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Office Hours: Tues. (12:30-2:30pm); Thurs. (2:30-4:00pm)



History 771: Making the Old South

Fall 2011

Tuesday 6:30-9:15pm • Liberal Arts Building

(LAB) 455

OVERVIEW: The plantation manors that dotted the southern countryside were meant to give the region's slaveholding aristocracy a veneer—the thinnest patina—of permanency and stability. Indeed, many colonial and antebellum planters mimicked the tastes of the English landed nobility or embraced architectural movements like the Greek Revival to both legitimize their authority and emphasize the ancient foundations of the planters' regime. In truth, the American South was a tumultuous place. Its economic, political, and social landscapes were in a state of almost continual upheaval from the beginning of European colonization in the fifteen century through the American Civil War. It was, moreover, an uneven and variegated landscape. The Southwest Borderlands, the Gulf South, the Carolinas, and the Chesapeake developed along different trajectories during the colonial period. Their histories would, in turn, shape the timing of their entry into the American republic and have a profound effect on the societies that developed in these regions during the antebellum period. The sheer geographic and temporal diversity of the region has lead some to ask whether historians can even speak of a single South. This course offers a panoramic view the often wrenching transformations that made and re-made the American South in the centuries between colonization and secession.

GRADING: There are three components to your grade:

Review Essays (Two)	10% each
Historiographical Essay	40%
Class Participation	40%

REVIEW ESSAYS: In the course of the first five weeks of the course (excluding our first meeting), you must write critical reviews of two of the assigned monographs. Your essays must be 900-1000 words in length. Regardless of which books you chose to review, the essays will be due at the beginning of class on the day the book has been assigned. Remember, a critical review is more than a mere summary or report of the book. It is a statement of the book's central argument, an assessment of its historiographical significance, and an analysis of its strengths and weaknesses. If you have questions about how to structure a critical review, you may want to consult the reviews published in academic journals such as The Journal of Southern History and Slavery and Abolition.

HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY: The primary written assignment for this course is a historiographical essay of 25-30 pages. You are free to choose the topic of your essay, although you are strongly urged to consult with the professor early in the semester to select a subject that is both manageable and significant. You may choose a subject that complements your primary area(s) of interest or you may choose to expand your horizons and tackle a subject that you have not explored before—the choice is yours. Regardless of your subject, the essay should cover at least a dozen books and perhaps twice that number of journal articles. Over the course of the semester there will be smaller assignments and deadlines to make certain that you are making satisfactory progress. Please note that your citations must conform to those in The Chicago Manual of Style. The essay is due at the beginning of our final seminar of the semester.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: This seminar cannot succeed without your informed participation. You are expected to come to class having completed the readings. Failure to attend class without a written, verifiable excuse or to contribute to discussions reflects a lack of commitment to your studies and will harm your overall grade. Please note that I have found laptop computers to be a constant distraction in both graduate and undergraduate classes. To that end, I ask that they not be used in this seminar.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address: The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive #8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232
Fax: (601) 266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or e-mail Suzy Herbert at Suzanne.Herbert@usm.edu.

Course Outline

Week One: Introduction

Week Two: The Southwest Borderlands

Brooks, James F. Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.

Barr, Juliana. "A Diplomacy of Gender: Rituals of First Contact in the 'Land of the Tejas.'" William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd ser., 61 (July 2004): 393-434.

Barr, Juliana. "From Captives to Slaves: Commodifying Indian Women in the Borderlands." Journal of American History 92 (June 2005): 19-46.

Week Two: The Southwest Borderlands (continued)

Barr, Juliana. "How Do You Get from Jamestown to Santa Fe? A Colonial Sun Belt." Journal of Southern History 73 (August 2007): 553-566.

Week Three: The Lower Mississippi Valley

Hall, Gwendolyn Midlo. Africans in Colonial Louisiana: The Development of Afro-Creole Culture in the Eighteenth Century. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1995.

Usner, Daniel H., Jr., "The Significance of the Gulf South in Early American History," in Coastal Encounters: The Transformation of the Gulf South in the Eighteenth Century, ed. Richard F. Brown (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2007): 13-30.

Usner, Daniel H., Jr. "The Frontier Exchange Economy of the Lower Mississippi Valley in the Eighteenth Century." William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd ser., 44 (April 1987): 165-92.

Duval, Kathleen "Indian Intermarriage and Métissage in Colonial Louisiana," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Ser., 65 (April 2008): 267-304.

Week Four: The Native American Slave Trade

Gallay, Alan. The Indian Slave Trade: The Rise of an English Empire in the American South. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2003.

