The Old South   History 4476  
Spring 2015

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Note: All email correspondence, including assignments submitted as email attachments, must take place through the student's campus email address (My UWG account)  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10-11, 1:30-4:30; Friday 10-11 and by appointment  
Course Meetings: This class meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-9:52 am in Pafford, Room 206

Learning Outcomes: History 4476 will examine the South as a region from the early seventeenth century to the outbreak of the U.S. Civil War. The principal goal of the course is to acquaint students with the political, economic, social and intellectual history of the South. We will also ponder the creation of a Southern identity and whether the South was a truly distinctive region of the United States. What is the South? Historian Michael O’Brien rightfully claims that “no man’s South is the same as another’s.”

In addition to learning the subject matter, students will develop their writing, analytical, and verbal skills through a variety of assignments, including exams, frequent classroom discussions, and in-class response papers based on assigned readings.

Grading/Course Requirements
Midterm- 25% of final grade  
Final exam- 25% of final grade  
Response papers (in class)- 25% of final grade  
Book reviews- 25% of final grade  
No extra credit is offered in this course.

Midterm and final exam- These will be in-class tests based on material from the lectures, assigned books, and assigned readings placed on reserve.

Class participation and discussion- Students are encouraged to ask and answer questions in class. Classroom discussions are an integral part of this course. The instructor will keep a record of your participation in class during discussions. Class participation can only help your final grade in the course and will be taken into consideration at the end of the semester in the case of students with borderline grades.

Response papers- There will be several papers written in class throughout the semester in response to assigned readings. These assigned readings will include the books & readings listed below and articles placed on reserve. Your cumulative grade on the response papers will count for a quarter of your final grade, so it is important to come to class having read the material.

Book Reviews- Students will be required to write three critical reviews of Heyrman, Southern Cross, Rothman, Slave Country and Dew, Apostles of Disunion. The reviews must be three to five pages in length, typed, 12-point font, and double-spaced. Kate Turabian’s Manual for Writers is the required style manual for these papers.

Papers that earn an “A” will not only summarize the content of the books, but also offer a thoughtful critique. If you quote or paraphrase from the assigned books or utilize any outside source in your paper, you must identify the source of the quotes by using either footnotes or endnotes. (See statement below regarding plagiarism.)

Makeup exams and late assignments- Makeup exams will be given only under emergency circumstances. Students needing to make up an assignment must have a written excuse from a doctor, coach, etc. explaining the absence. Students with valid excuses will have one week to make up assignments, after which time they will be given a zero on the assignment. One letter grade will be deducted per day for all assignments turned in late without an excuse. (Papers are considered late if they are turned in after class on the day that they are due.) Students turning in assignments late must submit both a paper and an electronic (email attachment sent from your UWG student account) copy.

Attendance- Regular classroom attendance is critical to earning a passing grade in this course. Attendance sheets will be passed around on a daily basis and taken into account at the end of the semester in assigning course grades. If a student misses class, it is his/her responsibility to find out what was missed.

Students who need to leave during class must provide an excuse to the instructor before the class begins. Anyone who leaves during class without providing an excuse will be marked absent and will receive a zero on any assignment given that day, even if the student has completed the assignment.
Cheating - Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism consists of the failure to acknowledge properly anyone quoted, paraphrased, cited, or consulted in the preparation of a written work. It includes passing off another’s work as your own. Students should be aware that computer software makes it easy for an instructor to track down online sources used by students. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F on the assignment and possibly an F in the course.

Reading Assignments - Note: In addition to the books listed below, the reading assignments also include a number of items placed on reserve. These reserve readings are listed in the “Schedule of Lectures and Assignments” section of this syllabus. The assignments must be read prior to the discussion dates given in the schedule.

Bolton, Charles, Confessions of Edward Isham

Dew, Charles B., Apostles of Disunion


Heyrman, Christine, Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt

Rothman, Adam, Slave Country

Wyatt-Brown, Bertram, Honor and Violence in the Old South

Weekly Assignments

Week 1- Jan 5-9  What is the South?

Week 2- Jan 12-16  Early Settlement & Clash of Cultures
Escott, Chapter 2; Chapters 6 and 7 of Alan Taylor, American Colonies on reserve

Week 3- Jan 19-23  The Colonial South: Economy & Society  NO CLASS ON MON, JAN. 19 (MLK HOLIDAY)
Escott, Chapter 3; Chapter 11 of Taylor, American Colonies on reserve

Week 4- Jan 26-30 The Colonial South: Politics and Religion
“Popular Upsurge, The Challenge of the Baptists,” from Rhys Isaac, The Transformation of Virginia, on reserve

Week 5- Feb 2-6 The Revolution
Escott, Chapter 4

Week 6- Feb 9-13  The South in the New Republic
Book review of Rothman, Slave Country, due Friday, Feb. 13

Week 7- Feb 16-20  The Emergence of Southern Nationalism
Escott, Chapter 5

Week 8- Feb 23-27 A New Party System: Democrats vs. Whigs
Midterm on Friday, Feb 27

Week 9- March 2-6  Planters and Yeomen
Response Paper on Wyatt-Brown, Honor and Violence in the Old South, on Friday, March 6

Week 10- March 9-13  Intellectual and Religious Life in the Old South
Book review of Heyrman, Southern Cross, due on Friday, March 13

March 16-20  Spring Break
Week 11 - March 23-27  The Institution of Slavery

Week 12 - March 30-April 3  The World the Slaves Made
Response Paper on Bolton, *Confessions of Edward Isham*

Week 13 - April 6-10  Women’s society and culture in the Old South
Escott, Chapter 9

Week 14 - April 13-17  The Crisis of the 1850s & secession
Book review of Dew, *Apostles of Disunion*, due Wednesday, April 15

Final Exam is Monday, April 20, 8-10:30 A.M.