

History of North Carolina HIS 347-02

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Welcome to HIS 347, History of North Carolina. This is a survey course spanning North Carolina history from pre-contact to the present. It is intended to provide students with an overview of major developments in North Carolina history in a variety of areas, including political history, racial relations, gender history, and cultural history. Students will also develop and practice many historical thinking skills, including primary source analysis, written argumentation, and evaluation of historiographical trends. We will NOT attempt to give equal coverage to every aspect of North Carolina's history, but will rather focus on a series of important topics, arranged chronologically.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to

- Trace the development of North Carolina society over time in a broader national and global context.
- Use historical thinking and effective writing to contextualize, analyze and assess primary and secondary sources
- Formulate a coherent and well-reasoned argument using historical evidence in a written essay.

Assigned Readings and other content

All required readings will be available on Canvas or online at the sites indicated below. You are not required to purchase a course textbook. I will post pdfs of readings from a variety of different sources. These will be located and labeled by unit and title in the "Files" section of Canvas. Other required content will include documentary films, scholarly journal articles, and recorded lectures. All content, like course readings, can be found on the course site.

Course Requirements, Activities, and Grading

This course will be graded on a total points system, described below. Generally speaking, the course is divided into two week units, which include quizzes and writing assignments, due at the end of each unit. In addition, I assign a midterm and a final exam.

Unit Quizzes: 70 points

Each unit includes one timed quiz on unit content. These can be found under "Quizzes," and will be labeled by unit, e.g. "Unit One Quiz." Formats will vary—your first quiz includes 10 multiple choice questions, but future quizzes may also be in a short answer format. Because there are often multiple readings and other content in each unit, I will indicate the focus of the quiz—sometimes it may only reference one of the readings. These quizzes are intended to ensure, first of all, that you are completing readings and other course content, and that you grasp the essential factual information I expect you to glean from each unit. I highly recommend that you complete the quiz for each unit BEFORE completing the unit writing assignment.

Unit Writing Assignments: 140 pts

Each unit will conclude with a writing assignment. You will respond to a prompt that addresses the major themes covered in the unit. Often, this prompt will require you to analyze or otherwise incorporate excerpts from primary sources into your answer. These assignments will address broader themes than the quizzes, themes which will also inform the midterm and final exams. Your responses should be between 250-350 words in length and will be assessed using the scoring guide found in the "Files" section. You can find writing assignments in the "Assignments" section, should type your responses in the text box.

Midterm Exam: 50 points

Your midterm for this course will be composed of short answer and essay questions that address course themes and topics we covered in Units 1-4. The midterm is due on March 11, and I will post it under assignments on the first day of that month.

Final Exam: 100 pts

Your final exam will be similar in format to your midterm in that it will require you to answer a few short answer questions. It will be slightly longer, however—you will have two longer essays that ask you to consider broad questions raised during the course. The longer essays will thus be cumulative, while the short answer questions will only be drawn from material after the midterm. The total number of points available is 360. I will calculate your grade based on the total number of points you earn.

POLICIES

Late Work: Obviously, all work should be turned in on time, and I will close assignments on Blackboard after the due date. If, however, you are for some reason unable to get an assignment completed by the due date, you should contact me beforehand. Late work will be penalized, and I will not accept it at all if you have not discussed it with me. I reserve the right to refuse to accept late work after a period that I deem reasonable, and from students who chronically fail to turn work in on time.

Plagiarism: You are expected to follow the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, which can be found at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>. The consequences of plagiarism or other breaches of academic integrity depend on the severity of the offense and other factors, but I will report all such offenses to the Dean of Students.

Canvas: It is the responsibility of students to learn to use Canvas, which is in any case fairly user-friendly. I will be happy to try to help with minor problems that may arise, but you may have to seek tech support through the proper channels if you have persistent issues with the platform.

Office Hours/Communication: Because this is an online course, I do not keep regular office hours on campus. I try to be as responsive as possible to emails, and you should expect a reply to inquiries within 24 hours at the latest. I encourage you to ask questions about content, and communicate with me if you are worried about falling behind, are suffering from illness or experiencing an emergency. One of the main drawbacks to online courses is their impersonal nature, and I am thus especially responsive to questions about course topics—the kinds of questions students would typically ask in a classroom. If you have other kinds of issues, do not wait until weeks after the fact to tell me what's going on—I will be far less understanding if you do so. If you think a face-to-face meeting is absolutely necessary, we can do that via Skype or Google Hangout, or failing that, schedule a meeting in my office at UNCG after 5 p.m. weekdays.

SCHEDULE:

Please note this is flexible, and I reserve the right to add, subtract, and otherwise alter this schedule. The end date for each unit is the due date. Again, you are required to complete both the quiz and the writing assignment for each unit by 11:59 on this date (e.g. 1/29 for Unit One.)

Unit One, 1/17-1/29: Native Peoples, Settlement, and the Development of a Slave Society in Colonial North Carolina.

Unit Two, 1/30-2/12: Revolutionary North Carolina and the Early Republic

Unit Three, 2/13-2/26: Antebellum North Carolina, Slavery, and Civil War

Unit Four, 2/27-3/5: North Carolina in the “New South”

3/6-3/11: Midterm Exam

3/11-3/20: Spring Break

Unit Five: 3/20-4/2, North Carolina in Depression and War

Unit Six, 4/3-4/16: North Carolina and the Struggle for Civil Rights

Unit Seven, 4/17-4/30: North Carolina—Modern Challenges

5/1-5/8: Final Exam