

# HIS 344-01: The New South

## Spring 2009

**Instructor:** E.P. Meszaros  
**Office:** MHRA 3102  
**Office Hours:** MW 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
 Also by appointment

**Classroom:** MHRA 2209  
**Meeting Time:** MW 2-3:15  
**Email:** [epmeszar@uncg.edu](mailto:epmeszar@uncg.edu)

### Course Description:

This course examines the social, political, and economic development of the American South from the Civil War to the present. Topics covered will include the Lost Cause; Jim Crow and the Black Freedom Movement; reform; changing labor patterns—including the effects of NAFTA and immigration; political and religious conservatism; and even leisure—from Nashville to NASCAR. Throughout the course, we will uncover conflicts over race, gender, and class differences; we will examine the role of the past in shaping the modern South; and we will try to determine the degree to which the South has changed. Finally, we will look at how the commodification of the southern way of life has influenced the rest of the nation.

### Course Objectives:

1. Students and instructor will create a **tolerant environment** in which a diversity of opinions are shared and debated.
2. Students will learn to understand and evaluate a variety of **methods for using historical evidence** (including documents, film, photographs, literature, art, and oral histories).
3. Students will learn how to **synthesize central arguments** of readings and evaluate major points of agreement or disagreement among historians and historical actors through the completion of a research project.
4. Students will **distinguish between primary and secondary** types of historical evidence.
5. Students will **develop critical thinking skills** from a variety of lectures, writing exercises, and key readings.

### Required Texts (Turabian Style used below)

- Ayers, Edward L. *Southern Crossing: A History of the American South, 1877-1906*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Bragg, Rick. *All Over But the Shoutin'*. New York: Vintage Books, 1997.
- Daniel, Pete. *Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2000.
- Johnson, Mat, Warren Pleece, and Clem Robins. *Incognegro: A Graphic Mystery*. New York: Vertigo DC Comics, 2008.
- Larson, Erik. *Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History*. New York: Vintage Books, 1999.
- Tyson, Timothy B. *Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story*. New York: Crown Publishers, 2004.

\*E-Reserves Documents on Blackboard: <https://blackboard.uncg.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp> (listed under "Course Documents" tab on Blackboard)

\*Class Handouts from Instructor

**Grading Guidelines:****Participation** = 15% (classwork, oral participation)**Blackboard Posts** = 20%**Research Project** = 30% (Research Exercise, Draft, Final Copy)**Midterm Exam** = 15%**Final Exam** = 20%**Grading Scale:**

The following grading scale will be used to evaluate student performance:

93 and above A	88-89 B+	78-79 C+	68-69 D+	59 and below F
90-92 A-	83-87 B	73-77 C	63-67 D	
	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-	

**Technology Policy:**

Please be sure to check both your UNCG email account and Blackboard on a DAILY basis for important announcements. I reserve the right to alter the schedule on this syllabus during the course of the semester and I will use both email and Blackboard to contact you regarding changes. Please treat email as a FORMAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION or as if you were speaking to me face-to-face about classroom matters. If you do not receive an email response from me within 48 hours, then assume that I did not get your original message and send it again. If you do not receive a confirmation of your message, it means that I did not receive it and you will not be credited for any information that you communicated. Make sure to turn all cell phones off before entering class each session. I encourage you to use laptops in class, but recording devices are prohibited. Laptops are appropriate for taking lecture notes or for reviewing primary and secondary materials in class ONLY. Do not abuse the privilege of technology in the classroom.

**Academic Integrity:**

Please familiarize yourself with the UNCG Academic Honor Code in the Undergraduate Bulletin or at <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/code/>. Plagiarism and/or cheating on assignments is unacceptable academic behavior and will result in failure of the course and a report to the Dean of Students. I encourage all students to complete the Jackson Library Plagiarism Tutorial at the web address below in order to more fully understand the parameters of academic integrity.

<http://library.uncg.edu/depts/ref/tutorial/integrate/plagdef.asp>

**Class Attendance and Participation:**

Attendance is mandatory for success in this course and it will be taken at the beginning of class, daily. "Attendance" means more than just being bodily present in the classroom. I expect you to pay attention to any learning experience, taking notes that will help you learn and assimilate the material. To this end, those students who sleep, surf the Internet, send text messages, or habitually leave class early (or enter class late) will be penalized with an absence. "Participation" means that one is actively engaged in the task of learning. On lecture days, this means taking notes and asking questions if you have them. On seminar days, this means taking an active role in the class discussion and making meaningful contributions. *The quality of your participation is much more important than the quantity.*

**You are allowed three unexcused absences in this course. For every absence after three you will lose a point from your final grade. These absences should be taken in emergency situations only, as attendance in class is, of course, mandatory. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH ME** to get the notes for that day, to check for assignments, and to provide proper documentation if you seek an excused absence. Punctuality in class is a sign of respect for the instructor, your classmates, and yourself. Every two tardies to class will be counted as one unexcused absence.**

**Extra Credit:**

Opportunities will be provided throughout the semester to earn extra credit toward your final grade. Check Blackboard regularly for information.

