



*Slave plantations in Greensboro*

# Seminar in Historical Research and Writing: Doing Local History

COURSE GUIDE\*

HIS 411A

Fall 2023

Prof. L. Tolbert (a.k.a. drt)

Virtual Office Hours  
by appointment

This is an online asynchronous class

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Email: [lctolber@uncg.edu](mailto:lctolber@uncg.edu) This is the best way to reach me; I do not have an office phone.

History Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/>

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

*\*Note that this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any necessary changes in the syllabus or course schedule will prioritize effectiveness for student learning.*

The focus of our local history research this semester will be the history of slavery in Greensboro. The map above identifies some of the key sites of enslavement in Greensboro. Although slavery was a widespread institution in antebellum Greensboro, not much is known about the local history of slavery. Instead, Greensboro likes to celebrate the local history of the underground railroad and the civil rights movement. This semester we will build on the work of previous UNCG students whose research has begun to make the history of slavery in Greensboro more visible. Our goal will be to dig into some of the primary sources that document the local history of slavery and connect Greensboro to the larger history of small-town slavery.

## Student Learning Goals

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Ultimate Goal: Write a research paper about a particular aspect of the history of slavery in Greensboro using at least three different types of primary sources. To accomplish this goal you will:

- Define a meaningful and manageable research focus. You are not writing an encyclopedic history of slavery in Greensboro. What particular aspect of slave experience will you study?
- Use at least three different types of primary sources. We will be developing research questions from runaway slave notices and the slave census. You will need to find another type of primary source to add to the evidence you are using from the census and runaway notices. Options include newspapers, manuscripts, laws, deeds, maps, etc.
- Develop a scholarly research bibliography to contextualize the primary sources. Your bibliography should demonstrate that you considered scholarly journal articles as well as books to create your research path.
- Write a persuasive argument about the significance of the history you are studying that demonstrates the key benchmarks of historical writing.

## REQUIRED TEXT

All assigned reading will be provided in Canvas.

## EVALUATION AND GRADING

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**The Final Grade will be determined as follows:**

Discussion Board	20%
Topic Overview and Preliminary Research Bibliography	10%
Draft with revised bibliography	20%
Final Paper	50%

**Course Grade Scale:** A 94-100 / A- 90-93 / B+ 87-89 / B 84-86 / B- 80-83 / C+ 77-79 / C 74-76 / C- 73-70/ D+ 67-69/ D 64-66/ D- 60-63/ F 59 and below.

### **Deadlines**

The weekly discussion board assignments along with the deadlines below are designed to scaffold your research and ensure that you can be successful in completing your paper by the end of the semester.

- Topic Proposal by Week 6
- Topic Defined and Research Bibliography set by Week 9
- Draft and revised bib by Week 13
- Final Paper by Nov. 29

## **TOPICAL OUTLINE/CALENDAR**

Week 1. Aug 15-18. Introduction to the class topic and goals

### **Module 1. Building an Effective Research Trail**

Week 2. Aug. 21-25. Reading local history/Building Background Knowledge to Ask Good Research Questions

Week 3. Aug. 28-Sept. 1. Using Primary Sources to Generate Research Questions: Runaway Slave Notices

Week 4. Sept. 5-8. Runaway Slave Ad Analysis

Week 5. Sept. 11-15. Using Primary Sources to Generate Research Questions: Slave Census

Week. 6. Sept. 18-22. Topic Proposal by the end of Week 6.

### **Module 2. Writing as a Research Tool**

Week. 7. Sept. 25-29. Contextualizing and Bib development/Citation Formatting Refresher

Week 8. Oct.2-6. Writing as a Research Tool/Post Reading Notes

Week. 9. Fall Break (short week) Topic Outline/Prelim Bib due

Week. 10. Oct.16-20. Topic Revision/Development/Post Reading Notes

### **Module 3. Crafting a Research Paper**

Week 11. Oct. 23-27. Creating an Argument Outline

Week 12. Oct. 30-Nov. 3 Thesis Statements

Week. 13. Nov. 6-10 Draft Paper due with revised bibliography/Reverse Outlining

Week 14. Nov. 13-17 Integrating Evidence/Developing Analysis

Week. 15. Nov. 20-21 [Thanksgiving]

Week. 16. Nov. 27-29 Final Paper due

## Course Policies

### LATE WORK POLICY

You will do best in this course if you work on schedule. Meeting deadlines is important for your success in this course. If something gets in the way of this, please reach out immediately so that we can create a mitigation plan. A consistent failure to meet deadlines will adversely affect the final grade.

