

History of the Modern American South
AMH 4403: The South Since 1860, University of Florida, Spring 2019
MWF, Period 7: 1:55-2:45 PM, Keene-Flint 111

Mr. Madison W. Cates

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Office Hours: Monday 3-4 PM, Friday 12:30-1:30 PM, Room: Keene-Flint 215

Course Description:

This course explores the history of the American South from the Civil War to the present day. We will discuss topics such as Reconstruction and its aftermath, the Jim Crow era, industrialization, the New Deal, World War II, and the Long Civil Rights Movement and many more. By examining a variety of perspectives in lecture and discussion, students will consider how these events to consider larger themes of southern exceptionalism, identity, and memory. Through interpreting primary documents and secondary texts, class discussions, and selected writing assignments this course encourages each student to further refine the analytical and communication skills that are critical to success in and beyond the History classroom.

Course Readings:

Alison Collis Greene, *No Depression in Heaven: The Great Depression, the New Deal, and the Transformation of Religion in the Delta*. ISBN: 978-0190858315

Pete Daniel, *Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s*, ISBN: 978-0807848487

Jesmyn Ward, *Men We Reaped: A Memoir*, ISBN: 978-1608197651

William A. Link, *Southern Crucible: The Making of an American Region, Vol. 2: Since 1877*, ISBN: 978-0199763634

Course Expectations and Assignments

- Please have your syllabus on hand and be sure to keep up with all of the reading and writing deadlines.
- Although this should go without saying, please come prepared to engage with the course material from Week 1 to Week 16. You should conduct yourself professionally and respectfully both with me and your fellow students. That means show up on time, pay attention, and don't treat class discussions like an Internet comments section.
- **Guidelines for 2-page Source Analysis Papers:** Complete the first two, due 1/23 and 2/1. Then complete three out of the four assigned for 2/8, 3/15, and 3/29. Each paper counts for 5% of your overall grade. Students may turn in the sixth paper (due 4/22) for a possible 5 points of extra credit provided that they turned in the first five papers on time. Each paper will ask you to consider selected primary and/or secondary sources and form an informed, historical argument about the chosen topic. All papers must be turned in on E-Learning on the designated due dates. Submissions that are over 1 week late will be given a zero.

the ideas of others. Attendance in lecture may be taken on a random basis throughout the semester. Attendance in discussion section will be taken every day. **You are permitted three unexcused absences without penalty. Six or more unexcused absences will result in failing grade for the class.** I am not responsible for contacting students during the semester to apprise them of their attendance status; it is the responsibility of the students to keep a record of their absences. Religious holidays, UF athletic travel conflicts, and written explanations from a certified health professional are eligible for an excused absence when cleared with me ahead of time. See UF attendance policy at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Late Work and Make-up Policy

Unless stated otherwise, late papers will be penalized one-third-letter grade for each day they are late. If you know of an excused absence, contact your me as early as possible to make arrangements to turn in work ahead of time. Missed exams cannot be made up unless you have a university excused absence that you notify your professor of beforehand. If you have an unforeseen emergency, please contact me as soon as possible after your absence.

Students with Disabilities

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting an accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty

The University, as well as your instructor, values and expects academic integrity. Ethical violations include cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and academic misconduct (including turning in the work of others as your own and reusing old assignments). These will not be tolerated and will result in a failure of the assignment and the risk of an automatic failing grade in the course, and possible expulsion from UF. To avoid plagiarism, you must not copy the words, phrases, arguments, ideas, or conclusions of another person or source (including Internet sources) without properly crediting the person or source with both quotation marks and a footnote. Make sure that you properly cite direct quotations, paraphrased information, and facts that are not widely known. I will provide you with guidelines for proper citations and formatting prior to your submission of all written work, but you may contact me at any time for clarification. For more information on UF's academic honesty policy, see: <http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/4.040-1.pdf>

For more information on how UF's Judicial Affairs processes cases of plagiarism, see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/appeal-process/>

Student Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Mobile Electronic Device Policy

Recent studies have shown that college students retain less information when they use laptops instead of pen and paper, and that open laptops are disruptive to nearby students. However, I recognize that many of you are more comfortable taking notes on a computer and often we will examine historical documents or projects that are digitized. Please do not abuse this privilege. I reserve the right to ban laptops if they become disruptive over the course of the semester. Please silence your cell phone prior to the start of class and do not text during class time.

