

THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH
HIST 4071
SPRING 2008

Instructor: George W. Justice (gjustice@uga.edu)

Class Meetings: M-W-F 2:30-3:20PM

Office: 334 LeConte

Office Hours: Mondays from 10:00-11:00AM or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore various aspects of the American South during the antebellum era leading to the American Civil War. While particular emphasis will be on political developments, particular attention will be devoted to cultural, social, and economic facets of the history of the region. This is a lecture-oriented course, but discussions, questions, and other contributions are encouraged. There will be certain sessions devoted to selected readings and topics and class participation will have an impact on the student's final grade. The class requires substantial reading and critical writing assignments.

CLASSROOM CULTURE AND RULES

In this technologically advancing era of multi-tasking and instant communication, all attention during the class period must be focused solely on the subject at hand. Notes may be taken using laptops or other methods as long as email, instant message, or any internet connections are turned off during the period.

Although discussions about the subjects covered are encouraged, private conversations or distractions are not permitted. There will be no talking, reading newspapers, or otherwise distracting activities allowed once class has begun. Blatant disregard of this policy could involve penalties affecting grades and even expulsion from the class. Please demonstrate common courtesies to others in the class.

The class is a learning environment in which respect for all must be maintained. Consequently, be prepared to begin each class on time and do not leave until you are dismissed unless it is demonstrably urgent. Otherwise, exceptions require prior approval.

Attendance will be monitored each day. Any student with more than 4 absences will drop a final letter grade with each additional. After 7 absences students will be dropped from the roll. There will be no make-up exams except in rare incidents in which excuses of a critical nature can be validated either by University administration or myself. There are no distinctions made between excused or unexcused absences. (For exceptional circumstances, see me.)

INCIDENTALS

Office hours are printed at the top of the syllabus. If you prefer to make a special appointment you may either email me or see me immediately following class to set up a time of mutual convenience. Please be informed of the University's policies on plagiarism and cheating—for more information on these and other related policies see the University website: http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm

In addition, I have designed this syllabus as a general guideline to this course—a roadmap of sorts, if you will. From time to time, however, it may become necessary to adjust and/or make substantive changes to the syllabus either due to unforeseen circumstances or in the instructional/learning interests of the class.

REQUIRED READINGS

Escott and Goldfield, *Major Problems in the History of the American South, Volume 1: The Old South* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999)

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life Douglass, An American Slave: With Related Documents*, edited with an introduction by David W. Blight (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003)

Harry L. Watson, *Andrew Jackson vs. Henry Clay: Democracy and Development in Antebellum America* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1998)

William W. Freehling and Craig M. Simpson, *Secession Debated: Georgia's Showdown in 1860* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992)

Other selective readings may also be assigned periodically.

EVALUATIONS

This class will require a midterm and a final exam. In addition, quizzes on certain assigned readings may be given without notice.

The three papers/projects required for this class will be based on outside readings and research. Emphasis will be placed on evaluating texts, making convincing arguments, and on formal writing skills. If you need help and/or advise on the mechanics or styles of formal writing, I urge you to consult the University Writing Center in Park Hall (the English Department), Room # 66. You may consult their website (<http://www.english.uga.edu/writingcenter>) Further instructions for these two paper will be forthcoming.

The first written assignment (4-6 pages) will be a review of Frederick Douglass's autobiography. The second paper (12-15 pages) will examine the political rhetoric, and the basis for that rhetoric, in a single Georgia community during either the nullification crisis or the Compromise of 1850. This will involve communities with at least two local newspapers in print (and available in the Main Library) during each event. The last paper

(4-6 pages) will involve a critical analysis of the secession arguments as presented in Freehling and Simpson's *Secession Debated*. These assignments will be further discussed in class.

Grades will be assessed by the following criterion:

Midterm Exam=25%

Final Exam=25%

Quizzes on Readings=5%

Book Review=10%

Secession Paper=10%

Newspaper Project=20%

Attendance=5%

Any late assignments will drop by one letter grade per day. Make-up exams or quizzes must have at least a 24 hour prior approval and will be substantively different from regular exams and quizzes.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: January 7-11

Introduction to Southern History and the Colonial South

Readings: Escott and Goldfield, Chapter 1 (all essays); Chapter 2 (Brown essay); Chapter 3 (Greene essay)

Week 2: January 14-18

The Revolutionary South

Readings: Escott and Goldfield, Chapter 4 (Frey and Klein essays)

Week 3: January 23-25 (No class on January 21)

The Expansion of the South and the Southern Mind

Readings: Escott and Goldfield, Chapter 5 (Fehrenbacher and Maier essays)

Week 4: January 28-February 1

The South and Slavery

Readings: Escott and Goldfield, Chapter 3 (Documents: Debate Over Slavery in Ga); Chapter 6 (Documents: Cotton Planter Bennet Barrow; Experiences of William Johnson; Smith and Genovese essays); Chapter 7 (Documents: Harriet Jacobs)

Week 5: February 4-8

(Book review on Douglass due February 4)

The People of the South

Readings: Escott and Goldfield, Chapter 8 (Documents: Hinton Rowan Helper; Bolton essay)

Week 6: February 11-15

Southern Women

Readings: Escott and Goldfield, Chapter 9 (Fox-Genovese and McMillen essays)

Week 7: February 18-22

Southern Cities and Industries

Week 8: February 25

Midterm Exam

Week 8: February 27-29

Southern Sectionalism

Readings: Escott and Goldfield, Chapter 5 (Documents: The Supreme Court Addresses Removal of the Indians; The Nullification Crisis; Maier essay); Harry Watson, *Jackson vs. Clay*

Week 9: March 3-7

Southern Sectionalism (cont.)

Week 10: March 10-14

Spring Break

Week 11: March 17-21

The Partisan South

Week 12: March 24-28

(Newspaper Project due March 24)

The Compromise of 1850

Readings: Escott and Goldfield, Chapter 10 (Documents: Resolutions of the Nashville Convention)

Week 13: March 31-April 4

The Defiant South

Week 14: April 7-11

(Final Paper due April 7)

The Creation of Southern Nationalism

Readings: Escott and Goldfield, Chapter 10 (Documents: *Dred Scott*)

Week 15: April 21-25

(Secession Paper due April 21)

The Seceded South

Readings: Escott and Goldfield, Chapter 10 (Documents: Proposed Crittenden Compromise; Southern Editors; Ford and Crofts essays)

Final Exam: Friday, May 2, 2008 from 3:30-6:30PM