

## ***History 4071 / 6071: The Antebellum South***

John Inscoe, Instructor  
Office: LeConte 111  
Office Hours 11-12 Tu/Th  
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Fall 2009  
Tu/Th 2 – 3:15 pm  
LeConte 101

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This course will examine both chronologically and topically the history the American South from initial European contacts through the sectional crisis that made of it a new but short-lived nation. Through lectures, discussions, and a variety of readings -- documents, monographs, and a novel -- we will explore the issues, experiences, and individuals who shaped the society, culture, economics, and politics of this most distinctive and most self-conscious region of the country in terms of how and why that distinctiveness and self-consciousness evolved and the circumstances that led to its break from the Union and the Civil War that followed.

### Assigned readings:

Wilkins, *Jefferson's Pillow*  
Styron, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, 25th anniversary edition  
Wyatt-Brown, *Honor and Violence in the Old South*  
Walther, *The Shattering of the Union*  
Freehling and Simpson, *Secession Debated: Georgia's Showdown in 1860*

The books are available at bookstores, on campus and off. All other readings are available on the library's web reserve. The password for the reserve material is PECAN.

### Grades:

Midterm and Final Exam:	25% each
Quizzes on readings	15%
Papers	15% each
Attendance/participation	5%

Exam/Quizzes: The midterm and final exam will be a combination of essays and short answers, designed to test comprehension of class lectures/discussions as well as readings (as much as 40 per cent of each exam will come from the assigned readings). Brief quizzes will be given for each of the four books assigned on the dates indicated below to assure that we've all read all of each book when we discuss them. Make-up policy: To be allowed to make up the mid-term or any quiz, you must present a validated excuse at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled dates. Make-ups will be entirely different from and more challenging than exams/quizzes taken by the class as a whole.

Paper: Two papers (5-7 pp.) will be required late in the semester. These will be reaction papers to certain themes and issues dealt with in the readings. A full explanation of the assignments, guidelines and due dates will be distributed later.

Attendance policy: Seating will be assigned and attendance will be recorded at each class meeting. Four or more absences will mean the drop of a letter in your final grade for the course. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences. (For extreme circumstances, see me.)

CLASS SCHEDULE  
*dates approximate – subject to adjustment*

- Aug. 18, 20 Introduction: The Burden of Southern History  
Read: Boles, “What Is the South?” (web reserve)
- Aug. 25 The Colonial South  
Read: Wood, “Black Labor, White Rice” from *Black Majority* (web reserve)
- Aug. 27, Sept. 1 The Revolutionary South  
Read: Alden, “The First South” (web reserve)  
Wilkins, *Jefferson’s Pillow* (Quiz Sept. 1)
- Sept. 3, 8 The Expanding South  
Read: Rothman, “Jefferson’s Horizon,” from *Slave Country* (web reserve)
- Sept. 10, 15, 17 The Slaveholding South  
Read: *The Confessions of Nat Turner* (Quiz Sept. 17)
- Sept. 22, 24 The Appalachian South  
Film: “The Journey of August King”  
Read: Incoe, “Between Bondage and Freedom” (web reserve)
- Sept. 29- Oct. 1 The Mind of the Old South
- Oct. 6 MIDTERM EXAM
- Oct. 8, 13 The Hierarchical South  
Read: “Autobiography of Edward Isham” and “I Have Killed a Damned Dog”  
“Gillespie, “Artisan Accommodation to the Slave South” (all web reserve)
- Oct. 15, 20 The Honorable South  
Read: *Honor and Violence in the Old South* (Quiz Oct. 15)
- No class on Oct. 22, 29, and Nov. 5
- Oct. 27 The Urban and Industrial South
- Nov. 3, 10 The Feminine South  
Read: Weiner, “Mistresses, Morality, and Dilemmas of Slaveholding”  
Fox-Genovese, “Harriet Jacobs” (both web reserve)
- Nov. 12, 16 The Political South  
Read: Fehrenbacher, “The Missouri Controversy” (web reserve)  
Walther, *The Shattering of the Union*, Prologue, Chaps. 1-2
- Nov. 19 The Sectionalized South  
Read: Walther, *The Shattering of the Union*, Chaps. 3-8, Epilogue  
(Quiz, Nov. 19)

Dec. 1, 3      The Separate South  
Read: *Secession Debated*  
Ayers, "What Caused the Civil War?" (web reserve)

FINAL EXAM -- Friday, Dec. 11 3:30 – 6:30 pm