

History 3090: *The American South*
MWF 2:30-3:20, LeConte 321
Instructor: John Hayes (chiles@uga.edu; 706-248-3391)
Office: LeConte 301A
Office Hours: W 12:30-2:30 or by appointment

This course is a basic introduction to the history of the American South, from Jamestown to the present. It is premised on the assumption that the history of the region differs in a number of ways from that of the larger nation. Thus, we will focus on the various historical forces that have made for a distinct region called “the South,” rather than on those (participation in the Revolutionary War, for example) that can be narrated adequately from the perspective of national history.

As we will see in the course of the semester, the South has a strange, rich history full of paradox and human complexity. At times various groups have claimed to represent “the South” or possess what it means to be “Southern,” but we will discover that monolithic definitions of the region conceal rather than reveal its complicated human tapestry. There are multiple “Southern” identities, and in the four centuries of regional history different groups have struggled with others to realize their aspirations for what the region should look like. To study those strivings—those that won the day, as well as those that lost—is to open up a contentious story full of both grandeur and depravity.

Requirements:

1. Attendance: Attendance is mandatory, and I will call the roll every day. Each absence *over three* will result in *five* points subtracted from your final grade. The three allowed absences include illness, prior commitments, funerals, weddings, and the like; you do not need to explain why you missed class.
2. Note-taking: Taking good notes is critical to doing well in the class. There is no textbook, and material in the lectures is not duplicated in the readings. All of your essays are open-note, so the better your notes, the better your essay is likely to be. In the first few weeks, I will give a number of pop quizzes and short writing assignments to encourage and/or develop good note-taking skills.
3. Reading: Generally, the course alternates between a lecture day and a discussion day. Each discussion day has assigned readings. These are relatively short, so you are expected to read them closely and carefully and be prepared to discuss them. I will give periodic pop quizzes on the readings. The three books are available at the UGA bookstore, or online, and the coursepack is available at Bel-Jean.
4. Writing Assignments: I will give short writing assignments for most of the readings. Usually they will consist of a half page/page response to specific questions. They are always due at the beginning of class. Late assignments can be handed in, but with a penalty of *fifteen* points.
5. Essays: There are *three essays* for the class, evenly spaced throughout the semester. The first two are *6-8 pages*, and the third is *8-10 pages*. As a class we will develop potential essay questions based on material in the lectures and discussions, and each essay will engage with central themes in a specific period of

southern history. Essays are due at the beginning of class on the day specified. Essays handed in late lose *10 points* each day (24 hours from original due date).

Grades:

1. Quizzes, short writing assignments: 15%
2. Discussion participation: 15%
3. Essay 1: 20%
4. Essay 2: 20%
5. Essay 3: 30%

Required Texts:

History 3090: Hayes *Coursepack*

Kenneth Greenberg, ed. *The Confessions of Nat Turner and Related Documents*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Melissa Fay Greene, *Praying for Sheetrock*

The Coursepack is available at Bel-Jean. The three books are available at the UGA bookstore, but you can also look for used or cheaper copies online. I recommend www.abebooks.com and www.powells.com.

Etiquette and Honesty:

Please turn off cell phones before class begins. There is no eating or drinking in the classroom, with the exception of pork rinds, MoonPies, and RC Cola (all usually available in the snack machines in LeConte Hall).

All work—notes, quizzes, short writing assignments, essays—should be the student's own. Please familiarize yourself with University standards regarding "A Culture of Honesty" at www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/ah.pdf.

Office meetings:

I will be in the office at the time listed above, and you do not need to make a prior appointment. If you need to or would like to meet at a different time, talk to me before or after class, or email me, and we can set up a different time to meet.

