

HISTORY OF GEORGIA  
(History 5474-01 for Graduate Students)

Instructor: Cita Cook

Fall Semester 2007

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 2:00-5:00; other times, by appointment

Class Meetings: Monday, 5:30-8:00, 204 Pafford

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will learn basic developments in the history of Georgia, from precolonial times to the late twentieth century. In their essays, exams, and other assignments, they will demonstrate the ability to identify the most significant developments in Georgia history and to analyze the impact of different environmental, economic, political, social, and cultural forces, as well as how different individuals and groups affected the history, what problems they faced, how they tried to overcome those problems, and how this varied for people in different circumstances. Graduate students will also demonstrate in discussions and written assignments the ability to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the research and analysis done by different Georgia history scholars.

### TEXTBOOKS

Kenneth Coleman, ed., A History of Georgia, Second Edition, University of Georgia Press

Thomas A. Scott, ed., Cornerstones of Georgia History: Documents That Formed the State,  
University of Georgia Press

Theda Perdue and Michael D. Green, The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History with Documents,  
Bedford Books

Melissa Fay Greene, Praying for Sheetrock, any edition

There will also be occasional handouts of other readings, some for all students and some only for graduate students. It is highly recommended that you find any fairly recent U. S. History textbook as all students should be familiar with the most significant developments in the nation that set the context for what is covered in this class.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Class Attendance, Participation, and Short Assignments - 10% of the semester grade

A. Class Attendance: The typical class will involve a combination of lecture, discussion, and occasional videotapes. Some of the information and ideas of the course will be presented or explained only in class, so you should take some notes during the lectures. You are expected to arrive on time and to stay for the whole class. Inappropriate behavior, including any use of cell phones, ipods, etc. during class, can damage your participation grade. Regular attendance is required, but you may have one unexcused absence. If you have to miss a class, you are responsible for discussing with me whether it should be excused and for arranging to get any handouts, to find out what was covered in class, and to make up any missed assignments. In most cases, you can find new assignments on the class website, but the extra reading handouts will not be available on-line. You should average at least twelve hours of study a week for the class (four hours for every hour in class). If you are doing this and still feel confused or overwhelmed, it is a good idea to make an appointment to meet with me or to discuss your concerns by telephone. Too often instructors find out too late about problems that could have

been solved fairly easily with earlier notification.

We shall set aside a special time each week when the graduate students will meet with me as a group to evaluate the articles assigned only to you and to report on your progress in the review essay. You are required to make at least two appointments (which can be by phone) to discuss your special project with me. At least one meeting should be within the first two weeks of the semester and at least one within the first two weeks after the midterm exam.

B. Weekly Reading and Comment Sheets: Each assignment will include a list of study questions and identifications to indicate what you should be learning from the reading and what you need to study for the tests. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER THE STUDY QUESTIONS IN WRITING** and I do not have time to correct attempts to do so. The assignment sheets will include a list of the basic developments in American history that you need to know to understand the reading. If they are unfamiliar to you, refer to any basic text in American history and only then, if necessary, ask about them. The class discussions, including the separate meetings with graduate students, will be conducted on the assumption that everyone has read all of the reading assigned for that day. Ask any questions or say what you had trouble understanding (after I have explained relevant aspects in class), but always be prepared to present some kind of reaction to the reading.

Everyone is required to hand in a Comment Sheet each week, indicating briefly in your own words any thoughts you have about the material covered in the reading and in class, and/or any questions you have about the reading or the class. Think of these as an informal journal you are sharing with me, not as a time to list specific information. I am more interested in your own reactions to the material, positive and/or negative. Teachers may add thoughts on how you might teach any of the material we have covered that week. There will be special instructions about how graduate students should also write about the extra reading assigned to them. Although the comment sheets will not be graded, **THE CREDIT YOU RECEIVE FOR PARTICIPATION WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT YOUR COMMENTS SHEETS SHOW THAT YOU HAVE DONE THE READING AND EVALUATED THE ESSAYS ASSIGNED ONLY TO GRADUATE STUDENTS.** They will be handed back so you can receive feedback from me and use them for review.

C. Short Assignments: There may be a few graded homework assignments of 1-2 pages.

## II. Open Book In Class Essay - 5% of the semester grade

On September 17, you will answer in the last hour of class an essay question using any books or notes that you wish. This is to give you a chance to gain feedback on the kinds of essay questions that will be asked on the (closed book) exams.

