

THE AMERICAN SOUTH
From Civil War to Sunbelt

History 171
Spring 2017
M/W 12:00-1:00 pm
Instructor: Dr. Beth English

Course Description:

This course examines the history of the American South from the Civil War to the emergence of the Sunbelt in the late twentieth century. The aim of the class is to understand the ways in which various groups of southerners have contended with, shaped, and contested myriad transformations within the region during this time period. Major topics that will be covered include the abolition of slavery and its aftermath, Reconstruction and political transformations following emancipation, racial politics and the rise of the Jim Crow South, the demise of the plantation system and efforts to industrialize and modernize the region, the effects of the New Deal and World War II, renewed struggles, successes and setbacks during the Long Civil Rights Movement, the interplay between race and the rise of the new conservatism, and the ebb and flow of regional identity and distinctiveness. The interplay of race, class, gender and ideology in shaping the region's history will be emphasized, as will the South's changing place in and influence on the nation.

Required Texts:

William H. Chafe, et al., eds., *Remembering Jim Crow: African Americans Tell About Life in the Segregated South*
Steven Hahn, *A Nation under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*
Jacqueline Dowd Hall, et al., *Like a Family: The Making of a Cotton Mill World*
Kevin Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism*
Scott Reynolds Nelson, *Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry—The Untold Story of an American Legend*
Jason Morgan Ward, *Hanging Bridge: Racial Violence and America's Civil Rights Century*
Course Reader (individual selections denoted by * in the course schedule)

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to attend lectures and participate in recitation sections. Assignments for the course include completing all assigned weekly readings, a short paper (4-5 pages) based on original source material, an in-class midterm examination, and a cumulative in-class final examination.

Grading:

Course grades will be based on performance on completed written work, examinations, and recitation section participation. The short paper is worth 15%, midterm exam 25%, recitation participation 10%, and final examination 50%.

Weekly Topics and Assignments *(subject to change)*

Introduction

Week 1

(W) Jan. 11 Course Introduction: What is “The South”?

Readings:

- * Ayers, “What We Talk about When We Talk about the South”
- * Edwards, “Southern History as U.S. History”
- * Lassiter and Crespino, introduction to *The End of Southern History*

Week 2

(W) Jan. 18 Memory and the South in Popular Culture

Readings:

- * Cox, “The South and Mass Culture”
- * Brundage, “Contentious and Collected”
- * Horowitz, *Confederates in the Attic*, 3-44; 312-355

Secession, War and Reconstruction

Week 3

(M) Jan. 23 Road to the Confederacy

(W) Jan. 25 Rebellion and War

Readings:

- Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet*, Prologue-Chapter 2
- * Constitution of the Confederate States of America
- * Selections from Linden and Pressly, eds., *Voices from the House Divided*

Week 4

(M) Jan. 30 Emancipation

(W) Feb. 1 Reconstruction or Restoration?

Papers Due in Recitation Section

Readings:

- Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet*, Chapters 3-5
- Nelson, *Steel Drivin’ Man*, Chapters 1-3
- * Berlin, et al., “The Terrain of Freedom”
- * Selected Testimony, *KKK Report* (1872)

The New South

Week 5

(M) Feb. 6 (In)Justice
(W) Feb. 8 Jim Crow

Readings:

Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet*, Chapters 6 and 9

Nelson, *Steel Drivin' Man*, Chapters 4-6

* Ritterhouse, "The Etiquette of Race Relations in the Jim Crow South"

* Majority and Dissent Opinions, *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)

Week 6

(M) Feb. 13 The Commercial Spirit
(W) Feb. 15 Farm to Factory

Readings:

Hall, et al., *Like a Family*, Part I

* Henry Grady, "The New South" (1886)

* English, "I have ... a lot of work to do"

* Selections from *Hard Times Cotton Mill Girls*

Week 7

(M) Feb. 20 Agrarian Upheavals
(W) Feb. 22 **Midterm Examination**

Readings:

Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet*, Chapter 7 (skim), Chapters 8-9

* Link and Wheeler, eds., *The South in the History of the Nation*, pp. 45-62

* People's Party of America, Omaha Platform (1892)

From Progressivism to New Deal

Week 8

(M) Feb. 28 Progressivism in the South
(W) Mar. 1 Great Migration(s)

Readings:

Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet*, Epilogue

Ward, *Hanging Bridge*, Introduction-Part I

* Dewey Grantham, *The South in Modern America*, pp. 23-59

* Ida B. Wells, "A Red Record" (1895)

* Grossman, *Land of Hope*, pp. 1-65

Week 9

(M) March 6 Spring Break
(W) March 8 Spring Break

Week 10

- (M) Mar. 13 Death of the Plantation System
(W) Mar. 15 Confronting Poverty

Readings:

- Hall, et al., *Like a Family*, part II
Chafe, et al., eds., *Remembering Jim Crow*, Introduction-Chapter 1
* Selections from McElvaine, *Down and Out in the Great Depression*
* Selections from Caldwell, *Tobacco Road*

Civil Rights

Week 11

- (M) Mar. 20 Wartime Ferment
(W) Mar. 22 Building a Movement

Readings:

- Chafe, et al., eds., *Remembering Jim Crow*, Chapter 5
* Ward, *Hanging Bridge*, Part II
* Korstad and Lichtenstein, "Opportunities Found and Lost"

Week 12

- (M) Mar. 27 Grassroots Struggle, Part I
(W) Mar. 29 Grassroots Struggle, Part II

Readings:

- Chafe, et al., eds., *Remembering Jim Crow*, Chapters 2-4, 6
* Martin Luther King, Letter from a Birmingham Jail
* Selections from Raines, *My Soul Is Rested*

Week 13

- (M) Apr. 3 Massive Resistance
(W) Apr. 5 Gains and Limitations

Readings:

- Ward, *Hanging Bridge*, Part III-Epilogue
Kruse, *White Flight*, 1-4
* George Wallace, Inaugural Address (1963)
* Selections from Raines, *My Soul Is Rested*

Emergence of the Sunbelt

Week 14

- (M) Apr. 10 To Busy to Hate?
(W) Apr. 12 Realignment

Readings:

- Kruse, *White Flight*, Chapters 5-9
- * Nystrom, "Segregation's Last Stand"

Week 15

- (M) Apr. 17 Global Transformations
- (W) Apr. 19 The *Nuevo* New South

Readings:

- * Kolchin, "The South and the World"
- * Cobb, "Beyond the 'Y'all Wall"
- * Mohl, "Globalization, Latinization, and the *Nuevo* New South"
- * Striffler, "We're All Mexicans Here"
- * Frederickson, *Looking South*, Chapter 8

Week 16

- (M) Apr. 24 Dixie Emporium
- (W) Apr. 26 Southern Exceptionalism, Reconsidered

Readings

- Kruse, *White Flight*, Epilogue
- * English and Simon, "The Death of Dixie?"
- * Applebome, "The Southernization of America"
- * Arsenault, "The Air Conditioner and Southern Culture"
- * Ketchell, "Hillbilly Heaven"
- * Stanois, "Foodways in the Jim Crow South"
- * Peña, "Touring the Technological South at Krispy Kreme"

Final Examination: TBD According to the University Exam Schedule