Correspondence

I will send important course announcements and other correspondence to you both via your UF email account as well as the Canvas inbox. If you do not use this as your primary account, please make sure that you have your UF email forwarded to you and check your email regularly!

NOTE: This schedule is a proposed course of action, not a contract. Dates, reading assignments, and lecture topics are subject to change with notice.

Week 1, January 7-11: Course Intro and the Civil War

Read for Wed: Link, Preface and Intro.

Read for Fri: Readings on Southern Exceptionalism (Canvas)

Week 2, January 14-18: Emancipation and Reconstruction

Read for Wed: Link, Chapters 12 and 13

Read for Fri: [Florida Slave Narratives](#) and [Visualizing Emancipation](#)

Week 3, January 23-25: Industrializing the South

M (1/21)-NO Class: MLK Day

Read for Wed: Link, Ch. 14

Source Analysis Paper #1 due (1/23)

Read for Fri: Scott Reynolds Nelson, “Myth of John Henry” (Canvas)

Week 4, January 28-February 1: The Violence of Jim Crow

Read for Wed: Link, Ch. 15

Read for Fri: Documents from W.E.B. Du Bois, Richard Wright, Maya Angelou, William Faulkner (Canvas)

Source Analysis Paper #2 Due

Week 5, February 4-8: Progressivism and the Great War

Read for Wed: Link, Chapters 16 and 17

Read for Fri: William Funk, “Tobacco Wars” and Jeanette Keith, “The Politics of Southern Draft Resistance” (Canvas)

Source Analysis Paper #3 Due

Week 6, February 11-15: Progress and Peril in the 1920s

Read for Wed: Link, Ch. 18

Read for Fri: Primary Sources on 1920s Florida (Canvas)

Week 7, February 18-22: The South in the Depression Years

Read for Wed: Link, Ch. 19

Read for Fri: Greene, *No Depression in Heaven*

Week 8, February 25- March 1: New Deal and Midterm

Read for Mon: None

Final Project Proposal Due

Wednesday February 27- MIDTERM EXAM

F- No Class

Week 9, Spring Break (March 4-8):

NO CLASS

Week 10, March 11-15: World War II

Read for Wed: Link, Ch. 20

Read for Fri: Documents from Smith, *Killers of the Dream*, Flannery O’Connor, Robert Williams (Canvas)

Source Analysis Paper #4 Due

Week 11, March 18-22: 1950s

Read for Wed: Link, Ch. 21

Read for Fri: Daniel, *Lost Revolutions*

Book Review due (3/22)

Week 12, March 25-29: Civil Rights and Wrongs

Read for Wed: Link, Ch. 22

Read for Fri: Garner, “A School Without a Name” (Canvas)

Source Analysis Paper #5 Due

Week 13, April 1-5: Race and Southern Politics

Read for Wed: Link, Ch. 23

Read for Fri: Jeffries, “SNCC and Black Power” (Canvas)

***Website Assignment Due**

Week 14, April 8-12: Natural Landscapes of the Modern South

Read for Wed: Watch *Waters of Destiny*

Read for Fri: Arsenault, “The End of the Long, Hot Summer” (Canvas)

Week 15, April 15-19: Carceral Landscapes of the Modern South

Read for Wed: Link, Ch. 24

Read for Fri: Ward, *Men We Reaped*

***Optional* Source Analysis Paper #6 Due**

Week 16, April 22-24: The South Today

Read for Wed: Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, “[A Most American Terrorist](#)” (2017)

F- NO Class, Reading Day

April 30 @ 3-5 PM- FINAL EXAM