutsanctuary.org>

Thursday, July 14: Film: *O Brother Where Art Thou*, Part I

Friday, July 15: Film: *O Brother*, Part II

Monday, July 18: A Discussion of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

Reading: Hugh Ruppersburg, "Oh so many startlements: History, Race and Myth in 'O Brother Where Art Thou?'" (*Southern Cultures* Volume 9, Number 4, Winter 2003, pp. 5-26)

--Exam Review

Tuesday, July 19: Exam II

## **Part IV: Civil Rights and a Modern South**

Wednesday, July 20: The Evolution of Jim Crow and the Beginning of a Civil Rights Movement

Reading: Excerpt from Richard Wright, *Black Boy* (E-learning site)

Thursday, July 21: Southern Folk Music

Reading: Excerpt from Mark Zwonitzer, *Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone: The Carter Family and Their Legacy in American Music* (E-learning)

Friday, July 22: From Plessy to *Brown v. Board*—How?

Reading: Website: <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=699>  
and <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=943>

Monday, July 25: Not June Cleaver: Women in the Twentieth-Century South

Tuesday, July 26: An Industrial Landscape in the South

Reading: Lesley-Anne Reed, "Transitional Generations," *Louisiana History* (E-learning)

Wednesday, July 27: The Rise of Conservatism in the South

Reading: Excerpt from Bethany Moreton, *To Serve God and Wal-Mart* (E-learning)

Thursday, July 28: The "Dirty" South?

Reading: Darren Grem, "*The South Got Something to Say*": *Atlanta's Dirty South and the Southernization of Hip-Hop America* *Southern Cultures* - Volume 12, Number 4, Winter 2006, pp. 55-73.

Friday, July 29: Discussion of first half of Cox, *Dreaming of Dixie*

Monday, August 1: Second half of *Dreaming of Dixie*

Tuesday, August 2: A "Nuevo" New South?

Reading: Paul N. McDaniel, "Ethnic Enclave or International Corridor? Immigrant Businesses in a New South City," *Southeastern Geographer*, Volume 49, Number 1, Spring 2009, pp. 3-23 (Project Muse)

Wednesday, August 3: The Modern South in a Global Economy and a Global Culture

--Final Exam Review Session will be available during this week at a time and place TBD.

Thursday, August 4: FINAL EXAM

\*\*\*3:30-6:30 PM