

Spring 2011 | University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

## **HIS 520: Memoir in Southern History**

### **Course Syllabus**

This course will examine southern U. S. history from colonial times to the present through the prism of memoir. We will read the memoirs of indentured servants, Indians, slaves, slaveholders, civil rights workers, and segregationists, among others, to examine the experiences of the people themselves. Through their memoirs, southerners did not just narrate their lives. They chronicled their legacies as well. We will examine southerners' use of their memoirs to both illuminate and obscure aspects of the southern past.

**Course Requirements:** The requirements for this course include assigned readings for each class, periodic assignments and quizzes on the assigned readings, and three papers.

**Assigned Readings:** There are four books assigned for this class: Rhys Isaac, *Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom: Revolution and Rebellion on a Virginia Plantation* (2004); Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, and *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (2000); Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw* (1974); and Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story* (2005). Each of these books can be purchased at the University Bookstore or on-line. Additional readings are on Blackboard, E-reserves, and the internet. These readings will be linked to the Syllabus on Blackboard and listed under Course Documents as they become available. The assigned reading list may undergo minor changes; students should be sure to consult the most current version of the Syllabus on Blackboard.

**Attendance and Late Policy:** You are allowed one absence. After one absence, you will receive a zero for participation for that day. In addition, students will be dropped from the class for excessive absences. Assignments submitted in class are due at the beginning of the class period. Students who submit assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy.

#### **Final Grade Composition**

- Participation                    20%
- Assignments                    20%
- Papers (3 x 20%)                60%

Participation: Participation in discussion is mandatory. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings on the day that they are assigned. Attendance alone is not sufficient for full participation credit.

Assignments: Students will be given brief in-class and take-home writing and research assignments based on the assigned readings. Students will also be periodically quizzed on readings and lectures.

Papers: Students are required to write three papers based on assigned readings, the first due on February 10, the second due on March 31, and the third due on April 21.

**Plagiarism Policy:** The University defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise."<sup>1</sup> (See the University's [Academic Integrity Policies](#) for further information.) All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

### **Week 1 (January 11)**

Reading: Excerpts from James Ronald Kennedy and Walter Donald Kennedy, "Race Relations in the Old South," in *The South Was Right!* on [blackboard](#)

### **Week 2 (January 18)**

Reading: Alvar Núñez Cabeza De Vaca, *Chronicle of the Narváez Expedition* on blackboard ([Part I](#) and [Part II](#))

### **Week 3 (January 25)**

Reading: John Smith, *A True Relation of Such Occurrences and Accidents of Note as Hath Hapned in Virginia Since the First Planting of that Colony, which is now resident in the South part thereof, till the last returne from thence* on [internet](#); André Pénicaut, *Fleur de Lys and Calumet: Being the Pénicaut Narrative of French Adventure in Louisiana* ([Part I](#) and [Part II](#)) on blackboard

### **Week 4 (February 1)**

Reading: Rhys Isaac, *Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom: Revolution and Rebellion on a Virginia Plantation*, pp. XI - 162

### **Week 5 (February 8)**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/violation/plagiarism/>

Reading: Rhys Isaac, *Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom: Revolution and Rebellion on a Virginia Plantation*, pp. 163 - 336

**\*First paper due on Thursday, February 10 at 5:00 p.m.\***

**Week 6 (February 15)**

Reading: Charles C. Bolton, *The Confessions of Edward Isham: A Poor White Life in the Old South*, pp. 1-18 on [blackboard](#); D. R. Hundley, *Social Relations in Our Southern States*, pp. 163-90 on [blackboard](#); Cornelia Jones Pond, *Recollections of a Southern Daughter*, pp. 19-38 on [blackboard](#)

**Week 7 (February 22)**

Reading: Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, and Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

**Week 8 (March 1)**

Reading: Excerpts from Jubal Anderson Early, *A Memoir of the Last Year of the War for Independence in the Confederate States of America* on [blackboard](#); John M. Washington, "Memorys of the Past" on [blackboard](#); Susie King Taylor, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp: An African American Woman's Civil War Memoir* on blackboard; Albion Tourgee, *A Fool's Errand* on blackboard

**Week 9 (March 8) Class Canceled – Spring Break**

**Week 10 (March 15)**

Reading: Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw*, pp. XV - 153

**Week 11 (March 22)**

Reading: Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw*, pp. 152 - 344

**Week 12 (March 29)**

Reading: Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw*, pp. 345 - 556

**\*Second paper due on Thursday, March 31 at 5:00 p.m.\***

**Week 13 (April 5)**

Reading: Excerpts from William Alexander Percy, *Lanterns on the Levee: Recollections of a Planter's Son* on [blackboard](#); Richard Wright, *Black Boy (American Hunger): A Record of Childhood and Youth* on blackboard

**Week 14 (April 12)**

Reading: Excerpts from Lillian Eugenia Smith, *Killers of the Dream* on [blackboard](#); Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* on blackboard

**Week 15 (April 19)**

Reading: Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story*

**\*Third paper due on Thursday, April 21 at 5:00 p.m.\***