Friday, 8/17: Introduction

Section One: The Colonial and Antebellum South (1607-1865)

Monday, 8/20: Jamestown and Tobacco

Wednesday, 8/22: Carolina and Rice

Friday, 8/24: *Discussion*: Court Cases and Laws from the Early Chesapeake (CP)

Monday, 8/27: Rise of Slavery and the Idea of Race
Wednesday, 8/29: Stratification and the Emergence of a Social Order
Friday, 8/31: *Discussion*: Rhys Isaac, “Evangelical Revolt: The Nature of the Baptists’ Challenge to the Traditional Order in Virginia, 1765 to 1775” (JSTOR); Christine Heyrman, *Southern Cross* excerpts (CP)

Wednesday, 9/5: Post-Revolutionary Possibilities and the Rise of Cotton
Friday, 9/7: *Discussion*: Greenberg, ed. *The Confessions of Nat Turner and Related Documents*

Monday, 9/10: The Plantation System and Antebellum Culture
Wednesday, 9/12: *Discussion*: Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll* excerpts; James Thornwell, “The Christian Doctrine of Slavery” (both CP)
Friday, 9/14: *Discussion*: Dickson Bruce, *And They All Sang Hallelujah* excerpts; Miles Fisher, *Negro Slave Songs* excerpts (both CP)

Monday, 9/17: The Secession Movement
Wednesday, 9/19: *Discussion*: John Cairnes, *The Slave Power* excerpts (CP)
Friday, 9/21: The Civil War; ***develop question for first essay (due Monday, 10/1)***

Section Two: Reconstruction and the New South (1865-1940)

Monday, 9/24: Reconstruction and the Early Republican Party
Wednesday, 9/26: *Discussion*: Richard Current, *Those Terrible Carpetbaggers* excerpts (CP)
Friday, 9/28: Watch “Birth of a Nation” (selections)

Monday, 10/1: Reconstruction and Reaction; ***first essay due***
Wednesday, 10/3: The “New South” and Populism
Friday, 10/5: *Discussion*: Lawrence Goodwyn, “Populist Dreams and Negro Rights: East Texas as a Case Study” (JSTOR)

Monday, 10/8: Disfranchisement and the “Solid South”
Wednesday, 10/10: Rise and Practice of Segregation
Friday, 10/12: *Discussion*: W.E.B. Du Bois, “Of the Coming of John”; Lillian Smith, *Killers of the Dream* excerpts (both CP)

Monday, 10/15: New South Realities
Wednesday, 10/17: *Discussion*: H.L. Mencken on “The Bible Belt” (CP)
Friday, 10/19: The Rural Poor

Monday, 10/22: *Discussion*: William Faulkner, “Delta Autumn” (CP)
Wednesday, 10/24: Neo-Populism: Huey Long and the STFU

Monday, 10/29: *Discussion*: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; ***develop question for second essay (due Monday, 11/5)***

Section Three: The Sunbelt and the Global South (1940 to the present)

Wednesday, 10/31: Rural Depopulation and Diaspora

Friday, 11/2: *Discussion*: Flannery O'Connor, "The Displaced Person" (CP)

Monday, 11/5: Breaking Down the Regional Economy, the "Sunbelt," Immigration;
second essay due

Wednesday, 11/7: *Discussion*: Walker Percy, excerpts from *The Last Gentleman* and
Love in the Ruins (CP)

Friday, 11/9: Civil Rights Movement and Mass Organizing

Monday, 11/12: *Discussion*: Martin Luther King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (CP);
listen to Fannie Lou Hamer's MFDP speech

Wednesday, 11/14: Civil Rights Movement and White Responses

Friday, 11/16: *Discussion*: Melissa Fay Greene, *Praying for Sheetrock*

Monday, 11/19: Jim Crow Redivivus; watch "Crime of Hate"

Monday, 11/26: Globalization and Persistent Poverty

Wednesday, 11/28: Watch "Vernon, Florida"

Friday, 11/30: *Discussion*: Robert Coles, "God and the Rural Poor" (CP)

Monday, 12/3: Defeat of the ERA and the Reassertion of Patriarchy

Tuesday, 12/4: Re-enfranchisement and Two Party Politics

Wednesday, 12/5: *Discussion*: Peter Applebome, *Dixie Rising* excerpts (CP); ***develop question for third essay (due Friday, 12/14 at 5pm)***