

History 241
History of the American South - Fall, 1998

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Course Description and Objectives:

This course examines the social, political, and cultural history of the South as a distinct region of the United States. The central dilemma in the South's historical development has been the issue of race; this course, therefore, focuses on the evolving relationship between black and white southerners from the seventeenth to the late twentieth century. The course includes discussions of the origins of a slave society, the culture of slavery and the Old South, the Civil War and Reconstruction, social and political change in the New South, the Civil Rights Movement, and the rise of the Sunbelt.

Class meetings will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion based on the assigned readings. Therefore, to maximize the quality and depth of discussion for each class meeting (and to maximize your individual grade), you will need to complete the reading beforehand.

You should leave this class with a broad understanding of the history of the South, an improved ability to evaluate the contemporary South, and enhanced analytical and writing skills.

Readings:

John Boles, The South Through Time: The History of an American Region, 1995.

Kenneth Greenberg, Honor and Slavery: Lies, Duels, Noses..., 1996.

Drew Faust, Mothers of Invention: Women in the Slaveholding South during the American Civil War, 1996.

Thomas Dixon, The Clansman, An Historical Romance of the Ku Klux Klan, 1905.

William Chafe, Civilities and Civil Rights: Greensboro, North Carolina, and the Black Struggle for Freedom, 1980.

Supplementary Course Packet, available in the Department of History, 308 Clough Hall.

Assignments and Grading Policies:

There will be three short essays (3-4 pp.), a documentary source problem (7-8 pp.), a mid-term examination, a final examination, and a map quiz.

Attendance is mandatory; if you must miss class because of illness, please notify me immediately, either by phone or by e-mail. Final grades will reflect both participation and attendance. You may assume that your final grade in this class will be no higher than the percentage of classes you attend. (We will meet 39 times this semester. If you miss 5 classes, your attendance is 87%, which would be a B+.) Final grades will be determined as follows:

20% - Mid-term Examination
25% - Final Examination
30% - Essays (10% each)
15% - Documentary Source Problem
10% - Participation and Map Quiz

Details on all these assignments will follow. Copies of this syllabus, as well as all handouts and assignment sheets will be available on the Academic Volume in the file marked "Huebner."

Make up exams will not be given without a verifiable medical excuse, and all excuses are subject to the approval of the instructor. Late papers will be accepted one **day** (not one class period) after the due date, with a one letter-grade penalty. Papers will not be accepted more than one day after the due date. All work, unless otherwise indicated, is pledged under the Rhodes College Honor Code.

Class Assignments:

1. Origins of a Bi-Racial Society (Boles, 14-78)

Aug. 26 - Introduction to course

Aug. 28 - English Settlement
(Jordan, "First Impressions")

Aug. 31 - The Chesapeake Colonies
(Breen, "Changing Labor Force and Race Relations")

Sept. 2 - The Southern Colonies
("S.C. Restricts the Liberties of Slaves"; Oglethorpe, "Some Account...")

2. White Society and Culture in the Old South (Boles, 141-248)

Sept. 4 - Planters and Plantations
(Diaries of Barrow and Chestnut)

(Sept. 7 - Labor Day Holiday)

Sept. 9 - Small Slaveholders

(Lumpkin, "Address Delivered Before the South Carolina Institute")

Sept. 11 - Non-slaveholders

("D.R. Hundley Describes Non-Slaveholders"; Helper, "Slavery Hurts Non-Slaveholding Whites")

Sept. 14 - Honor

(Greenberg, xi-86)

Sept. 16 - Honor

(Greenberg, 87-146)

Sept. 18 - Evangelicalism

(Genovese and Fox-Genovese, "Religious Ideals"; Wyatt-Brown, "God and Honor")

3. Slavery and the Black Community

(No text reading)

Sept. 21 - Enslavement - **ESSAY #1 DUE**

(Video: "Roots")

Sept. 23 - Slavery and Slave Life

(Douglass, excerpts from Narrative; Jacobs, excerpts from Incidents)

Sept. 25 - Slave Culture and Community

(Blassingame, "Culture")

4. Southern Politics and the Secession Crisis

(Boles, 79-141, 248-306)

Sept. 28 - The South in the Early Republic

("Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions")

Sept. 30 - Nullification, Insurrection, and Abolitionism

(Calhoun, "South Carolina Exposition and Protest")

Oct. 2 - The Pro-Slavery Argument - **MAP QUIZ**

("Address of Thomas Ruffin")

Oct. 5 - The Territorial Issue and the Slave Power

("Resolutions of the Nashville Convention"; Dred Scott v. Sandford)

Oct. 7 - The Secession Crisis
(Cobb, "Secessionist Speech"; "Grievances and Memorial of the Greenville Convention"; Lincoln, "First Inaugural")

Oct. 9 - Summary and Review
(Video: "The Edge of Conflict")

Oct. 12 - MID-TERM EXAMINATION

5. The Civil War and Reconstruction (Boles, 306-336)

Oct. 14 - Creating the Confederate Nation
(Davis, "Inaugural"; Stephens, "Slavery Is the Cornerstone of the Confederacy"; Confederate Constitution)

Oct. 16 - War and Social Upheaval
(Faust, Mothers of Invention, xi-138)

(Oct. 19 - Fall Recess)

Oct. 21 - War and Social Upheaval
(Faust, Mothers of Invention, 139-257)

(Oct. 23 - No class)

Oct. 26 - Emancipation and Defeat
(“Confederacy Debates Emancipation”; Pollard, Lost Cause)

Oct. 28 - Reconstruction Politics
(13th, 14th, 15th Amendments; "Mississippi Black Code," "Civil Rights Act of 1866," "Veto")

Oct. 30 - Reconstruction and Redemption - **ESSAY #2 DUE**
(Woodward, "The Forked Road to Reunion")

6. The New South: Myths and Realities (Boles, 377-449)

Nov. 2 - The New South Creed
(Grady, "The New South")

Nov. 4 - Politics and Populism

("Ocala Platform," "Tom Watson's Strategy, 1892")

Nov. 6 - Segregation, Disfranchisement, and the Lost Cause
(Dixon, The Clansman, v-186)

Nov. 9 - The Lost Cause
(Dixon, The Clansman, 187-374)

Nov. 11 - "The Benighted South"
(H. L. Mencken, "Sahara of the Bozart")

(Nov. 13 - No class)

Nov. 16 - The Agrarians
(Twelve Southerners, I'll Take My Stand; "Fortune Magazine on Opportunities...")

7. Civil Rights and the Modern South
(Boles, 450-528)

Nov. 18 - Music and Interracialism - **ESSAY #3 DUE**
(Video: "History of Rock-n-Roll", part one)

Nov. 20 - Brown and Resistance
("Southern Manifesto," Hurston, "Court Order...", Chafe, 3-70)

(Nov. 23 - 27 Thanksgiving Holidays)

Nov. 30 - The Movement Begins
(Chafe, 71-202)

Dec. 2 - The Movement Ends - **DOCUMENTARY SOURCE PROBLEM DUE**
(Video: "At the River I Stand")

Dec. 4 - Progress and Prosperity
(Chafe, 203-254; Sunbelt statistics)

Dec. 7 - Politics Transformed
(handouts - electoral maps)

Dec. 9 - Summary and Review

FINAL EXAMINATION: MONDAY, DEC. 14, 8:30-11:00 A.M.