

HIS 520: Topics: Freedom in the Age of Slavery
Fall 2021 Wednesdays 4:00pm-6:50pm
Bryan Building 212

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Bulletin Description:

Selected topics in the history of the American South from the colonial origins to our time. Examples include politics, education, economic development, reform, race, and gender.

Course Description:

While most people of color in the South were enslaved on the eve of the Civil War, over 250,000 were free during the same period. This course will explore the experiences of free people of color, individuals of African and/or Native American ancestry who were free before the end of slavery in the U.S. South. Students will learn about the process of becoming free, the lives of free people of color, and the political efforts to limit the liberties of free persons. The class will cover topics such as discrimination and social interactions beyond racial boundaries.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
- Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.
- Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures.
- Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.

Academic Integrity Policy: Each student is required to sign the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course. Refer to the following URL: <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>.

Accommodations: UNCG seeks to comply fully with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in 215 Elliott University Center, (336) 334-5440, ods.uncg.edu.

COVID Statement:

As we return for fall 2021, the campus community must recognize and address continuing concerns about physical and emotional safety, especially as we will have many more students, faculty, and staff on campus than in the last academic year. As such, all students, faculty, and staff are required to uphold UNCG's culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Following face-covering guidelines
- Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene when possible
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19
- Staying home if you are ill
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill.

Instructors will have seating charts for their classes. These are important for facilitating contact tracing should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19. Students must sit in their assigned seats at every class meeting and must not move furniture. Students should not eat or drink during class time.

A limited number of disposable masks will be available in classrooms for students who have forgotten theirs. Face coverings will also be available for purchase in the UNCG Campus Bookstore. Students who do not follow masking requirements will be asked to put on a face covering or leave the classroom to retrieve one and only return when they follow the basic requirements to uphold standards of safety and care for the UNCG community. Once students have a face covering, they are permitted to re-enter a class already in progress. Repeated issues may result in conduct action. The course policies regarding attendance and academics remain in effect for partial or full absence from class due to lack of adherence with face covering and other requirements.

For instances where the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) has granted accommodations regarding wearing face coverings, students should contact their instructors to develop appropriate alternatives to class participation and/or activities as needed. Instructors or the student may also contact OARS (336.334.5440) who, in consultation with Student Health Services, will review requests for accommodations.

Required Texts:

Ira Berlin, *Slaves without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South* (New York: Pantheon, 1974) (or the updated 2007 edition)
Jennifer Hull Dorsey, *Hirelings: African American Workers and Free Labor in Early Maryland* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011)
Eva Sheppard Wolf, *Almost Free: A Story about Family and Race in Antebellum Virginia* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2012)
Alejandro de la Fuente and Ariela J. Gross, *Becoming Free, Becoming Black: Race, Freedom, and Law in Cuba, Virginia, and Louisiana* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020)

Grade Breakdown:

Participation	30%
Book Reviews	40%
Readings Questions	30%

Grade Scale: 100-93 A, 92-90 A-, 89-87 B+, 86-83 B, 82-80 B-, 79-77 C+, 76-73 C, 72-70 C-, 69-67 D+, 66-63 D, 62-60 D-, 59-Below F