

## HISTORY OF THE SOUTH SINCE 1865

(History 4477-01W)

Instructor: Dr. Cita Cook    Spring Semester 2007

Office: 3210TLC (678-839-6037)    Email: ccook@westga.edu

Website: <http://www.westga.edu/~ccook>

Office Hours: Monday, 2:00-4:30; Wednesday, 2:00-5:30; other times, by appointment

Class meetings: Monday, 5:30-8:15 (Room 204 Pafford)

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will learn the basic events and developments that affected different groups of southerners from the end of the Civil War to the late twentieth century while developing skills in reading and critiquing both secondary and primary documents. In their exams and their other assignments, they will demonstrate the ability to describe and analyze the impact of key economic, political, social, and cultural forces in this history as well as what different individuals and groups did to affect the history, what problems they faced, how they tried to overcome those problems, and how this varied for people in different circumstances. Some of the issues to be considered will be Reconstruction, the rise of sharecropping and cotton mills, Populism, the Lost Cause, the Depression, the rise of segregation and the Civil Rights Movement, and the South since air conditioning. A special effort will be made to discuss how the impact of the key events differed depending on individuals'™ geographic region, race and ethnicity, religion, sex, economic circumstances, and social status.

This course is offered as part of the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program. The writing components of this course are designed to help students learn both the material and how to communicate what they have learned to other people. Most of the writing required for this class (mainly weekly comments sheets, homework assignments, and the exams) will involve Writing to Learn. The two essays that are assigned will involve Writing to Communicate. Students will have the opportunity to rewrite at least one of those essays and possibly other assignments to improve their grade AND their writing.

### TEXTBOOKS

William J. Cooper, Jr. and Thomas E. Terrill, The American South: A History, Volume II, Third Edition

Escott, Paul D. and David R. Goldfield, Major Problems in the American South: Volume II: The New South, Second Edition

Douglas Flamming, Creating the Modern South

Branch, Taylor, Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1854-63 (not needed until later in the semester)

There will also be frequent handouts of other readings, some for all students and some only for graduate students. It is highly recommended that everyone find and review regularly the information in any fairly recent textbook covering the history of the United States since 1865 as all students will be expected to be familiar with the most significant developments in U.S. history 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: Classes will involve a combination of lectures, discussions, 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. Regular attendance is required. If you have to miss a class, you are responsible for discussing with me whether it is 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 any new assignments on the class website, but the extra reading handouts will not be available on-line. You should average at least six hours of study a week for the class (two hours for every hour in class). If you are doing this and still feel confused or overwhelmed, please 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.

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. If you are not sure of the answer to any of the questions, please ask about them in class and/or in your weekly comments. 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 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, 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 what you consider the most significant points in the reading, any thoughts you have about the material covered in the reading and in class, and/or any questions you have, including any positive or negative reactions to the reading or class. Prospective teachers may add thoughts on how you might teach the material we have covered that week. Although the comment sheets will not be graded, THE CREDIT YOU RECEIVE FOR PARTICIPATION WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT YOUR COMMENT SHEETS SHOW THAT YOU HAVE DONE THE READING. They should not, however, include a lot of specific information. Try to emphasize your own ideas about the information. The comment sheets will be handed back so you can receive feedback from me and use them for review.

C. Short Assignments: There may be a few short graded homework assignments, some graded and some not.

## II. 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 such as approved movies, lectures, or museum exhibits, but only about activities you have done this semester. 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.

## III. Essays - 30% of the semester grade

Two 4-7 page essays (typed, unless you have special permission) will be assigned, one on the book by Flamming (due March 26) and one on the book by Branch (due April 23). Each will count 15% of the semester grade. You will receive a handout with specific directions and WAC requirements at least two weeks before each essay is due.

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 substitute for the essay on Branch's book a research paper of 10-30 pages on the history of Georgia since 1865 based on an approved list of at least four primary and four secondary sources, one of which must be a journal article. Students earning an A or B on this paper will also receive some extra credit toward the semester grade. 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 more specifics of the requirements set by the contest.

## IV. Open Book In-Class Essay - 10% of the semester grade

On January 29, you will answer 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.

## V. Exams - 50% of the semester grade

There will be a midterm examination (on February 26) and a final examination (on April 30) based on both the reading and the class lectures. Each will count 25% of the semester grade. The final exam will include some choice between questions covering the whole semester and questions covering 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. Each test will involve a combination of identifications (only ones listed on the weekly assignment sheets) and essay questions of varying lengths. If you miss a test because of a validated excuse and prior permission of the instructor, you are responsible for arranging a time to make it up.

## VI. Academic Honesty

All academic papers or presentations submitted at the State University of West Georgia should reflect only the work of the individual student seeking credit for the work. 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 their 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 (after consultation with the student) will result in a permanent zero for that assignment. See the section on Academic Honesty in the Catalog or Uncatalog.

## SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative. Pay attention to the weekly assignment sheets for any changes, as well as for the details of what you are expected to read and write.

1. January 8 - Introduction to Southern History

January 15 - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY (no class)

2. January 17 - Political Reconstruction

3. January 22 - Economic Reconstruction

4. January 29 - Redeemers and the New South

### OPEN BOOK ESSAY DURING THE LAST HOUR OF CLASS

5. February 5 - The Economy after Reconstruction

6. February 12 - The 1890s

7. February 19 - Divisions in the New South

February 26 - MID-TERM EXAM

8. March 5 - Southern Progressivism

9. March 12 - The South from 1912 to 1929

March 19 - SPRING BREAK

10. March 26 - Religion and Culture

ESSAY ON FLAMMING DUE

11. April 2 - The Depression

12. April 9 - World War II and the Start of the Civil Rights Movement

13. April 16 - Civil Rights Movement

14. April 23 - The Modern South

ESSAY ON BRANCH DUE

FINAL EXAM - MONDAY, APRIL 30