

History 344: The New South (Spring 2020)

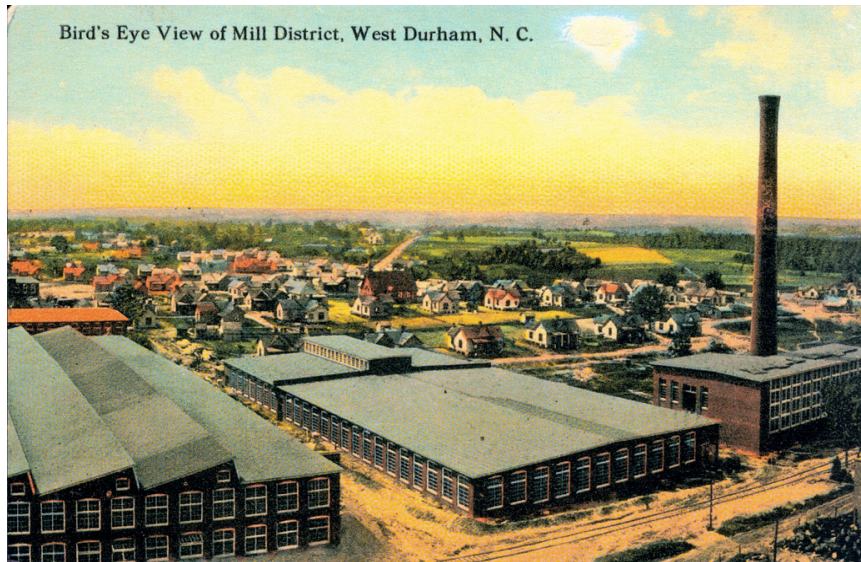
Instructor: Mr. Andy Bedingfield

E-mail: rabeding@uncg.edu

Time and Place: MHRA Building 2207.

Monday and Wednesday 3:30-4:45pm.

Office Hours: MHRA 3103 Monday and Wednesday 1:00-3:00pm or by appointment.



Course Description:

This course examines the American South from 1865 to the present day. We will examine the multitude of different ways southerners sought to make sense of, and attempt to shape, a period of immense turmoil and transformation. As we shall see, southerners held profound disagreements on what kind of society should be created in the wake of war and emancipation. This course will argue that such disagreements have never ended. From the Era of Reconstruction to the political realignment of the late Twentieth Century, we will cover southern themes of race, politics, culture, labor, religion, and economics.

In addition to broadening and bolstering our sense of American history, we will also improve our historical skills. For the purposes of this class, we will all be historians together, seeking to piece together the puzzle that is the New South. The skills focused upon (writing, critical thinking, source analysis, comparisons) are transferable to other fields of history, as well as to other professions entirely.

We have a lot of ground to cover and only a semester to do it, but if we work together we can have a very successful course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

General College Historical Perspective (GHP) SLOs

- SLO I: Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
- SLO II: Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

Course SLOs: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Comprehend that history is not the memorization of dates and facts, but rather the *interpretation* of the past.
- Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger system or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.
- Analyze the key terms, facts, and events in southern history and thereby exhibit an informed historical perspective.
 - Critically appraise varying historical arguments and clearly express their own interpretations.
 - Critically read and distinguish between different types of historical sources and “read between the lines” of differing points of view.



Required Reading (Available at the UNCG Bookstore)

Each of these texts is mandatory. You will not be able to complete the course without them. Each of these texts provides a different example of how the New South can be studied. By the course's end, you will have examined the New South through a historical synthesis, a memoir, and a political history. These works can be challenging and will require active reading. That said, we will work through these books together, so be sure to come to book discussion days ready to ask questions.

Southern Crossing: A History of the American South 1877-1906. Edward Ayers

Lemon Swamp and Other Places: A Carolina Memoir. Mamie Gavin Fields and Karen Fields.

From the New Deal to the New Right: Race and Southern Origins of Modern Conservatism. Joseph Lowndes

Other readings (such as primary source documents) will be available on the course website and will be discussed in class.

Class Structure: This course is built on the premise of in-class and outside-class learning activities. During our class sessions, we will use a combination of lecture, discussion, and short exercises to learn and analyze key course themes. Outside of class, you will engage with literature designed to hone in on different fields of history and more

specific subject matter. You must engage in both sets of activities to not only succeed in this course, but also to strengthen your skills as a historian.

Assignments:

Primary Source Assignments: Primary Source Assignments are brief, 1 page exercises where you have an opportunity to engage with a historical document or other source material. Due dates are listed in the course calendar. These assignments follow a specific format that I will detail in class and post on Canvas. **10%**

Exams: Exams are in-class exercises where you will work through a series of questions designed to display your awareness and analysis of key themes and ideas. Exams are not cumulative. Exams will draw upon both course readings and course lectures.

