

Spring 2023 | University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
Prof. Watson Jennison | Email: [wwjennis@uncg.edu](mailto:wwjennis@uncg.edu) | Office: HHRA 2143 | Phone: 336-334-4092  
Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (in person or [sign up for Zoom appointment](#) at least 24 hours before),  
Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ([sign up for Zoom appointment](#) at least 24 hours before), and by appointment

## HIS 420: 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 three papers.

**Assigned Readings:** There are four books assigned for this class: Lillian Smith, *Killers of the Dream*; Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw*; Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*; and Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story*. Each of these books can be purchased at the University Bookstore or on-line. Additional readings are on Canvas and the internet. The assigned reading list may undergo minor changes; students should be sure to consult the most current version of the Syllabus on Canvas.

**Electronic Devices:** The use of laptops, tablets, cellular phones, or any other type of electronic device is allowed during class strictly to access course materials. Any violations of this policy will lead to a zero for participation for that day.

**Attendance and Late Policy:** 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. Students are allowed one absence, excused or unexcused, without an impact on their grade. For the second and every subsequent absence, students will receive a five-point grade deduction. 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.

**Plagiarism Policy:** The University defines plagiarism as: "Representing the words, thoughts, or ideas 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.

### Final Grade Composition

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<sup>1</sup> <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/violations-and-sanctions/plagiarism/>

- Participation                    20%
- Assignments                    20%
- Papers                            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 and lectures, the first due on February 3, the second due on March 3, and the third due on April 28. All sources in the papers should be properly cited according to the guidelines laid out in [\*The Chicago Manual of Style\*](#), which is available on-line.

### Class Schedule

#### Week 1 (January 11)

Introduction

#### Week 2 (January 18)

Reading: Alvar Núñez Cabeza De Vaca, *Chronicle of the Narváez Expedition* on Canvas

#### Week 3 (January 25)

Reading: André Pénicaut, [\*Fleur de Lys and Calumet: Being the Pénicaut Narrative of French Adventure in Louisiana\*](#)

#### Week 4 (February 1)

Readings: 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](#); Thomas Nairne, *Nairne's Muskhogean Journals: The 1708 Expedition to the Mississippi River* on Canvas

**\*First paper due on Friday, February 3 at noon\***

#### Week 5 (February 8)

Readings: Excerpts from William Byrd, *The Secret Diary of William Byrd II* on Canvas; Excerpts from Charles Woodmason, *The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of Revolution: The Journal and Other Writings of Charles Woodmason, Anglican Itinerant* on Canvas; Excerpts from Jonathan Boucher, *Reminiscences of an American Loyalist* on Canvas; Excerpts from Eliza Wilkinson, *Letters of Eliza Wilkinson, during the Invasion and Possession of Charlestown, S.C.* on Canvas; Boston King, "Memoirs of the Life of Boston King, A Black Preacher," *The Methodist Magazine* on Canvas

**Week 6 (February 15)**

Reading: Excerpts from Charles C. Bolton, *The Confessions of Edward Isham: A Poor White Life in the Old South* on Canvas; Excerpts from D. R. Hundley, *Social Relations in Our Southern States* on Canvas; Excerpts from Cornelia Jones Pond, *Recollections of a Southern Daughter* on Canvas

**Week 7 (February 22)**

Reading: Slave Narrative Assignment

**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 Canvas; Excerpts from John M. Washington, "Memorys of the Past" on Canvas; Susie King Taylor, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp: An African American Woman's Civil War Memoir* on Canvas; Excerpts from Albion Tourgee, *A Fool's Errand* on Canvas

**\*Second paper due on Friday, March 3 at noon\***

**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 - 285

**Week 11 (March 22)**

Reading: Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw*, pp. 286 - 556

**Week 12 (March 29)**

Reading: Lillian Smith, *Killers of the Dream*

**Week 13 (April 5)**

Reading: Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, pp

**Week 14 (April 12)**

Reading: Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, pp.

**Week 15 (April 19)**

Reading: Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name*, pp.

**Week 16 (April 26)**

Reading: Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name*, pp.

**\*Third paper due on Friday, April 28 at noon\***

### **Required UNCG syllabus language**

As we return for spring 2023, please uphold UNCG's culture of care to limit the spread of covid-19 and other airborne illnesses. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of covid-19
- Staying home when ill
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to isolate if ill
- Completing a [self-report](#) when experiencing covid-19 symptoms or testing positive for covid-19
- Following the CDC's [exposure guidelines](#) when exposed to someone who has tested positive for covid-19
- Staying informed about the University's policies and announcements via the [covid-19](#) website