

History 247
History of the American South - Fall 2006
MWF, 12 noon

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Office: 305 Clough Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

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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, and this course focuses on the evolving relationship between black and white southerners from the seventeenth century 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 era, political and cultural change in the New South, the Civil Rights Movement, and the recent South.

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 contemporary southern society, and enhanced analytical and writing skills.

Readings:

John Boles, The South Through Time: The History of an American Region, third ed., 2004, vols. 1 and 2.

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

John Hope Franklin, The Emancipation Proclamation, 1995.

Katharine Du Pre Lumpkin, The Making of a Southerner (orig. pub. 1946), 1991.

Charles Marsh, God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights, 1997.

Supplementary readings (located in "Huebner" folder in Academic Departments/Programs volume [ADPV] or distributed as handouts)

Assignments and Grading Policies:

Your final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

- Mid-term examinations – 40%
- Final examination – 20%

- Class participation – 15%
- Southern identity essay – 10%
- Quizzes and map quiz – 10%
- Memphis connection essay – 5%

Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. More than three absences will adversely affect your grade in this course. You should make all travel and holiday plans in accordance with the schedule below. Airline arrangements, in other words, are no excuse for missing classes, deadlines, or exams.

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. There will be no make-ups of the quizzes. All work, unless otherwise indicated, is pledged under the Rhodes College Honor Code.

Class Assignments:

1. The Colonial South

(Boles, I: chapters 1-4)

Aug. 23 – Introduction to course

Aug. 25 – English Settlement

Aug. 28 – The Chesapeake Colonies

(Breen, “Changing Labor Force and Race Relations” – handout)

Aug. 30 – The Southern Colonies

("S.C. Restricts the Liberties of Slaves" – handout)

2. White Society and Culture in the Old South

(Boles, I: chapters 9-14)

Sept. 1 – Planters and Plantations

(Diaries of Barrow and Chestnut – handouts)

Sept. 4 – Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 6 – Small Slaveholders and Non-Slaveholders

Sept. 8 – Honor: Foundations

(Greenberg, xi-86)

Sept. 11 – Honor: Manifestations

(Greenberg, 87-146)

Sept. 13 – Evangelicalism
(ADPV: Wyatt-Brown, "God and Honor")

3. Slavery and the Black Community

Sept. 15 – Enslavement
(video: "Roots")

Sept. 18 – Slavery and Slave Life
(Excerpts from Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass – handout)

Sept. 20 – No class (Prof. Huebner out of town)

Sept. 22 – Slave Culture and Community
(slave songs – handout)

Sept. 25 – Examination #1

4. Southern Politics and Secession

(Boles, I: chapters 7-8, 15-17)

Sept. 27 – The South in the Early Republic
(Jefferson, excerpts from Notes on the State of Virginia – handout)

Sept. 29 – No class (Prof. Huebner out of town)

Oct. 2 – Nullification, Insurrection, and Abolitionism
(Calhoun, "S.C. Exposition and Protest" – handout)

Oct. 4 – The Territorial Issue and the Slave Power
(Hammond, "Mudsill Speech" – handout)

Oct. 6 – Secession – **Map Quiz**
(Cobb, "Secession Speech" – handout)

5. The Civil War and Reconstruction

(Boles, I: chapters 18-19; II: chapters 20-22)

Oct. 9 - The Confederate Nation
(Excerpts from the Confederate Constitution – handout)

Oct. 11 – The Divided South
 (“Grievances and Memorial of the Greenville Convention”)

Oct. 13 – Lincoln and Emancipation
 (Franklin, Emancipation Proclamation, xiii-78)

Oct. 16 – Fall recess

Oct. 18 – Emancipation and Defeat
 (Franklin, Emancipation Proclamation, 79-130; “Confederacy Debates Emancipation”)

Oct. 20 - Reconstruction Politics
 (Pollard, Lost Cause; 13th and 14th Amendment – handouts)

Oct. 23 - Reconstruction and Redemption
 (15th Amendment – handout)

Oct. 25 – Examination #2

6. The New South and Southern Identity

(Boles, II: chapters 23-27)

Oct. 27 – The New South Creed
 (ADPV: Grady, "The New South")

Oct. 30 – Populism
 ("Ocala Platform" – handout)

Nov. 1 – The Nadir of Race Relations
 (Plessy v. Ferguson; Washington, “Atlanta Compromise Speech” – handouts)

Nov. 3 – The Lost Cause and Southern Identity, I
 (Lumpkin, vii-147)

Nov. 6 – The Lost Cause and Southern Identity, II
 (Lumpkin, 151-252)

Nov. 8 – The Benighted South: The 1920s
 (APDV: H. L. Mencken, “Sahara of the Bozart” – handout)

Nov. 10 – Agrarianism
 (APDV: Twelve Southerners, I'll Take My Stand)

Nov. 13 – The Depression and the New Deal Era – **Southern Identity Essay Due**
(Excerpts from “The Report on Economic Conditions of the South” – handout)

7. Civil Rights and the Modern South

(Boles, II: chapters 28-32)

Nov. 15 – Brown v. Board of Education and the Backlash
 (“Southern Manifesto” – handout)

Nov. 17 – No class (Prof. Huebner out of town)

Nov. 20 – Beginnings of a Movement
(Marsh, 3-9)

Nov. 22-24 – Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 27 – Alabama and the Movement
(ADPV: “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”; Marsh, 10-48)

Nov. 29 – Mississippi and the Movement
(Marsh, 49-151, 192-204)

Dec. 1 – Memphis and the Movement
(ADPV: Huebner/Houston “Campus, Community, and Civil Rights”; video: “At the River I Stand”)

Dec. 4 – Southern Politics since the Civil Rights Movement – **Memphis Connection Essay Due**

Dec. 6 - Summary and Review

FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, December 11, 5:30 p.m.