**Summary of Major Due Dates and Exam Dates:**

Midterm Exam: Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2-3:15 p.m. MHRA 2209  
 Research Project Exercise: Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> (due in class)  
 Research Project Thesis Statement, Introduction, Works Cited Page: Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> (due on BB)  
 Research Project Draft: Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> (due on BB)  
 Research Project Final Copy: Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> (due on BB)  
 Final Exam: Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 12-3 p.m. MHRA 2209

**Exams:**

There will be both a midterm exam and a final for this course. In advance of both exams you will be provided with a study guide which lists the major vocabulary terms and concepts for the exam. I strongly encourage you to form study groups and partnerships on Blackboard for exam preparation. I am also willing to hold additional (non-mandatory) study groups outside of class time with interested students. Exams will consist of a combination of vocabulary short answers and essays. Material for the exams will come directly from course readings, lectures, guest speakers, and film clips. You CANNOT pass the exams without attending lecture and keeping up with course readings. Exams should be written in examination **BLUE BOOKS** which are available at the UNCG bookstore for a small charge or Addams University Book Store on Tate St. for no charge.

**Assignments:**

All written assignments should be typed and formatted according to the "HIS 344 Paper Formatting Guidelines" handout. Papers should be submitted **ELECTRONICALLY** as I will not accept hard copies. Assignments should be posted on Blackboard to "Safe Assign" by 2 p.m. on the day they are due listed on the course calendar below. Students are always encouraged to make appointments to discuss writing. For the **Final Draft of your Research Paper** students are REQUIRED to have a session with a tutor at the UNCG Writing Center located in MHRA 3211. Please visit the website below for more information:

<http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/>

**Course Calendar:** Readings and activities are to be **completed by the day listed** on the syllabus.

**Week One- Course Introduction/ Defining the South**

Wednesday, January 21- Begin reading *Southern Crossings* this week

**Week Two- Reconstruction and Civil War Memory**

Monday, January 26- Lecture and Discussion

- E-Reserves Readings: 1. "The South: What Is It? Where Is It?"  
 2. "Southern Culture: An Introduction"

Wednesday, January 28- Lecture and Discussion

- E-Reserves Readings: 1. "Hot, Humid, and Sad"  
 2. "1865 Loyalty Oath to Union"  
 3. "Davis on Lee"

**Week Three- The Lost Cause**

Monday, February 2- Lecture and Discussion

- E-Reserves Readings: 1. "Women, Religion, and the Lost Cause"  
 2. "Southern Civil Religion"

Wednesday, February 4- Lecture and Discussion

**ACTIVITIES TODAY:** *Southern Crossings* (Ayers) due by 2 p.m. on Blackboard  
Research Topic due by 2 p.m. on Blackboard

**Week Four- Defining The New South Vision**

Monday, February 9- Instructional Session with Steve Dew from Jackson Library “Learning to Use Research Materials.” BRING LAPTOPS FOR CLASS TODAY!!!

Wednesday, February 11- Lecture and Discussion

E-Reserve Readings: 1. “The Lost Cause and Causes Not Lost”  
2. “Lynch Law and Immigration”

**Week Five- The Birth of Jim Crow: Disenfranchisement, Segregation, and the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot**

Monday, February 16- Lecture and Discussion

E-Reserves Readings: 1. “Ghosts of 1898”  
2. “1898 *NY Times*”

Wednesday, February 18- Lecture and Discussion

**ACTIVITY TODAY:** *Isaac’s Storm* (Larson) Blackboard post due by 2 p.m.

**Week Six- Land and Labor in the New South**

Monday, February 23- Lecture and Discussion

Wednesday, February 25- **Guest Speaker Today:** Susan Thomas, Greensboro College instructor, PhD candidate UNCG, “New South Case Study: Convict Labor in North Carolina”  
E-Reserve Reading: 1. “Metamorphosis of Slavery”

