

## **The Old South**

### ***Fall 2011***

Course: HIS-343-1  
Location: Bryan 204  
Time: 9:00 – 9:50 am  
Meeting Days: Monday/Wednesday/Friday

Instructor: Rick Shelton  
Office: MHRA 2112  
Office Hours: 10-11 am, M/W  
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### **Course Description**

Economy, society, and polity of the American South from Pre-Columbian times through the Civil War. In describing his native South, the novelist William Faulkner wrote, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." In this course, we will explore the manner in which "the South" came to develop its "peculiar institution" – slavery – and its unique place in the nation's history. Particular emphasis will be placed on those who comprised the South's population during the period extending from 1820 to 1860.

### **Required Texts**

McMillen, Sally G., et al. *Major Problems in the History of the American South, Volume 1: The Old South*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Boston: Wadsworth, 2012.

Wallace, Anthony F. C. *The Long Bitter Trail: Andrew Jackson and the Indians*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1993.

McLaurin, Melton A. *Celia, A Slave: A True Story*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991; Avon, 1993.

### **Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Discuss and explain the nature of relations between Anglo-southerners and Indians from colonization through removal.
- Explain the origins and development of the South's pro-slavery ideology.
- Compare slave cultures of the South and discuss how they impacted the day-to-day lives of the slaves.
- Explain the various ways in which slaves resisted their owners' attempts to control their labor and lives.
- Explain the structure of white southern society and how it reinforced and/or undermined the interests of slaveholders and the "slaveocracy."

## **Areas of Evaluation**

Mid-Term Exam – 20 points

Final Exam – 20 points

Writing Assignment #1 (*The Long Bitter Trail*) – 15 points

Writing Assignment #2 (*Celia, A Slave*) – 15 points

Participation – 10 points

Presentation – 10 points

Reading Quizzes – 10 points

Attendance – 1 point deduction for each absence after 3

## **Grading Scale**

A total of 100 points are available in this course. Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

A+ = 97-100

A = 93-96

A- = 90-92

B+ = 87-89

B = 83-86

B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79

C = 73-76

C- = 70-72

D+ = 67-69

D = 63-66

D- = 60-62

F = <60

## **CLASS POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS**

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity will be practiced in this class when taking tests and preparing research papers and written assignments. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If a student in this class is suspected of cheating, plagiarism, or any act of academic dishonesty, they are subject to the following disciplinary actions, under the discretion of the instructor; receive a zero for the assignment, receive an "F" for the course, or referral to the Academic Dean for disciplinary action.

### **Attendance**

You will be allowed up to three (3) absences of any nature. Additional absences beyond that limit will each result in a one point reduction from your final class grade. Tardiness is also unacceptable and will result in a one point reduction from your final class grade.

### **Cell Phones/Laptops**

No cell phones, iPods, or PDAs are to be activated in class. Turn off cell phones and electronic devices before class. Laptop use is acceptable for note-taking; however, web browsing, social networking, and email are not acceptable activities and will result in the loss of laptop privileges for the semester.

## **Late Work**

No late work will be accepted, and there are no appeals. All deadlines are listed on this syllabus. If you have special circumstances preventing you from turning in an assignment on time, then you must communicate that to me in advance. Failure to turn in work on time will result in a grade of zero (0). It is unfair and disrespectful to the rest of the class if I make exceptions for a small minority who are unwilling or incapable of staying on track. Students requesting exceptions will be referred to this policy.

## **Papers**

All assignments must be typed, stapled, and turned in hard-copy, as well as emailed to the instructor by the assigned due date. Organization, content, grammar, spelling, use of evidence, analytical interpretation, and proper Turabian footnote and bibliographic citations will contribute to writing assignment grades.

## **Participation**

Your participation grade will be based on the overall quality of your contributions to the class and respectful manner with which you conduct yourself in scholarly discussion. If you are not present, you cannot successfully contribute to the discussion. Speak early and often. Ask questions.

## **Preparation**

You will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and past lectures. Quizzes and/or in-class writing exercises will be given to assess your grasp of the assigned material.

## **Presentations**

Each student will work with a classmate to conduct one discussion group presentation over the course of the semester. Presentations should last 12 to 15 minutes and will center on the main readings assigned for the week. The presenter will be responsible to introduce the author, concisely summarize the source, and assess the historical significance of the reading.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

### **HIS 343 – The Old South**

*(subject to change over the course of the semester)*

#### **Week 1 – The Historians’ South**

Aug 22 – Introductions, etc

Aug 24 – What is the South?

Aug 26 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week’s Readings

#### **Week 2 – The Atlantic World**

Aug 29 – The Pre-Columbian South

Aug 31 – The Columbian Exchange

Sep 2 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week’s Readings

#### **Week 3 – Settlement of Red, White, and Black**

Sep 5 – LABOR DAY/NO CLASS

Sep 7 – Early Colonial Virginia

Sep 9 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week’s Readings

#### **Week 4 – The Maturing of the Colonial South**

Sep 12 – Cultures Compared: Virginia and the Carolina Colony

Sep 14 – The North Carolina Backcountry (AKA: The Piedmont)

Sep 16 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week’s Readings

#### **Week 5 – The Revolutionary South and Its Aftermath**

Sep 19 – The Southern War in Popular Culture

Sep 21 – The Southern War on the Ground

Sep 23 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week’s Readings

#### **Week 6 – The Emergence of Southern Nationalism**

Sep 26 – Race in the Early South

Sep 28 – Southern Nationalism

Sep 30 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week’s Readings

### **Week 7 – Indian Removal**

Oct 3 – Trail of Tears, Part 1

Oct 5 – Trail of Tears, Part 2

Oct 7 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week's Readings (*The Long, Bitter Trail* paper due)

### **Week 8 – The Slaveholders' South**

Oct 10 – FALL BREAK/NO CLASS

Oct 12 – The Slaveocracy

Oct 14 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week's Readings

### **Week 9 – The Slave and Free Black Experience**

Oct 17 – The Slave Community

Oct 19 – Free Blacks

Oct 21 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week's Readings

### **Week 10 – A Slave Woman's Life**

Oct 24 – Mid-Term Exam

Oct 26 – Slave Women and Definitions of Womanhood

Oct 28 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week's Readings

### **Week 11 – Women's Life and Culture in the Old South**

Oct 31 – The Plantation Mistress

Nov 2 – Women of the Yeomanry

Nov 4 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week's Readings (*Celia, A Slave* paper due)

### **Week 12 – Non-Slaveholding Whites**

Nov 7 – The Silent Majority

Nov 9 – Yeomen Support of the Slave System

Nov 11 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week's Readings

### **Week 13 – Sectionalism and Secession**

Nov 14 – Stereotypes and Hyperbole

Nov 16 – Election of 1860 and its Fallout

Nov 18 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week’s Readings

### **Week 14 – A Divided South**

Nov 21 – Southern Unionists

Nov 23 – THANKSGIVING BREAK/NO CLASS

Nov 25 – THANKSGIVING BREAK/NO CLASS

### **Week 15 – The Confederate Experience**

Nov 28 – Rich Man’s War, Poor Man’s Fight

Nov 30 – From Battlefield to Home Front

Dec 2 – Group Presentation and Discussion of Week’s Readings

### **Week 16 – Wrap-Up**

Dec 5 – Has our view of “The Old South” changed?

Dec TBA – Final Exam