### ACCESSIBILITY/ACCOMMODATIONS

UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS). If you wish to request accommodations, please start the process by contacting OARS at 215 Elliott University Center, 336-334-5440, [ods.uncg.edu](https://ods.uncg.edu) ([Links to an external site.](#))

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Each student is required to adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course. Refer to the following URL: <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/> ([Links to an external site.](#))

## Health and Wellness

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience.

You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/>, or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive.

For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to [recovery@uncg.edu](mailto:recovery@uncg.edu)

## CONTRA POWER STATEMENT

!! As your instructor, I am committed to creating a productive and non-discriminatory learning environment of mutual respect. Title IX and UNCG's school policy prohibit gender-based harassment, sexual harassment, and sex discrimination for all members of the University community. Harassment can come in many forms – both direct and indirect – and can occur in subtle or overt ways. Traditionally, harassment is seen from formal power-over structure. However, harassment can occur without a formal power structure. Contrapower, when a student harasses an instructor or peer, is a type of behavior that can create an intimidating environment in and outside of the classroom. Either form of harassment can include direct or indirect comments, physical intimidation, emails, anonymous notes and course evaluations. Both Contrapower and traditional forms of harassment are prohibited and subject to the same kinds of accountability applied to offenses against protected categories, such as race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, etc.

If you experience or witness such instances of harassment, please seek out the following resources:

- UNCG Counseling Center (non-reporting agency/confidential): 336.334.5874
- Murphie Chappell, Title IX Coordinator (reporting agent) 336.256.0362  
or [mechappe@uncg.edu](mailto:mechappe@uncg.edu)
- University Police (reporting agent) 336.334.4444

For more information on UNCG's policies regarding harassment, visit [http://policy.uncg.edu/university-policies/sex\\_gender\\_harrassment/sex-gender-harrassment.pdf](http://policy.uncg.edu/university-policies/sex_gender_harrassment/sex-gender-harrassment.pdf)

## **Classroom Conduct**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. Please review the [Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom Policy](#) for additional information.

## **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

It is expected that instructors will make reasonable accommodations for students who have conflicts due to religious obligations. Please make arrangements with the instructor in advance of any conflict. For more information on UNCG's Religious Obligations policy, visit: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3\\_J3Uix1B4UeTV4Nk1vVFJoVFE/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3_J3Uix1B4UeTV4Nk1vVFJoVFE/view?usp=sharing)

## **ELASTICITY STATEMENT**

It is the intention of the instructor that this syllabus and course calendar will be followed as outlined, however, as the need arises there may be adjustments to the syllabus and calendar. In such cases, the instructor will notify the students in class and via e-mail with an updated syllabus and calendar within a reasonable timeframe to allow students to adjust as needed.

## **ADVERSE WEATHER**

In cases of inclement weather that impact this course and course schedule, details can be found:

- In your University email: UNCG sends out Adverse Weather updates
- In the UNCG Mobile App: You can even set it to provide you alerts
- Via television announcements: UNCG makes weather announcements available on five local stations (WFMY-2, WGHP-V, WXII-TV, WXLV-TV, and Spectrum News)

- Visit [Spartanalert.uncg.edu](http://Spartanalert.uncg.edu) or the UNCG homepage: UNCG posts up-to-date information on the main University web site ([uncg.edu](http://uncg.edu)) and on the main Spartan Alert page ([spartanalert.uncg.edu](http://spartanalert.uncg.edu)).

## FINAL EXAMINATION

There is no final exam in this course.