



History 3306

The South Since the Civil War

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Marshall Schott
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Course Website: <http://www.uh.edu/webct>

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Some historians have argued that the South is unique among America's geo-political regions. Shaped by the legacy of slavery, defeated in war, occupied by an invading army and stricken with chronic poverty, the people of the South have shared a peculiar history. While non-southerners can boast of a history of success, prosperity and piety, southerners have shared a different fate. The impact of the region's unique history since the Civil War will be the focus of this course.

Defining the South is the first challenge we will face. Is the South a clearly definable, geographic region? Is it a region united by a common history? A common political view? Or, is it, to use a cliché, a "state of mind?" Furthermore, who are southerners? What characteristics and values do they share? Can a person be a southerner if they live in Brooklyn? This course will consider the definition of "the South" and the meaning of "southernness" in a broader discussion of the region's history.

In addition to examining significant events, political developments, and major figures from the South, this course will also clearly define the cultural conflicts that shape the region. It is in the South that the battle between tradition and modernity persisted the longest, and was most sharply defined in the 20th century. Within this cultural battle, we gain great insight into how white southerners viewed themselves and their region, and the values

which they cherished. For African-Americans and other minorities within the South, the region has been alternately a land of promise and despair. While seeking to build the American Dream within the South, these groups faced great obstacles that limited their personal freedom and their opportunities for advancement. Their struggles to effect change in the South are a vital part of the region's history since the Civil War.

Despite the remarkable progress made in the South, in the areas of health, education, and welfare; in terms of economic growth and progress; in terms of economic diversification and industrialization; in terms of rising incomes and quality of life, the New South remains a work in progress. The expectations of its people seem to never fully be realized. Perhaps it has been the ability to inspire such hope and optimism that has made the New South such a powerful idea. Just as the New South prophets over one hundred years ago predicted a paradise in the South in the 19th century, and other boosters in this century predicted the region would soon become "the garden spot of the universe—a Modern Eden," the South has been, and remains, a land becoming and not a land become. As one historian has called it, the New South is "a garden spot that beckons only to recede like a mirage when approached. It is America's will-o'-the-wisp Eden."

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- All students must have internet access.
- Students are encouraged to utilize the discussion feature of the website.
- Students must read and review lecture/presentation material from the web
- Students must read assignments from texts.
- Syllabi and handouts will be posted on the web.
- Mid-term and Final will be delivered online
- Grades will be posted on WebCT after the mid-term and final exams.
 - Two exams will be administered. The mid-term will include multiple choice, identification and essay questions covering the lecture material and assigned readings from the first portion of the class.
 - A take-home final exam must be submitted electronically as a Microsoft Word document
- **You must be self motivated to successfully take an online class. You should plan to log on to the course at least 3 x per week to check for new**

announcements and to participate in the discussions.

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REQUIRED TEXTS:

The following books are available online at Amazon www.amazon.com and Barnes and Noble www.bn.com

Reading Assignments from these texts follow in the course schedule.

- Edward Ayers and Bradley Mittendorf, eds. The Oxford Book of the American South: Testimony, Memory and Fiction (NY: Oxford University Press, 1997).
- William Link and Marjorie Wheeler, eds The South in the History of the Nation: Volume 2: From Reconstruction (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 1999).

Extra readings dealing with the post-Civil War South include:

- Ayers, Edward The Promise of the New South ; Southern Crossing, 1877-1906
- Bartley, Numan The New South
- Cooper, Wm. and Terrill, Thomas The American South
- Grantham, Dewey The South in Modern America
- Tindall, George The Emergence of the New South
- Woodward, C.V. Origins of the New South

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COURSE GRADE:

Course grades will be determined by performance on exams and class participation according to the following scale:

- Midterm = 40%

- Final Exam = 50%
- Participation = 10%

The final course grades will conform to the grading policy of UH.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- This course utilizes WebCT. If you need help during the semester please contact the Student Help Desk by emailing support@uh.edu or calling 713 743 1411.
- Look at the website for a list and links to journals which will be helpful in your study.
- There is an online tutorial which will help you through any problems you might have using WebCT. This tutorial is found on your student log-on page or by going to <http://www.uh.edu/webct/help>

