The Old South  History 4476
Spring 2019

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Office email: kbohanno@westga.edu  Note: All email correspondence, including assignments submitted as
email attachments, must take place through the student's campus email address (My UWG account)  Please do
not use Course Den to send messages to me.
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10-10:50 am , 1:30-3:15 pm; Friday 10-10:50 am and by appointment
Course Meetings: This class meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:50-9:40 am in Pafford, Room 107

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 learning outcome 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 developed into a truly distinctive region of the United States. What is the South? Historian Michael
O’Brien 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 reading, 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 Course Den.

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 papers written in class throughout the semester in response to weekly assigned
readings. These assigned readings include books, book chapters and articles placed on Course Den. 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 write three critical reviews of Heyrman, Southern Cross, Rothman, Slave Country and
Genovese, Fatal Self Deception. 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” must 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.)

Attendance- Regular classroom attendance is critical to earning a passing grade in this course. Attendance sheets will
be passed around at the start of every class 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 various computer search engines and tools 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 posted on Course Den. These Course Den 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
Freehling, Wiliam, Secession Debated
Genovese, Eugene, Fatal Self Deception
Heyrman, Christine, Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt
Rothman, Adam, Slave Country

Weekly Assignments

Week 1- Jan 7-11  What is the South?

Week 2- Jan 14-18  Early Settlement & Clash of Cultures
Escott, Chapter 2; Chapters 6 and 7 of Alan Taylor, American Colonies on Course Den

Week 3- Jan 21-25 No class on Mon, Jan 21, MLKJ Holiday  The Colonial South: Economy & Society
Escott, Chapter 3; Chapter 11 of Taylor, American Colonies on Course Den

Week 4- Jan 28-Feb 1  The Colonial South: Politics and Religion
“Popular Upsurge, The Challenge of the Baptists,” from Rhys Isaac, The Transformation of Virginia, on Course Den

Week 5- Feb 4-8  The Revolution
Escott, Chapter 4

Week 6- Feb 11-15  The South in the New Republic
Book review of Rothman, Slave Country, due Friday, Feb 15

Week 7- Feb 18-22  Planters and Yeomen

Week 8- Feb 25-March 1 A New Party System: Democrats vs. Whigs
Midterm on Friday, March 1

Week 9 March 4-8  Planters and the Yeomanry

Week 10 March 11-15 Intellectual and Religious Life in the Old South
Book review of Heyrman, Southern Cross, due on Friday, March 15

March 18-22 Spring Break

Week 11- March 25-29  The Institution of Slavery
Week 12  April 1-5  The World the Slaves Made
Response Paper on Bolton, Confessions of Edward Isham

Week 13- April 8-12  Women’s society and culture in the Old South
Escott, Chapter 9

Week 14- April 15-19  The Crisis of the 1850s & secession
Book review of Genovese, Fatal Self Deception, due Wednesday, April 17

Week 15- April 22-26  The Confederacy
Freehling, Secession Debated, due Friday, April 26

Week 16
Last day of class is Monday, April 29

Final Exam is Monday, May 6, 8-10 a.m.