

History 230, The American South Since the Civil War
Cedar Crest College
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Spring 2010

COURSE CONTENT: Objectives, Format, Evaluation, and Outcomes:

This course offers a critical examination of the history of the American South from the end of the Civil War to the present. For the most part, the South's peculiar institutions will be treated chronologically, (see page 5). In addition, certain subjects will be studied in considerable detail – for example, the region's political economy (sharecropping, tenant farming, and the plantation), racism and resistance to racism (Jim Crow, the myth of the black beast, and the civil rights movement), violence (dueling, lynching, and the Ku Klux Klan), and questions concerning gender (the role of women in fostering and resisting racism).

By means of assigned readings, classroom lectures, and films. Students will gain a great deal of information about the post-Civil War South. But the purpose of the course goes well beyond the accumulation of data. Classroom discussion and the research paper will encourage the student to ask intelligent questions about the South, to think critically about evidence, and to apply the principles of logic to historical facts and theories.

Students often ask: What good is knowledge about the post-civil war south or; for that matter, any historical subject? There are many answers to such a question. But one need only think of men and women who know nothing about the past. For them governments rise or fall, wars are fought, nations are dispossessed—seemingly without explanation. Trapped in the small world of their own experience, such people are similar to the superstitious folk of the past ages. They fall prey to forces beyond their comprehension. At best they are given to apathy, At worst to paranoia.

Students who successfully complete this course will be well on their way to escaping such a condition. This knowledge will have useful especially with regard to the modern South and the United States in general.

COURSE REQUIREMENT:

Readings:

In Bookstore:

Leonard Dinnerstein, *The Leo Frank Case*

James H. Jones, *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment*

Douglas Brinkley, *Rosa Parks, A Life*

Selections on Reserve in Library

Eric Foner, "The New View of Reconstruction," *American Heritage*,
October/November, 1983, pp. 10-15

C. Vann Woodward, *Thinking Back: The Perils of Writing History*, pp. 29-42

Barton C. Shaw, *The Wool-Hat Boys: Georgia's Populist Party*, pp. 5-16, 78-90

Ibid. "Tom Watson and Populism," in *American Reform and Reformers: A
Biographical Dictionary*, ed. By Randall M. Miller and Paul C. Cimbala,
pp. 470-479

Tests:

There will be a mid-term test and a final exam. The mid-term will be on
March 3.

Paper:

You will write a seven-to-eight page paper on a topic related to the history of the
post-Civil War American South. You might get ideas for this project by
examining two books found in Cressman Library: *The Encyclopedia of Southern
History*, and *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. Another valuable source is
the *Journal of Sothern History*, found in Linderman Library at Muhlenberg
College.

This paper should be typed (double-spaced) and it should include a bibliography.
Your citations (a.k.a., notes or footnotes) may be placed at the end of the text or at
the bottom of the page. Under no circumstances should citations appear within
the text.

The paper will be graded based on the quality of your argument, the quality of
your research, and the quality of your writing. Under normal circumstances, a
well-researched but poorly written paper can get a grade no higher than a C.

The paper is due in class on April 7. For every unexcused day it is late, you will
lose a letter grade. For security purposes, keep an extra copy of your paper. I will
discuss this project in more detail in class.

Grading:

Test (March 3)	30%
Exam	30%
Paper (April 7)	30%
Classroom Discussion	10%

Missed Classes:

If you are unable to make it to a class, it is your responsibility to get the missed notes. It is also your responsibility to be aware of any announcements--for example, assignments, schedule changes, etc.--that may have been given during the class.

Disabilities:

If you are unable to make it to a class, it is your responsibility to get the missed notes. It is also your responsibility to be aware of any announcements- -for example, assignments, schedule changes, etc.- -that may have been given during the class.

Office Hours:

Office visits are welcome. If you're having problems with the course or if you just want to chat, please feel free to drop by. My hours are:

Monday, 1:00-1:30 PM, and by appointment, 9:30-9:45 PM

Wednesday, 11:00-11:30 AM

If these times are not convenient, please call me for an appointment at a different time.

THIS COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CEDAR CREEST COLLEGE HONOR CODE. CHEATING AND/OR PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN THE FAILURE OF THE COURSE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS, PLEASE SEE ME.

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
- II. Southern Geography and the Old South
 - The Colonial “South”
 - Slavery
 - The Coming of the Civil War
- III. The South, Reconstruction, and the Ku Klux Klan
 - Reading: Foner, “The New View of Reconstruction,” *American Heritage* October/November 1983, pp. 10-15
- IV. The Rise of the Redeemers and the Bourbons
- V. The Political Economy of the Rural South
 - Reading: Shaw, Wool-Hat Boys, pp. 5-16
- VI. Black Southerner & Jim Crow
 - Booker T. Washington
- VII. Southern Populism
 - Readings: Shaw, “Tom Watson and Populism”
 - Ibid*, *The Wool-Hat Boys*, pp. 78-90
 - Woodward, *Thinking Back*, pp. 29-42
- VIII. The Triumph of Conservatism
 - Reading: Dinnerstein, *The Leo Frunk Case*
- IX. The “Demagogues”: Southern Politics as Theater
- X. The South and the Great Depression
 - Huey Long
 - Reading: Jones, *Bad Blood*
- XI. World War II: the Beginnings of the New South
- XII. The Second Reconstruction: The Black Civil Rights Movement in the South
 - Reading: Brinkley, *Rosa Parks, A Life*
- XIII. The Flowering of Southern Literature
- XIV. The Modern Ku Klux Klan
- XV. The Conservative Counterrevolution in the South