## III. Essays - 45% of the semester grade

Two essays (typed, unless you have special permission to handwrite it) will be assigned on the books by Perdue and Green (5-8 pages, due October 8 and counting 15%) and Greene (2-3 pages, due December 3, and counting 5%). You will receive a handout with specific directions at least two weeks before the first essay is due. The second essay will be shorter and involve less analysis because it will be due at the same time as a longer review essay.

You will also write a 12-15 page review essay of at least three books by different authors on a particular topic (due December 3 and counting 25%). You will receive a handout of extra directions for it. After a discussion with me, each student should report on a chosen topic and tentative bibliography by September 10. You will also prepare oral and written reports on the

reading you have done for September 24, October 22, and November 5. A preliminary draft of the essay is due November 19 which will be corrected and returned to you for rewriting. Five percent of your essay grade will reflect the extent to which you followed the required schedule, meaning that you gave clear evidence of having read and thought about at least one book or its equivalent for each report and handed in a preliminary draft showing conscientious work.

Every spring the History Department awards the Elizabeth L. Parker Prize for the best paper on the history of Georgia, with an award of \$100. Students who wish to submit a paper for this award may choose to substitute for the review essay a research paper of 20-30 pages based on an approved list of primary and secondary sources, one of which must be a journal article. Anyone wishing to do such a paper should make an appointment within the first two weeks of the semester to discuss a possible topic and to be given the specific requirements set by the contest.

#### IV. Exams - 40% of the semester grade

There will be a midterm (on October 15) and a final examination (on December 10) based on both the reading and the class lectures. Each test will require you to answer six out of ten identifications (for a total of forty points) and one out of two essay questions (for sixty points). The essay on the final exam will include some choice between covering information from the whole semester or just the second half of the semester. The exams will not require any specific information that was not covered in the study questions, but you may have to think about the information in a new way. If I give you permission to miss a test because of a validated excuse, you are responsible for arranging a time to make it up.

#### V. Extra Credit Points

You can receive up to three extra credit points for your final semester grade by writing reports on activities that teach you more about the history of Georgia, such as movies, lectures, or museum exhibits I have approved, but only if you have observed them this semester. Each report will usually earn one point for your semester grade. There will be a special sheet listing some recommended extra credit activities and explaining what needs to be done to gain the credit. I reserve the right to determine if any report is or is not worthy of extra credit.

#### VI. Academic Honesty

All work handed in at the State University of West Georgia should reflect only the work of an individual student. This does not mean that students should not study together, only that they need to work alone when doing the final version of an assignment. Any use of the ideas, information, or words of anyone else, including paraphrasing of the words and ideas, without crediting them is plagiarism and is a crime. A direct quote of the words (even only a few words) of someone else must be in quotation marks as well as have a note of its source. Any clear evidence of plagiarism or any other kind of cheating on a test or any other graded assignment will result in a permanent zero for that assignment (after consultation with the student). See the section on Academic Honesty in the Catalog or Uncatalog.

## SCHEDULE FOR GEORGIA HISTORY

This schedule is tentative, but no due date will be earlier than the ones included here. Pay attention to the weekly assignment sheets and class announcements for any changes, as well as for the details of what you are expected to read.

August 20 - Introduction

1. August 27 - Precolonial Georgia; European Explorations and Early Settlements

NO SCHOOL ON LABOR DAY HOLIDAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

2. September 10 - Colony of Georgia (1733-1750)

REPORT ON TOPIC AND TENTATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR REVIEW ESSAY

3. September 17 - Georgia in the American Revolution and the Early Republic (1750-1800)

IN CLASS OPEN BOOK ESSAY

4. September 24 - Removal of Creeks and Cherokees (1800-1840)

FIRST WRITTEN AND ORAL REPORT FOR REVIEW ESSAY

5. October 1 - Antebellum Georgia and Secession (1820-1861)

6. October 8 - Civil War (1861-1865)

ESSAY DUE ON PERDUE AND GREEN'S BOOK

October 15 - MIDTERM EXAM

7. October 22 - Reconstruction and Redemption (1865-1879)

SECOND WRITTEN AND ORAL REPORT FOR REVIEW ESSAY

8. October 29 - The New South (1880-1900)

9. November 5 - Populism

THIRD WRITTEN AND ORAL REPORT FOR REVIEW ESSAY

10. November 12- Progressivism

11. November 19 - The Twenties, Thirties, and World War II

ROUGH DRAFT OF REVIEW ESSAY

12. November 26 - Post-World War II and the Civil Rights Movement

13. December 3 - Modern Georgia

SHORT ESSAY ON GREENE'S BOOK AND REVIEW ESSAY DUE

December 10 - FINAL EXAM