Week Five: English Slave Societies

Morgan, Philip D. Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth Century Chesapeake and Lowcountry. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Week Six: Revolutionary Upheaval

Klein, Rachel N. Unification of a Slave State: The Rise of the Planter Class in the South

- Carolina Backcountry, 1760-1808. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1992.
- Dubois, Laurent. "An Enslaved Enlightenment: Rethinking the Intellectual History of the Black Atlantic." Social History 31 (February 2006): 1-14.
- Holton, Woody. "Rebel against Rebel." Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 105 (1997): 157-93.
- Isaac, Rhys. "Evangelical Revolt: The Nature of the Baptists' Challenge to the Traditional Order in Virginia, 1765 to 1775." William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd ser., 31 (July 1974): 345-68.
- McDonnell, Michael A. "Class War? Class Struggles during the American Revolution in Virginia," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Ser., 63 (April 2006): 305-44.

Week Six: Revolutionary Upheaval (continued)

- Wood, Peter, "'Taking Care of Business' in Revolutionary South Carolina: Republicanism and the Slave Society," in Jeffrey J. Crow and Larry E. Tise, eds., The Southern Experience in the American Revolution (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1978): 268-94.

Week Seven: Slavery and Politics in the Old South

- Ford, Lacy K. Deliver Us From Evil: The Slavery Question in the Old South. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Blackett, Richard. "Dispossessing Massa: Fugitive Slaves and the Politics of Slavery after 1850." American Nineteenth Century 10 (June 2009): 119-36.
- Huebner, Timothy S. "Roger B. Taney and the Slavery Issue: Looking beyond—and before—*Dred Scott*." Journal of American History 97 (June 2010): 17-38.

Week Eight: Securing the Southern Frontier

- Rothman, Adam. Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007.
- Hudson, Angela Pulley. Creek Paths and Federal Roads: Indians, Settlers, and Slaves and the Making of the American South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2011.
- *Unser, Daniel H. "Frontier Exchange and Cotton Production: The Slave Economy in Mississippi, 1798-1836." Slavery and Abolition 20 (1999): 24-37.

Week Nine: Losing the South

- Carson, James Taylor. Searching for the Bright Path: The Mississippi Choctaws from Prehistory to Removal. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999.
- Perdue, Theda. Cherokee Women: Gender and Culture Change, 1700-1835. Lincoln:

University of Nebraska Press, 1998.

Week Ten: Forging the Cotton South

Baptist, Edward E. Creating the Old South: Middle Florida's Plantation Frontier before the Civil War. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.

Week Eleven: The Interstate Slave Trade

Johnson, Walter. Soul by Soul: Inside the Antebellum Slave Market. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001.

Baptist, Edward E. "'Cuffy,' 'Fancy Maids,' and 'One-Eyed Men': Rape, Commodification, and the Domestic Slave Trade in the United States," in The Chattel Principle: Internal Slave Trades in the Americas, ed. Walter Johnson (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2004): 164-205.

Deyle, Steven. "The Irony of Liberty: Origins of the Domestic Slave Trade." Journal of the Early Republic 12 (Spring 1992): 37-62.

Week Twelve: The Margins – Slavery in the Upper South

Schermerhorn, Calvin. Money over Mastery, Family over Freedom: Slavery in the Antebellum Upper South. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011.

Week Thirteen: In the Shadow of the Big House – Slavery in the Deep South

Follett, Richard. The Sugar Masters: Planters and Slaves in Louisiana's Cane World. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, 2007.

Week Fourteen: Community and Family Life among the Enslaved

Kaye, Anthony E. Joining Places: Slave Neighborhoods in the Old South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.

Forret, Jeff. "Conflict and the 'Slave Community': Violence among Slaves in Upcountry South Carolina." Journal of Southern History 74 (August 2008): 551-88.

Week Fifteen: The Political Culture of the Old South

- Faust, Drew Gilpin. James Henry Hammond and the Old South: A Design for Mastery. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985.
- Ford, Lacy K. "Republican Ideology in a Slave Society: The Political Economy of John C. Calhoun," Journal of Southern History 54 (August 1988): 405-24.
- McCurry, Stephanie. "The Two Faces of Republicanism: Gender and Proslavery Politics in Antebellum South Carolina." Journal of American History 78 (March 1992): 1245-62.

Week Sixteen: Capitalism and Modernity in the Old South

- Barnes, L. Diane, Brian Schoen, and Frank Towers, ed. The Old South's Modern Worlds: Slavery, Region, and the Nation in the Age of Progress. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Delfino, Susanna, Louis M. Kyriakoudes, and Michelle Gillespie, ed. Southern Society and Its Transformations. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2011.