

Spring 2007 | University of North Carolina, Greensboro
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.

HIS 520: Memoir in Southern History

Course Syllabus

This course will examine southern U. S. history from colonial times to the present through the prism of memoir. We will read the memoirs of indentured servants, Indians, slaves, slaveholders, civil rights workers, and segregationists, among others, to examine the experiences of the people themselves. Through their memoirs, southerners did not just narrate their lives. They chronicled their legacies as well. We will examine southerners' use of their memoirs to both illuminate and obscure aspects of the southern past.

Course Requirements: The requirements for this course include assigned readings for each class, periodic assignments and quizzes on the assigned readings, and three papers.

Assigned Readings: There are four books assigned for this class: Rhys Isaac, *Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom: Revolution and Rebellion on a Virginia Plantation* (2004); Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, and *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (2000); Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw* (1974); and Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story* (2005). Each of these books can be purchased at the University Bookstore or on-line. Additional readings are on Blackboard, E-reserves, and the internet. These readings will be linked to the Syllabus on Blackboard and listed under Course Documents as they become available. The assigned reading list may undergo minor changes; students should be sure to consult the most current version of the Syllabus on Blackboard.

Attendance and Late Policy: You are allowed one absence. After one absence, you will receive a zero for participation for that day. In addition, students will be dropped from the class for excessive absences. Assignments submitted in class are due at the beginning of the class period. Students who submit assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy.

Final Grade Composition

- Participation 15%
- In-class Assignments 10%
- Papers (3 x 25%) 75%

Participation: Participation in discussion is mandatory. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings on the day that they are assigned. Attendance alone is not sufficient for full participation credit.

In-class Assignments: Students will be given brief in-class and take-home writing and research assignments based on the assigned readings. Students will also be periodically quizzed on readings and lectures.

Papers: Students are required to write three papers based on assigned readings, the first due on February 6, the second due on March 27, and the third due on April 24.

Plagiarism Policy: The University defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise."¹ (See the University's [Academic Integrity Policies](#) for further information.) All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

Week 1 (January 9)

Introduction

Week 2 (January 16)

Reading: Alvar Núñez Cabeza De Vaca, *Chronicle of the Narváez Expedition* on blackboard ([Part I](#) and [Part II](#))

Week 3 (January 23)

Reading: John Smith, *A Map of Virginia, with a Description of its Commodities, People, Government, and Religion* on [internet](#); André Pénicaut, *Fleur de Lys and Calumet: Being the Pénicaut Narrative of French Adventure in Louisiana* ([Part I](#) and [Part II](#)) on blackboard

Week 4 (January 30)

Reading: Rhys Isaac, *Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom: Revolution and Rebellion on a Virginia Plantation*, pp. XI - 162

Week 5 (February 6)

¹ <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/violation/plagiarism/>

Reading: Rhys Isaac, *Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom: Revolution and Rebellion on a Virginia Plantation*, pp. 163 - 336

First paper due at the beginning of class.

Week 6 (February 13)

Reading: Charles C. Bolton, *The Confessions of Edward Isham: A Poor White Life in the Old South*, pp. TBA on blackboard

Week 7 (February 20)

Reading: Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, and *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, pp. TBA

Week 8 (February 27)

Reading: Excerpts from Jubal Anderson Early, *A Memoir of the Last Year of the War for Independence in the Confederate States of America* on blackboard; Susie King Taylor, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp: An African American Woman's Civil War Memoir* on blackboard; Albion Tourgee, *A Fool's Errand* on blackboard

Week 9 (March 6) Spring Break

No Class

Week 10 (March 13)

Reading: Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw*, pp. XV - 153

Week 11 (March 20)

Reading: Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw*, pp. 152 - 344

Week 12 (March 27)

Reading: Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw*, pp. 345 - 556

Second paper due at the beginning of class.

Week 13 (April 3)

Reading: Excerpts from William Alexander Percy, *Lanterns on the Levee: Recollections of a Planter's Son* on blackboard; Richard Wright, *Black Boy (American Hunger): A Record of Childhood and Youth* on blackboard

Week 14 (April 10)

Reading: Excerpts from Melba Pattillo Beals, *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High* on blackboard; Lillian Eugenia Smith, *Killers of the Dream* on blackboard

Week 15 (April 17)

Reading: Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story*, pp. 1 - 166

Week 16 (April 24)

Reading: Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story*, pp. 167 - 325

Third paper due at the beginning of class.