

Spring 2012 | University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
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Office Hours: Mondays, 9:30 - 10:30, Wednesdays, 9:30 - 10:30, and by appointment

## HIS 520: The South in the First Person Course Syllabus

This course will examine southern U. S. history from colonial times to the present day through the prism of memoirs and other first-person accounts of the past. We will read primary sources written by indentured servants, Indians, slaves, slaveholders, civil rights workers, and segregationists, among others, to explore the experiences of the people themselves. Through these writings, southerners did not just narrate their lives. They created legacies as well, using their writings to both emphasize and obscure in order to present specific versions 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 four papers.

**Assigned Readings:** There are three books assigned for this class: 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.

**Electronic Devices:** The use of laptops, tablets, cellular phones, or any other type of electronic device is prohibited during class.

**Attendance:** Attendance in class is mandatory. The door will close ten minutes after class starts. Once the door closes, students will no longer be admitted to the class and will be considered absent. Each student is allowed one absence. After one unexcused absence, students will receive a zero for participation for that day. The instructor will excuse absences with a doctor's note or legitimate documentation of other emergencies. Students will be dropped from the class for excessive absences.

**Late Assignments:** All assignments must be submitted in hard copy. Unless otherwise specified on the syllabus, papers are due in class 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. If a student leaves a paper in the professor's mailbox, it is the student's responsibility to check that the professor has received the paper.

**Plagiarism:** 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

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

receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

### **Final Grade Composition**

- Participation                    20%
- Assignments                    15%
- Papers                            65%

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 four papers based on assigned readings and lectures, the first due on January 27, the second due on February 24, the third due on March 30, and the fourth due on April 20.

### **Class Schedule**

#### **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](#); Edward Ayers, "What We Talk about When We Talk about the South," in *All Over the Map: Rethinking American Regions* 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

**\*First paper due on Friday, January 27 at 12:00 p.m.\***

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

Reading: Thomas Bluett, *Some Memoirs of the Life of Job, the Son of Solomon, the High Priest of Boonda in Africa* on blackboard; Excerpts from William Byrd, *The Secret Diary of William Byrd II* on blackboard; Excerpts from Charles Woodmason, *The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of Revolution: The Journal and Other Writings of Charles Woodmason, Anglican Itinerant* on blackboard

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

Boston King, "Memoirs of the Life of Boston King, A Black Preacher," *The Methodist Magazine* on blackboard; Excerpts from Jonathan Boucher, *Reminiscences of an American Loyalist* on blackboard; Eliza Wilkinson, *Letters of Eliza Wilkinson, during the Invasion and Possession of Charlestown, S.C.* on blackboard; Henry Stuart, "Report from Cherokee Country" on blackboard

### **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*

**\*Second paper due on Friday, February 24 at 12:00 p.m.\***

### **Week 8 (February 29)**

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 7) Class Canceled – Spring Break**

### **Week 10 (March 14)**

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

### **Week 11 (March 21)**

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

### **Week 12 (March 28)**

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

**\*Third paper due on Friday, March 30 at 12:00 p.m.\***

### **Week 13 (April 4)**

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

**Week 14 (April 11)**

Reading: Excerpts from Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* on blackboard

**Week 15 (April 18)**

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

**\*Fourth paper due on Friday, April 20 at 12:00 p.m.\***