

**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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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 17<sup>th</sup> Century
- Societies with slaves to slave societies
- The Revolutionary South in the 18<sup>th</sup> 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](#); [Pasphegh 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](#)

10/15 Discussion: Shifflett, *John Washington's Civil War*; Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

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:

[16<sup>th</sup> Century Timeline](#)

[17<sup>th</sup> Century Timeline](#)

[18<sup>th</sup> Century Timeline](#)

[19<sup>th</sup> 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](#)