**Week Seven- Industry, Workers, and the Myth of the New South**

Monday, March 2- Lecture and Discussion/Exam Review

Wednesday, March 4- **MIDTERM EXAMINATION TODAY. REMEMBER YOUR BLUE BOOK!!!**

**Week Eight: CLASSES DISMISSED FOR SPRING BREAK. BE SAFE!!!**

**Week Nine- New South Women and Progressive Reform**

Monday, March 16- **Guest Speaker Today:** Dr. Lisa Tolbert, UNCG “Women and The Pig: Southern Consumption and Piggly Wiggly”

Wednesday, March 18- Lecture and Discussion

E-Reserves Reading: 1. “Just Like Mammy Used to Make”

**ACTIVITY TODAY:** Research Exercise **Due In Class** today (not on Blackboard)

**Week Ten- The South at the Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and World War I**

Monday, March 23- Lecture and Discussion

E-Reserve Readings: 1. “Southern Draft Resistance WWI”  
2. “Rosewood Massacre”

Wednesday, March 25- Lecture and Discussion

**ACTIVITY TODAY:** *Incognegro* (Johnson et al.) Blackboard post due by 2 p.m.

**Week Eleven- Depression, New Deal, World War II**

Monday, March 30- Lecture and Discussion

- E-Reserve Readings: 1. "A Southern New Deal"  
2. "WWII and the South"  
3. "Scottsboro Boys"

**ACTIVITY TODAY:** Research Project Thesis Statement, Introduction, Works Cited  
Page due by 2 p.m. on Blackboard

Wednesday, April 1- **Guest Speaker Today:** Missy Foy, PhD Candidate UNCG "Tuskegee: Medical Research and the Black Experience"

**ACTIVITY TODAY:** *Lost Revolutions*: Introduction and Book I "The Postwar Landscape" (Daniels) Blackboard post due by 2 p.m.

**Week Twelve- Escalation of the Black Freedom Movement**

Monday, April 6- Lecture and Discussion

Wednesday, April 8- **Guest Speaker Today:** Tiffany Butler Quaye, NC A & T lecturer and PhD Candidate UNCG, "The Greensboro Massacre: Black Freedom in N.C."

**ACTIVITY TODAY:** *Lost Revolutions*: Book III "Fatal Divisions" (Daniels) Blackboard post due by 2 p.m.

**Week Thirteen- Southern Cultures Pt. I- Music and Recreation**

Monday, April 13- Lecture and Discussion

**ACTIVITY TODAY:** Research Paper Draft posted by 2 p.m. on Blackboard

Wednesday, April 15- **Guest Speaker Today:** Kevin Greene, PhD Candidate UNCG "From Blues to Bluegrass: Music and Southern Identity"

**ACTIVITY TODAY:** *Lost Revolutions*: Book II "Low Culture" (Daniels) Blackboard post due by 2 p.m.

**Week Fourteen- Southern Cultures Pt. II- The Politics of New Conservatism**

Monday, April 20- **Guest Speaker Today:** Todd Miller, PhD Candidate UNCG "'From Minimizing Government and Fighting Reds to 'God, Guns, and Gays': The Rise of American Conservatism"

- E-Reserves Readings: 1. "From Civil Rights to Human Rights" Introduction  
2. "Southernization of American Politics"

Wednesday, April 22- Lecture and Discussion

**ACTIVITY TODAY:** *All Over But the Shoutin'* (Bragg) Blackboard post due by 2 p.m.

**Week Fifteen- The 21<sup>st</sup> Century South- The New Immigration and Re-defining the Presidency**

Monday, April 27- Lecture and Discussion

- E-Reserves Readings: 1. "Southern Immigration"  
2. "Hispanic Diaspora"

Wednesday, April 29- **ACTIVITY TODAY:** **FINAL COPY OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE TODAY BY 2 P.M. ON BLACKBOARD**

- E-Reserves Readings: 1. "Hurricane Katrina Timeline"  
2. "The Drowning of America"

**Week Sixteen**

Monday, May 4- Class Wrap-Up and Course Evaluations

**ACTIVITY TODAY:** *Blood Done Sign My Name* (Tyson) Blackboard post due by 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5- **LAST DAY OF CLASSES AT UNCG**

Wednesday, May 6- **READING DAY**

**Week Seventeen**

Wednesday, May 13- **FINAL EXAM 12-3 p.m. in MHRA 2209. BRING BLUE BOOKS!!!!!!**

**Note: I will post your final grades on Blackboard as soon as I have them ready. Please allow me adequate grading time by NOT deluging me with e-mails regarding final grades, unless there is an error in your final grade that needs to be brought to my attention.**

**HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER BREAK AND I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL NEXT SEMESTER!!!!!!**