

Department of History—University of Georgia  
History 4071/6071—The Antebellum South, Spring 2005

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What made the South unique—slavery, states' rights, evangelicalism, an anti-capitalist ethos? When did it take on a special character? This course will examine the political, economic, and social history of the South from European conquest through Reconstruction. We will trace the origins, development, and demise of slave societies in the Chesapeake, the Lowcountry, the Upcountry, and the Mississippi Valley, stressing economic development, slave life, the yeoman and planter classes, women's roles, religion, and politics.

Students will read from a wide range of primary sources, along with a few secondary works, in assigned texts and on the course web site. Primary sources highlight biographical materials such as Davy Crockett's biography. At each class meeting, we will first discuss the day's readings. *All Students are required to prepare the day's readings and participate regularly in the class discussions.* To assure students complete the readings, students will take weekly quizzes based on the readings (worth 25% of the grade). Undergraduates will complete a midterm examination, two short essays (3-4 pages or 900-1500 words) in length on assigned topics, and a take-home final. Each essay, the midterm, and the final will count equally. Graduate students will read Edward Ayres, *In the Presence of Mine Enemies: War in the Heart of America, 1859-1863* (W. W. Norton, 2003), access the Valley of the Shadows website, and write a short (10-15 page) analytic paper, on proved topic from that material.

**Class attendance is mandatory. Any absence, for any reason (except hospitalization) beyond two will be penalized.**

#### Texts

Paul D. Escott, David R. Goldfield, Sally G. McMillen, and Elizabeth Hayes Turner, eds., *Major Problems in the History of the American South*, vol. 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (*Major Problems*)

William A. Link and Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, eds., *The South in the History of the Nation: Vol 1: Through Reconstruction (South)*

*A Narrative of David Crockett Written by Himself.* Paul Andrew Hutton, ed. (*Narrative*)

Kenneth S. Greenberg, ed. *The Confessions of Nat Turner and Related Documents.* (*Confessions*)

\* Readings are on course web site.

\*\*Readings are on JSTOR and can be downloaded from the library web site and from the online syllabus.

#### Introduction

January 11 Lecture: Origins of Southern Distinctiveness  
January 13 Lecture: English Capitalist Revolution. Reading, *Major Problems*, chap. 1.

#### The Colonial and Revolutionary South

January 18 Lecture: Conquest of the Colonial South. Reading: *South*, chap. 1; *Major Problems*, 30-33, 56-63.  
January 20 Lecture: Labor Problems in the Early Chesapeake. Reading: *South*, chap. 3; *Major Problems*, 33-36  
January 25 Lecture: From Servants to Slaves in the Chesapeake Region. Reading: *Major Problems*, 36-40, 45-56, 66-67, 81-90.  
January 27 Lecture: Development of African-American Society in the Chesapeake. Reading: \*\*Allan Kulikoff, "The Origins of Afro-American Society in Tidewater Maryland and Virginia: 1700 to 1790," *William and Mary Quarterly (WMQ)* 1978 35(2): 226-59; \*\*Jean Butenhoff Lee, "The Problem of Slave Community in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake," *WMQ* 43 (1986): 333-61.  
February 1 Lecture: Tobacco, Opportunity, and Society In the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake. Reading: *South*, chap. 4; *Major Problems*, 67-68; \*\*Robert Munford, "The Candidates," Jay Hubbell and Douglass Adair, eds., *WMQ* 1 (1948): 217-57.  
February 3 Lecture: Origins of Rice Culture: Toward a Distinctive Deep South? Reading: Rice South. *Major Problems*, 43-45, 68-77, 90-101; \*\*Philip D. Morgan, "Work and Culture: The Task System and the World of Lowcountry Blacks, 1700 to 1880," *WMQ* 1982 39(1982): 563-99. **First Short Paper Due.**  
February 8 Lecture: Regulator Movements of the Carolinas, 1767-1771. Reading: *South*, chap. 5; *Major Problems*, 79-80.  
February 10 Lecture: Origins of Evangelicalism. *Major Problems*, 77-79, 104-5; \*\*Rhys Isaac, "Evangelical Revolt: The Nature of the Baptists' Challenge to the Traditional Order in Virginia, 1765 to 1775,"

- WMQ 31 (1974): 345-68; \*Colonial Awakenings.
- February 15 Lecture: Patriots, Loyalists, and the Disaffected In the Revolutionary South. Reading: *South*, chap. 6; *Major Problems*, 105-6, 108-35.
- February 17 Lecture: Origins of Southern Free Black Society. Reading: Politics of Slavery and Freedom: *South*, chap. 7; \*\*Edmund S. Morgan, "Slavery and Freedom: The American Paradox," *Journal of American History* 1972 59(1): 5-29.
- February 22 **Midterm Examination**
- The Antebellum South
- February 24 Lecture: Dynamics of Southern Settlement. Reading: Indian Removal. *South*, chaps. 9; *Major Problems*, 145-48.
- March 1 Lecture: Evangelicalism and White Culture, 1780-1860. Reading: *Major Problems*, 107-8, 253-54; \*Cane Ridge and Its Consequences.
- March 3 Lecture: The Southern Yeomanry. Reading: Settlement and the Yeomanry. *Major Problems*, 175-78, 250- 52, 257-89.
- March 8 Lecture: Race, Class, and Southern Honor. Reading: Davy Crockett. Hutton, ed., *Narrative*.
- March 10 Lecture: Rise of Southern Democracy. Reading: *Major Problems*, 138-40, 148-52, 155-72.
- March 22 Lecture: Political Economy of Slavery. Reading: *South*, chap. 11; *Major Problems*, 142-45, 201-6.
- March 24 Lecture: Social System of Cotton Plantations. Reading: Cotton Plantations. *Major Problems*, 178-201; *South*, chap. 12.
- March 29 Lecture: Making of Slave Culture and Society in the Antebellum South. *Major Problems*, chap. 7.
- March 31 Lecture: Resistance to Slavery. Reading: Greenberg, ed., *Confessions*; *Major Problems*, 140-42.
- April 5 Lecture: Plantation Women White & Black. Reading: *Major Problems*, chap. 9.
- April 7 Lecture: Origins of Pro-slavery Thought. Reading: *South*, chap. 10; *Major Problems*, 152-54, 254-56; 329-31; \*James Henry Hammond, *Letters on Slavery*, excerpts. **Second short paper due.**
- April 12 Lecture: The Political Crisis of the 1850s. Reading: *South*, chap. 13; *Major Problems*, 327-28, 331-33.
- April 14 Lecture: Succession Crisis. Reading: *Major Problems*, 335-60; \*Declaration of Causes of Seceding States and Allied Documents (Documents 1-2 in Civil War Documents).
- April 19 Lecture: A Very Uncivil War. Reading: *South*, chap. 14; *Major Problems*, chap. 11; \*Civil War documents (rest of Civil War Documents).
- April 21 Lecture: The Process of Emancipation. Reading: *Major Problems*, 394-402; \*Emancipation Documents, the Meaning of Freedom..
- April 26 Lecture: Reconstruction in the South. Reading: *Major Problems*, 403-30.
- April 28 Lecture: Origin of Sharecropping. Reading: *South*, chap. 15. **Take-Home Final Paper Due; Graduate Essays due.** Reports from graduate students on their papers.