

HIS 520  
The Twentieth Century South  
Bolton

Office: 2111 MHRA  
Office Hours: Tuesday - 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., or by  
appointment  
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This course will explore the South's social, economic, political, and cultural development in the twentieth century. Among the topics that will be addressed are the changing status of African Americans in the region; political developments during the period (from one-party rule by the Democratic party in the early twentieth century to the re-emergence of the Republican party during the second half of the twentieth century); and the transformation of the South from an overwhelmingly agricultural, rural society to a region identified in the years following World War II with the phenomena of Sunbelt urbanization and industrialization, as well as increasing globalization.

Required Readings (available at the University Bookstore or many other outlets):

Goldfield, David, *Still Fighting the Civil War: The American South and Southern History*

Pascoe, Craig S. et al., eds., *The American South in the Twentieth Century*

Tyson, Timothy, *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power*

Additional required course readings are included on the course schedule and will be available on electronic reserve [ER], Canvas, or JSTOR.

Schedule:

August 18: Introduction

August 25: The South after the Civil War

Reading: Start reading Tyson (read at least the introduction and ch. 1);  
Goldfield, introduction and ch. 1

**ECONOMY**

September 1: Economic Transformation

Reading: Pascoe, 77-139

September 8: Economic Transformation, cont.

Reading: Goldfield, 269-280; Moreton, "Wal-Mart Country" [ER]; Raymond Arsenault, "The End of the Long Hot Summer: The Air Conditioner and Southern Culture," *Journal of Southern History* 50 (November 1984): 597-628 [JSTOR]; Wiese, "African-American Suburbanization and Regionalism in the Modern South" [ER]; Cobb, "Beyond the Y'all Wall" [ER]

September 15: Southern Labor

Reading: Hall, "A Multitude of Sins" [Canvas]; Neil Foley, "Mexicans, Mechanization, and the Growth of Corporate Cotton Culture in South Texas, 1900-1930," *Journal of Southern History* (May 1996): 275-302 [JSTOR]; Brattain, "Still a White Man's Georgia" [ER]

## **RACE AND GENDER**

September 22: Southern Women

Reading: Goldfield, ch. 4-6

September 29: The Era of Segregation

Reading: Tyson, *Radio Free Dixie*, ch. 2; Goldfield, ch. 7; Sullivan, "War, Race, and Democracy" [ER]; Link, "Paternalism and Reform" [ER]

October 6: The Civil Rights Movement

Reading: You should have completed Tyson, *Radio Free Dixie*; Pascoe, 56-73; Goldfield, ch. 8

## **THE RECENT SOUTH**

October 20: Race and Ethnicity

Reading: Pascoe, 19-38; Goldfield, ch. 10; Mohl, "Globalization, Latinization, and the Nuevo New South" [ER]

October 27: Politics

Reading: Pascoe, 225-262; Goldfield, 256-269; Crespino, "Southern Strategies in Mississippi" [ER]; Carter, "North Carolina: A State of Shock" <http://southernspaces.org/2013/north-carolina-state-shock>

## CULTURE

November 3: Religion and the South

Reading: Pascoe, 209-222; Goldfield, ch. 2 and 3

November 10: Literature and Music

Reading: Pascoe, 154-187; Daniel, “Rhythms of the Land” [ER]

November 17: The Modern South and Film

Reading: Cox, “Dixie on Film” [ER]; Graham, “Civil Rights Films and the New Red Menace” [ER]

November 24: Is There Still a Distinctive South?

Reading: Goldfield, ch. 11 and 12; Pascoe, 143-153; Watson, “Southern History, Southern Future” [ER]

December 3: Final Exam (3:30 pm)

### Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the history of the twentieth-century South broadly (in terms of social, economic, political, and cultural developments).
2. Evaluate how historians and others have described the history of the twentieth-century South.

### Assignments:

1. Do the weekly reading and come to class prepared to discuss the material. A sizeable part of your grade will be determined by your class participation. Non-participation or weak participation will obviously result in a low grade. I will give students a weekly class participation grade ranging from A (Excellent) to D (Unsatisfactory). There will be a self-evaluation of your class participation at the midpoint of the semester to help you assess your performance in this area.
2. Essays: Each student will write three essays. I will provide writing prompts for each of the essays. The first essay (3-4 pages) will be on either the economic transformation readings (September 8) or the southern labor readings (September 15). The second essay (4-6 pages) will be on the Tyson book and the civil rights movement and will require some additional research on your part (October 6). The

- final essay (3-4 pages) will be either on race and ethnicity in the recent South (October 20) or politics and the recent South (October 27). All your essays should relate to the assigned readings in some meaningful way and should not focus too narrowly on some trivial point(s). All your essays, of course, should be well written and well organized. All essays are due on the dates listed above. Late papers will receive a penalty of one letter-grade per day late. All papers should be typed and double-spaced, with a standard 12-point font and one-inch margins. Proper footnote citation is required, using Chicago Manual of Style format.
3. **Group Project:** Students will work in groups of 2-3 to prepare a group presentation about the Modern South and Film (due November 17). An assignment sheet for this project will be distributed in class.
  4. **Graduate Assignment:** Historiographical essay of 10-12 pages on some aspect of the Twentieth-Century South. Graduate students should meet with me ASAP to discuss topics and reading lists. Due date: November 24.
  5. **Graduate Assignment:** Graduate students will read one extra book from a list that will be distributed and use that book as the basis for a 15-20 minute presentation to the class. Additional details about this assignment will be provided with the book list.

Attendance:

Your attendance is expected at all class meetings. One unexcused absence is allowed, but any unexcused absences beyond one will count against your weekly class participation grade.

Grading:

Undergraduates: Essay # 1 (10%); Essay # 2 (15%); Essay # 3 (10%); Group Project (15%); Final Exam (25%); Class Participation (25%)

Graduates: Essay # 1 (5%); Essay # 2 (10%); Essay # 3 (5%); Group Project (10%); Final Exam (20%); Class Participation (20%); Historiographical Essay (20%); Class Presentation (10%)

Academic Honor Code:

All students are expected to know and abide by the UNCG Academic Honor Code.