

**HISTORY 6000**  
**AMERICAN COMMUNITY STUDIES**

Fall 2002  
2:00 - 4:30 Tuesdays  
LeConte 102

John Inscoe, Instructor  
LeConte 111, 542-8848  
jinscoe@arches.uga.edu

Community studies offer a unique perspective of historical inquiry -- the study of human relationships in a particular local as effected by larger questions -- war, political, economic, and social conflict, industrial change, enslavement and emancipation, etc. This course is designed to enlarge, challenge, and explore historians= notions of place, of community, and of the relationships defined by both.

This is a promising avenue for historical research and writing, as is quite evident in our own department. A number of former graduate students in our program have conceived successful dissertations, theses, and books as community studies, as have several faculty members. One of the goals of the course will be to help you consider a community study approach to whatever topic or issue you are interested in exploring in your own research and writing.

No single definition of community will emerge from what we read. The readings -- primarily focused on, but not limited to, the 19th century -- are designed to provide you with a full range of models in terms of theoretical and methodological approaches to community, as well as to differences in questions authors have asked and how they have gone about answering them. Always central will be the broader issues informed by these localized studies. The books below are available in the bookstores on and off campus and through the internet.

Thomas Bender, *Community and Social Change in America*  
Paul Boyer and Steve Nissenbaum, *Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft*  
John Mack Faragher, *Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Frontier*  
Charles Joyner, *Down by the Riverside: A South Carolina Slave Community*  
Christine Stancell, *City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860*  
Thomas G. Dyer, *Secret Yankees: The Unionist Circle in Civil War Atlanta*  
Tera W. Hunter, *To >Joy My Freedom: So. Black Women=s Lives and Labors after the Civil War*  
Altina Waller, *Feud: Hatfields, McCoys, and Social Change in Appalachia, 1860-1900*  
Nancy McLean, *Behind the Mask of Chivalry: The Making of the Second Ku Klux Klan*

We will meet weekly for the first two-thirds of the semester, and use our sessions together to discuss the books and supplementary articles and essays (all available through the library=s new web reserve). Every student is expected to participate in every class discussion, and demonstrate a familiarity with the assigned readings. During this period, each student will write three short papers -- one a review essay of our common readings, and two comparative analyses of a particular week=s readings and an extra book read and reported on to the class (to be chosen in consultation with the instructor).

During the last part of the course -- the month of November -- you will spend researching

and writing a larger paper, which may be one of two sorts, either: 1) an in-depth article-length research paper utilizing the theory and methodologies explored through our readings or 2) a mock prospectus, laying out the means, methods, and rationale you would propose to a faculty committee for a community-based thesis or dissertation (who knows, it might become a real one for some of you!) We will reconvene at the end of the semester to spend our final class sessions presenting this work to the rest of the class.

### **Class Schedule:**

- August 20      Introduction
- August 27      Bender, *Community and Social Change in America*  
Darrett Rutman, ACommunity Study,@ Chapter 3 in *Small Worlds, Large Questions: Explorations in Early American Social History, 1600-1850*  
(web reserve)
- Sept 3          Boyer and Nissenbaum, *Salem Possessed*  
Darrett Rutman, AThe Mirror of Puritan Authority,@ Chapter 4 in *Small Worlds, Large Questions* (web reserve)
- Sept 10        Faragher, *Sugar Creek*  
Ralph Mann, ADiversity in the Antebellum Appalachian South: Four Farm Communities in Tazewell County, Va.@ in *Appalachia in the Making*  
(web reserve)
- Sept 17        Joyner, *Down By the Riverside*  
Lorena S. Walsh, Chapters IV and V in *From Calabar to Carter=s Grove: The History of a Virginia Slave Community* (web reserve)
- Sept 24        Stancell, *City of Women*  
Suzanne Lebsack, AWomen Working,@ Chapter 6 in *The Free Women of Petersburg* (web reserve)
- Oct. 1          Civil War Grab Bag (each student will read a different CW community study)  
Daniel E. Sutherland, AGetting the >Real War@ into the Books,@ *Va. Magazine of History and Biography* (April 1990) (web reserve)  
Reid Mitchell, AThe Northern Soldier and His Community,@ in Maris Vinovskis, *Toward a Social History of the American Civil War* (web reserve)
- Oct. 8          Dyer, *Secret Yankees*

Jonathan D. Sarris, "An Execution in Lumpkin County: Localized Loyalties in North Georgia's Civil War," Chapter 6 in Noe and Wilson, *The Civil War in Appalachia*

Oct 15 Hunter, *To Joy My Freedom*

Lee W. Formwalt, "Moving in That Strange Land of Shadows: African-American Mobility and Persistence in Post-Civil War Southwest Georgia" *Georgia Historical Quarterly* (Fall 1998) (web reserve)

Oct. 22 Waller, *Feud*

William F. Holmes, "Populism in Black Belt Georgia: Racial Dynamics in Taliaferro County Politics, 1890-1900" in *GHQ* (Summer 1999) (web reserve)  
Darrett and Anita Rutman, "The Village South," Chapter 12 in *Small Worlds, Large Questions* (web reserve)

Oct. 29 Nancy McLean, *Behind the Mask of Chivalry*

Bruce E. Baker, "Under the Rope: Lynching and Memory in Laurens County, S.C." in W. Fitzhugh Brundage, *Where These Memories Grow* (web reserve)

November Independent Study B Researching and Writing Final Paper  
Individual Consultations with Instructor

Dec. 2 Final Papers Due (turn in to instructor before 5 pm)

Dec. 3 Class Presentations

Dec. 10 Class Presentations