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 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:


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 examination – 20%
- Final examination – 25%
- Writing assignments (three essays) – 30%
• Class participation – 15%
• Quizzes and map quiz – 10%

Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. More than three absences will adversely affect your grade in this course.

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. The Colonial South
   (Boles, I: chapters 1-4)

   Aug. 24 - Introduction to course
   Aug. 26 - English Settlement
   Aug. 29 - The Chesapeake Colonies
   (Breen, “Changing Labor Force and Race Relations” – handout)
   Aug. 31 - 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. 2 - Planters and Plantations
   (Diaries of Barrow and Chestnut – handouts)

   Sept. 5 - Labor Day Holiday

   Sept. 7 - Small Slaveholders and Non-Slaveholders
   Sept. 9 – Honor: Foundations
   (Greenberg, xi-86)
   Sept. 12 – Honor: Manifestations
   (Greenberg, 87-146)
   Sept. 14 - Evangelicalism
   (ADPV: Wyatt-Brown, "God and Honor")
3. Slavery and the Black Community

Sept. 16 – Enslavement (video: "Roots")

Sept. 19 – Slavery and Slave Life (Excerpts from Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass – handout)

Sept. 21 – Slave Culture and Community – Essay #1 Due (slave songs – handout)

4. Southern Politics and Secession (Boles, I: chapters 7-8, 15-17)

Sept. 23 – The South in the Early Republic (Jefferson, excerpts from Notes on the State of Virginia – handout)

Sept. 26 – Nullification, Insurrection, and Abolitionism – Map Quiz

Sept. 28 – The Territorial Issue and the Slave Power (Hammond, “Mudsill Speech” – handout)

Sept. 30 – Secession (Dew, 1-58)

Oct. 3 – Secession and Review (Dew, 59-81; Cobb, “Secession Speech”)

Oct. 5 – Mid-term Examination

Oct. 7 – No class

5. The Civil War and Reconstruction (Boles, I: chapters 18-19; II: chapters 20-22)

Oct. 10 - The Confederate Nation (Excerpts from the Confederate Constitution – handout)

Oct. 12 – The Divided South

Oct. 14 – No class

Oct. 17 – Fall recess
Oct. 19 – Fighting the War
(video: “The Civil War”)

Oct. 21 – Emancipation and Defeat
(“Confederacy Debates Emancipation,” 13th Amendment – handouts)

Oct. 24 - Reconstruction Politics
(Pollard, Lost Cause; 14th Amendment – handouts)

Oct. 26 - Reconstruction and Redemption
(15th Amendment – handouts)

6. The New South and Southern Identity
(Boles, II: chapters 23-27)

Oct. 28 – The New South Creed
(ADPV: Grady, "The New South")

Oct. 31 – Populism – Essay #2 Due
("Ocala Platform” – handout)

Nov. 2 – The Nadir of Race Relations
(Plessy v. Ferguson; Washington, “Atlanta Compromise Speech” – handouts)

Nov. 4 – The Lost Cause and Southern Identity, I
(Lumpkin, vii-147)

Nov. 7 – The Lost Cause and Southern Identity, II
(Lumpkin, 151-252)

Nov. 9 – The Benighted South: The 1920s

Nov. 11 – No class

Nov. 14 – Agrarianism
(APDV: Twelve Southerners, I'll Take My Stand)

Nov. 16 – The Depression and the New Deal Era
(Excerpts from “The Report on Economic Conditions of the South” – handout)

7. Civil Rights and the Modern South
(Boles, II: chapters 28-32)
Nov. 18 – **Brown v. Board of Education** and the Backlash
(“Southern Manifesto” – handout)

Nov. 21 – Beginnings of a Movement
(Marsh, 3-9)

**Nov. 24-26 – Thanksgiving Holidays**

Nov. 28 – Alabama and the Movement
(ADPV: “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”; Marsh, 10-48)

Nov. 30 – Mississippi and the Movement
(Marsh, 49-151, 192-204)

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

Dec. 5 – Southern Politics since the Civil Rights Movement – **Essay #3 Due**

Dec. 7 - Summary and Review

**FINAL EXAMINATION: Wednesday, December 14, 1:00 p.m.**