Hist 3205: U.S. South, 1607-1900  
Fall 2009  
MajWm 434, 11:00-12:15  
Dr. Randy Shifflett  
Virginia Tech  

Office Hours: 9:30-11:30 a.m., TTH/Other Times by Appointment  
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TA: TBA  
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Course Web Site: Scholar  

Students not attending the first class may be dropped  

Required Texts:  
- *Generations of Captivity* by Ira Berlin  
- *The Promise of the New South* by Edward Ayers  
- *Virtual Jamestown* by Crandall Shifflett  
- *John Washington’s Civil War* by Crandall 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:  

- Chesapeake Virginia and the 17th Century  
- Societies with slaves to slave societies  
- The Revolutionary South in the 18th Century  
- 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 southern history from 1607 to 1900. 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):

Week 1: Chesapeake Virginia
8/25 Colonization: English Motivations and English-Indian Encounters
8/27 Discussion: Primary Readings, Questions, and Statistics; 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;

(Last day to add class, 28 Aug)

Week 2: Rise of the Plantation System
9/1 Indentured Servitude, Tobacco, and Slavery. Discussion: Richard Frethorne writes his parents; Freedom Suits; Indenture of Richard Lowther; Registers of Servants; Indenture Described
9/3 Discussion, Berlin, Ch, 1

Week 3:
9/8 Bacon’s Rebellion: cause, leader, purposes, consequences
9/10 Discussion, Berlin, Ch. 2

Eighteenth-Century: Religion, War, and Republicanism

Week 4: The Great Awakening
9/15 The Transformation of Virginia
9/17 Discussion: First Great Awakening; Timeline
Revolutionary South

Week 5: War and Compromise
9/22 Republicanism and the American Revolution
9/24 Discussion: Berlin, Ch. 3

Week 6
9/29 Open
10/1 Federalist v. Republicans

The Old South and Sectionalism

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

Week 7: Honor in the Old South
10/6 Berlin, Ch. 4

10/8 Mid-Term Exam

Spring Break, March 7-15

Week 8: Slaves on Slavery
10/13 Slavery: Slavery Fact Sheets

Week 9: Political Crises and Attempts at Compromise
10/20 Sectional Crises: Sectional Conflict
10/22 Discussion: Confessions of Nat Turner, Was Nat Turner insane?

Week 10: Disunion
10/27 Sectional Crisis: John Brown DVD
10/29 Discussion: Civil War; Dew, Mission to Virginia (on Blackboard)

Week 11: Civil War and Its Meanings
11/3 Open
11/5 Discussion: Shifflett, *John Washington’s Civil War*, pp. 45-83; Berlin, “Epilogue”

Week 12:
11/10 The “Lost Cause”
11/12 Discussion: Ayers, Chs. 1 through 5

Reconstruction Reconsidered

Week 13: Reconstruction
11/17 Discussion: Ayers, Chs. 6 through 8
11/19  Discussion: Differing Viewpoints

Thanksgiving Break: November 21-29

Week 14: The Counter-Revolution: Southern Democrats Regain the Upper Hand
12/1  They Called it Redemption
12/3  Discussion, New South Slavery: Photo Dossier on Sharecropping, Sharecropper Plantations, Crop Lien and Excerpts on Post-War Experiences (on Blackboard); Ayers, Chs. 9 through 12

Week 15: The Jim Crow South
12/8  Discussion: Autobiography of Southern Black Woman; Plessy v. Ferguson; Williams v. Mississippi; Ayers, Ch. 13 through”Epilogue”

Final Exam: December 14, 1:05 – 3:05 p.m.

Online Resources:
16th Century Timeline
17th Century Timeline
18th Century Timeline
19th Century Timeline
Timeline of the Atlantic Slave Trade
George Washington on slavery
Jefferson on race and slavery: Query 14, pp. 264-267
Jefferson on Political Parties
John Adams on slavery and race
Benjamin Franklin on race
fugitive slaves and the constitution
states on prohibition of slave trade
the 3/5 compromise
Timeline of Abolition
nullification
John Brown: murderer, madman, martyr, or hero?
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
 Dred Scot v. Sanford
 Plessy v. Ferguson
 Williams v. Mississippi
Slavery Fact Sheets