**Mid Term 15% 3/9
(SLO I and II)**

**Final Exam 15% 5/6
(SLO I and II)**

Participation: Participation in the course is required. During class we will engage in mid-lecture discussions, and your input is vital to not only your own learning, but your classmates as well. In addition, participation is particularly important for the days in which we focus on the course readings. Any in-class group assignments will fit into this grade category. **15%**

Papers: Course papers provide a chance for you to dive into your readings and engage in active learning. Each paper will be based upon one of your three required texts for the course. Prompts will be discussed in class and handed out two weeks prior to the submission date. In order for your papers to be the best they can be, and to put your work in its best possible light, I highly recommend taking your time on these assignments. Your first draft should never be your final draft, and I welcome you to come to office hours to discuss your assignments.

**Paper I- 15% *Southern Crossing* Paper 2/26
(SLO 1 and II)**

**Paper II- 15% *Lemon Swamp* Paper 4/1
(SLO 1 and II)**

**Paper III- 15% *New Deal to New Right* Paper 4/29
(SLO 1 and II)**



Assignments at a Glance

- (2/26) *Southern Crossing* Paper 15%
- (3/9) Mid Term Exam 15%
- (4/1) *Lemon Swamp* Paper 15%
- (4/29) *New Deal to New Right* Paper 15%
- (5/6) Final Exam 15%
- Primary Source Exercises 10%
- Class Participation 15%

Final Grade Scale: (A)93+, (A-) 90-92, (B+) 87-89, (B) 84-86, (B-) 80-83, (C+) 77-79, (C) 74-76, (C-) 70-73, (D+) 67-69, (D) 64-66, (D-) 60-63, (F) <60.

Course Policies:

Attendance:

Consistent attendance is not only key to your own success in this course, but necessary to foster a positive learning environment for the class as a whole. That said, I recognize that life can be unpredictable. You are permitted (3) no-excuse needed absences without penalty. **Absences past (3) will each deduct 3 points each from your final grade.**

Academic Integrity Policy:

Every word you write in this class must be your own, not copied from any other source, whether in print or online, unless clearly indicated. The UNCG Academic Integrity Policy is online at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu>. If you are not sure if you are accidentally committing plagiarism, do not hesitate to ask for clarification!

Course Website and E-Mail:

You must have a working email address, and check it regularly, as it is our main means of communication outside of class. In addition, you will need to utilize CANVAS in order to submit papers and to have electronic copies of important documents and/or readings.

Classroom Standards and Etiquette:

In this class we will cover events that may reflect upon contemporary problems. Indeed, recognizing continuing trends is an expectation for the course. In doing so, however, we must maintain an atmosphere of courtesy and respect for opposing viewpoints. Disagreement is welcome, but only if done so in a constructive manner that targets arguments, not people, and is based upon evidence.

Technology:

Phones are to be put on silent and out of sight. If I see a phone out during the midterm or final exam, I will assume the worst.

Laptops/tablets are permitted but only as a privilege that can be revoked at my discretion. Students using these devices are asked to sit at the back of the classroom so their screens do not distract fellow students.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

UNCG seeks to adhere to the ADA and provide equal access to a college education. Students with questions or needs related to academic accommodations for disabilities should contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS), located in the Elliot University Center, Suite 215. For more information, please see <http://ods.uncg.edu>.

History Department Resources:

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

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

Course Schedule:

Week 1

1/13 First Day of Class: “What is the South?”

1/15 Slavery and the “Old South”

Week 2

1/20 **MLK Jr. Holiday NO CLASS**

1/22 **Primary Source 1**, The Civil War Experience

Week 3

1/27 Reconstruction

1/29 Reconstruction

Week 4

2/3 Culture of the New South

2/5 **Primary Source 2**, A New Economy?

Week 5

2/10 Political Patterns and Political Culture

2/12 *Southern Crossing* Discussion #1.

Week 6

2/17 The Populist Challenge

2/19 **Primary Source 3**, Disenfranchisement

Week 7

2/24 Jim Crow

2/26 **Southern Crossing Paper Due**, *Southern Crossing* Book Discussion #2.

Week 8 **Spring Break NO CLASS**

Week 9

3/9 **Mid Term Exam**

3/11 Southern Progressivism

Week 10

3/16 *Lemon Swamp* Book Discussion #1.

3/18 **Primary Source 4**, The South and Modernity

Week 11

3/23 The South and Traditionalism

3/25 The Great Depression

Week 12

3/30 The New Deal

4/1 **Lemon Swamp Paper Due**, *Lemon Swamp* Book Discussion #2.

Week 13

4/6 The Second World War

4/8 **Primary Source 5**, The Dixiecrat Revolt

Week 14

4/13 The Long Civil Rights Movement

4/15 Grassroots Civil Rights

Week 15

4/20 *New Deal to New Right* Book Discussion #1.

4/22 **Primary Source 6**, The Sun Belt

Week 16

4/27 Change and Tradition in the Late 20th Century

4/29 **New Deal to New Right Paper Due**, *New Deal to New Right* Book Discussion #2

5/6 **Final Exam**