

History 247
History of the American South - Fall 2009
MWF, 10:00 a.m.

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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 the Old South, the Civil War and Reconstruction era, political and cultural change in the New South, the Civil Rights Movement, and social developments in 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 grade), you will need to complete the reading beforehand. You should leave this class with a broad understanding of the historical forces that have shaped the American 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.

Charles B. Dew, Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War, 2001.

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

Bill Belleville, Losing It All to Sprawl: How Progress Ate My Cracker Landscape, 2006.

Supplementary readings – available as handouts or in the Academic Departments/Programs Volume (AV).

Assignments and Grading Policies:

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

- Examination One – 20%
- Examination Two – 20%
- Final Examination – 20%
- Essays (2 @ 10% each) – 20%
- Class participation – 10%
- Quizzes (including map quiz) – 10%

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. No late papers will be accepted. Quizzes are unannounced and cannot be made up.

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. 26 – Introduction to course

Aug. 28 – English Settlement

Aug. 31 – The Chesapeake Colonies

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

Sept. 2 – 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. 4 – Planters and Plantations

(Diaries of Barrow and Chestnut – handouts)

Sept. 7 – Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 9 – Small Slaveholders and Non-Slaveholders

Sept. 11 – Honor: Foundations
(Greenberg, xi-86)

Sept. 14 – Honor: Manifestations
(Greenberg, 87-146)

Sept. 16 – Evangelicalism
(Wyatt-Brown, "God and Honor" – AV)

Sept. 18 – No class – Prof. Huebner out of town

3. Slavery and the Black Community

Sept. 21 – Enslavement
(video: "Roots")

Sept. 23 – Slavery and Slave Life
(Excerpts from Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass; Huebner, "Roots of Fairness" – AV)

Sept. 25 – Slave Culture and Community
(slave songs – handout)

Sept. 28 – Examination #1

Sept. 30 – No class – Prof. Huebner out of town

4. Southern Politics and Secession

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

Oct. 2 – The South in the Early Republic
(Jefferson, excerpts from Notes on the State of Virginia – AV)

Oct. 5 – Nullification, Insurrection, and Abolitionism
(Calhoun, "S.C. Exposition and Protest" – AV)

Oct. 7 – The Territorial Issue and the Slave Power

Oct. 9 – Secession
(Dew, 1-58)

Oct. 12- The Causes of the Civil War – **Map Quiz**

(Dew, 59-81; “Mississippi Secession Resolutions”; Cobb, “Secession Speech” – handouts)

5. The Civil War and Reconstruction

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

Oct. 14 - The Confederate Nation

(Excerpts from the Confederate Constitution – handout)

Oct. 16 – The Divided South

(Excerpts from Brownlow, Sketches of the Rise, Progress, and Decline of Secession; “Confederacy Debates Emancipation” – AV)

Oct. 19 – Fall recess

Oct. 21 – Emancipation – **Essay #1 due**

(“A Freedman Writes His Former Master,” “State Convention of the Colored People of South Carolina” – handouts)

Oct. 23 - Reconstruction Politics

(Pollard, Lost Cause; 13th and 14th Amendments – handouts)

Oct. 26 - Reconstruction and Redemption

(15th Amendment – handout)

Oct. 28 – Examination #2

6. The New South and Southern Identity

(Boles, II: chapters 23-27)

Oct. 30 – The New South Creed

(Grady, “The New South” – AV)

Nov. 2 – Populism

(“Ocala Platform” – handout)

Nov. 4 – Race Relations

(Plessy v. Ferguson; Washington, “Atlanta Compromise Speech” – AV)

Nov. 6 – The Lost Cause and Southern Identity, I

(Lumpkin, vii-147)

Nov. 9 – The Lost Cause and Southern Identity, II

(Lumpkin, 151-252)

Nov. 11 – The Benighted South: The 1920s
(H. L. Mencken, “Sahara of the Bozart” – AV)

Nov. 13 – No class – Prof. Huebner out of town

Nov. 16 – Agrarianism
(Twelve Southerners, I'll Take My Stand – AV)

Nov. 18 – The Depression and the New Deal Era
(Excerpts from “The Report on Economic Conditions of the South” – AV)

7. Civil Rights and the Making of the Modern South

(Boles, II: chapters 28-31)

Nov. 20 – Brown v. Board of Education and the Backlash
(“Southern Manifesto” – handout)

Nov. 23 – Alabama, Mississippi, and the Movement - **Essay #2 due**
(King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”; Moody, “Coming of Age in Mississippi” – AV)

Nov. 25-27 – Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 2- Memphis and the Movement
(Huebner/Houston “Campus, Community, and Civil Rights” – AV; video: “At the River I Stand”)

8. The Vanishing South?

(Boles, II: chapter 32)

Dec. 4 – Sprawl and the “Florida-ization” of the South
(Belleville, Losing It All to Sprawl, xvii-130)

Dec. 7 – Migration, Immigration, and the Vanishing Southsa
(Belleville, Losing It All to Sprawl, 131-192)

Dec. 9 - Summary and Review

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