Hist 3205: U.S. South, 1607-1900
Spring 2009
Dr. Randy Shifflett
Virginia Tech
Syllabus

Office Hours: 10:00-11:30 TTH/Other Times by Appointment
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TA:
TA Office Hours:
Course Web Site: Blackboard

Students not attending the first class may be dropped

Required Texts:
  Virtual Jamestown by Shifflett
  Oxford Book of the American South by Ayers and Mittendorf
  John Washington’s Civil War by Shifflett
  Other online sources

Course Description:

This course covers the social, political, and economic development of the U. S. South from Jamestown’s founding in 1607 to 1900. Themes of the course include:

- 17th century in American History
- Societies with slaves to slave societies
- 18th Century in American History
- Race, Class, and Gender
- Causes of Sectionalism
- Civil War as a Defining Event
- Why Reconstruction Needs to be Reconsidered
- The “New South” Myth

This course is intended to provide students with detailed and complex analyses of the major events, themes, and people in America’s history from 1607 to 1800. We will explore the issues of the period not only through political leaders but also through the lives of ordinary Southerners. Readings cover the key subjects we will focus on. The course requirements include unannounced objective quizzes or in-class written responses on the readings (no make-ups), a mid term exam, and a final exam.

Grading:
Quizzes and Class Work: 40 %
Mid term Exam 20 %
Final Exam: 40 %

Honor Policy:

I trust every student in this course to fully comply with all of the provisions of Virginia Tech’s honor system. In addition to pledging that you have neither received nor given aid while taking your exam, your signature also affirms that you have not accessed any notes, study outlines, problem sets, old exams, answer keys, or the textbook while taking an exam and that you have not obtained any answers from another student’s exam. All alleged honor violations brought to my attention will be forwarded to the Virginia Tech honor committee. If, in my judgment, it is beyond a reasonable doubt that a student has committed an honor violation with regard to a given exam or quiz, that student will receive an immediate grade of 'F' for that work, irrespective of any subsequent action taken by the honor committee.

Hist 3205 Calendar of Classes

Schedule for readings and lectures (subject to change):

Encounters: Land and People, Seventeenth Century
NOTE: A&M=Ayers and Mittendorf, *The Oxford Book of the American South*

Week 1: Chesapeake Virginia
1/20 Precontact and “Discovery”
1/22 Discussion: Readings 1 & 2 by William Harrison & Richard Hakluyt

(Last day to add class, 26 Jan)

Week 2: Indians and English
1/27 Indian-English Encounters, Seventeenth Century Virginia
1/29 Discussion: Powhatan’s Discourse of Peace and War; John Smith’s Map of Virginia; John White Watercolors and Theodor De Bry Engravings; Henry Spelman; Paspahegh Timeline

From Societies with Slaves to Slave Societies

Week 3: Rise of the Plantation System
2/3 Indentured Servitude, Tobacco, and Slavery
2/5 Discussion: Richard Frethorne writes his parents; Freedom Suits; Indenture of Richard Lowther; Registers of Servants; Indenture Described

Eighteenth-Century Awakenings

Week 4: Religion
2/10  The Great Awakening
2/12  Discussion: First Great Awakening; Timeline; Benjamin Franklin on Race; 1755; A&M, Francis Asbury’s Journal, pp. 18-22.

**Revolutionary South**

**Race, Class, and Gender Limits to the Revolution**

Week 5: War and Compromise
2/17  American Revolution
2/19  Discussion: George Washington on slavery; the 3/5 compromise; fugitive slaves and the constitution; states on prohibition of slave trade; Washington’s Farewell Address;

Week 6
2/24  Federalist v. Republicans
2/26  John Adams on slavery and race; Jefferson on race and slavery: Query 14, pp. 264-267 or A&M, pp. 13-22; Jefferson on Political Parties; Nullification

**The Old South and Sectionalism**

(Last day to drop class without penalty, 2 March)

Week 7: The South of Romance, Legend, Memory, and Reality

3/5  Mid-Term Exam

**Spring Break, March 7-15**

Week 8: Slaves on Slavery
3/17  Slavery: Slavery Fact Sheets

Week 9: Political Crises and Attempts at Compromise
3/24  Sectional Crises: Sectional Conflict

Week 10: Disunion
3/31  Sectional Crisis: Secession and Civil War
4/2  Discussion: Civil War; Dew, Mission to Virginia (on Blackboard)
Week 11: Civil War and Its Meanings
4/7 Open

Week 12:
4/14 Search for Meaning: The “Lost Cause”

**Reconstruction Reconsidered**

Week 13: Reconstruction
4/21 Myths and Realities

Week 14: The Counter-Revolution: Southern Democrats Regain the Upper Hand
4/28 They Called it Redemption
4/30 Discussion, New South Slavery: [Photo Dossier on Sharecropping](#), [Sharecropper Plantations](#), Crop Lien and Excerpts on Post-War Experiences (on Blackboard)

Week 15: The Jim Crow South
1. 5/5 Discussion: [Autobiography of Southern Black Woman](#); [Plessy v. Ferguson](#); [Willams v. Mississippi](#)

**Final Exam**: Saturday, 9 May, 1:05-3:05 p.m.

**Resources:**
- [16th Century Timeline](#)
- [17th Century Timeline](#)
- [18th Century Timeline](#)
- [19th Century Timeline](#)
- [Timeline of the Atlantic Slave Trade](#)
- [Timeline of Abolition](#)
- [Trial of John Brown](#)
- [Andrew Johnson Impeachment Trial](#)
- [The Trial of Captain Henry Wirz](#)
- [Lincoln Assassination Trials](#)
- [New South Slavery: Autobiography of a Black Georgia Peon](#)
Autobiography of Southern Black Woman
Confessions of Nat Turner
Supreme Court Cases
2. Dred Scov. Sanford
3. Plessy v. Ferguson
4. Williams v. Mississippi
Slavery Fact Sheets