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COURSE SCHEDULE:

Please use the calendar feature found in WebCT to track work each week. The semester's work is already available for you on the WebCT calendar. The following link will give you a tentative schedule of each weeks work:

[Schedule of Week Number, Module Topics, and Readings](#)

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INSTRUCTIONS: This table is divided into Weeks. Each week contains the Modules for which you will be held responsible. The text readings for the weeks are also listed. The Oxford Book of the American South is listed as the Oxford Text; the South in the History of the Nation is listed as the South Text. Keep up with the readings and check the website for discussion on the different modules!

WEEK	MODULE TOPIC	TEXT
01 Aug. 21	Module 1:	OXFORD TEXT: 140-149; 163-170; 180-192; 218-222; 238-243 SOUTH TEXT 1-3; 17-20; 20-25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction -- Understanding Regional History • The Question of Southern Identity 	
02 Aug. 28	Module 2:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction and the South: Myth and Reality • Aftermath of Reconstruction 	
03 Sept. 4	Module 3:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Redemption" and the Redeemers 	
04 Sept. 11	Module 4:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New South Industrial Growth • The Vision of the New South Prophets 	
05 Sept. 18	Module 5:	OXFORD TEXT: 160-162; 223-232; 233-237 SOUTH TEXT: 68-70; 74-78; 85-91
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southern Search for Meaning in the Gilded Age • The Confederate Celebration and Its Effect (Last day to drop without a grade) 	
06 Sept. 25	Module 6:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roots of Southern Agrarian Radicalism • Populism and the Crisis of the 1890's 	
07 Oct. 2	Module 7:	SOUTH TEXT: 45-54; 56-62; 92-94; 99-104
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Crow in the South • The Solid South: The Making of a Closed Society 	
Midterm Exam Oct. 7	<p>MID TERM EXAM---Saturday, October 7, 2006</p> <p>Location TBA, 10am to noon at UH main campus</p> <p>If out of metropolitan area, please contact me immediately to arrange for out-of-area proctored exam.</p>	

08 Oct. 9	Module 9:	OXFORD TEXT: 277-296; 306-317 SOUTH TEXT: 111-118; 121-125
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Women and Southern Progressivism 	
09 Oct. 16	Module 9:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture and Literature in the South 	
10 Oct. 23	Module 10:	OXFORD TEXT: 318-328; 335-342; 354-366; 367-378 SOUTH TEXT: 146-155; 161-165
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Emergence of the Modern 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion and the Savage Idea-- Cultural Conflict in the Early 20th Century 	
11 Oct. 30	Module 11:	OXFORD TEXT: 392-406; 417-433 SOUTH TEXT: 166-187; 195-203; 208-208; 213-216
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservative Reaction and the Rebirth of the Klan in the 1920's (Nov. 1- last day to drop or withdraw. Q grade eligibility ends) 	
12 Nov. 6	Module 12:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Twenties/African-Americans in the South/Race Relations 	
	Module 13:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South and Foreign Policy, 1885-1890 	
13 Nov. 13	Module 14:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South and the New Deal 	
	Module 15:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South and World War II 	
14 Nov. 20	Module 16:	OXFORD TEXT: 437-461 SOUTH TEXT: 233-241;248-256
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The End of Jim Crow/Martin L. King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Revolution • The Collapse of the Civil Rights Consensus and the Solid South (Thanksgiving Holiday-Nov. 22-25) 	OXFORD TEXT: 462-516 SOUTH TEXT: 289-262; 270-275
15 Nov. 27	Module 17:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modernization, the Sunbelt South, the Blurring of Regional Distinctiveness	
16 Dec. 2	Module 18:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contemporary Southern Politics• Closing Comments	OXFORD TEXT: 517-545;557-576 SOUTH TEXT:308-317
Dec. 10 8:00 pm	Final Exam Due	