

HTS 2007
HISTORY OF THE NEW SOUTH
SPRING SEMESTER 2017

Instructor:

Dr. Matthew Hild

Office: Old Civil Engineering Building, Room G-17

Office hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00, Fridays, 10:00-11:00, or by appointment

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Required books:

William A. Link, *Southern Crucible: The Making of An American Region, Vol. II (Since 1877)*

Christopher C. Meyers, ed., *The Empire State of the South: Georgia History in Documents and Essays*

There will also be two supplementary readings (articles) that will be distributed electronically—see the assigned readings listed for weeks 14 and 15 below.

Course description:

This course will utilize lectures, readings, and occasionally films to examine social, political, and economic developments in the history of the American South since 1865. Specific topics covered will include Reconstruction, the “Redeemer” period, race relations, industrialization, the rise and fall of Democratic Party dominance of southern politics, and the question of southern distinctiveness.

Learning outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior:
 - a) Students will demonstrate the ability to describe and analyze the social, political, and economic forces that shaped the South during Reconstruction and the “Redeemer” era that followed.
 - b) Students will demonstrate the ability to describe and analyze the social, political, and economic forces that transformed the South during the Great Depression and World War II.
 - c) Students will demonstrate the ability to describe and analyze the social, political, and economic forces that shaped the Civil Rights movement that reached its climax during the 1950s and 1960s.

2. Students will be able to describe the role of diverse interests and groups in shaping the history, politics, society, and institutions of the United States and the South in particular:
 - a) Students will demonstrate an ability to analyze the issue of southern distinctiveness and the relationship between the region and the rest of the nation as it evolved over the time period covered in the course (from the end of the Civil War through the end of the twentieth century).

Achievement of these learning outcomes will be measured through the examinations and assignments discussed below.

Exams: There will be two exams in this course, a mid-term exam which will cover material from the first half of the course and a final exam which will cover material from the second half. Each exam will consist of twenty to twenty-five multiple choice questions and an essay question.

Written assignment: For either one (but only one) of the supplementary readings (see weeks 14 and 15), you must write a paper of approximately 800-900 words and turn it in at the beginning of class on the Thursday of that week. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and turned in in hard copy (printed) form. Specific instructions for this assignment will be provided separately from this syllabus.

Extra credit: Students may earn up to five points of extra credit on each exam by writing an essay of approximately 800 to 900 words. One of these essays must be a summary and analysis of a documentary film shown in class; the other must be a book review of a book approved by the instructor. Instructions for the film review will be explained in class on each day that a film is shown. Instructions for the book review, as well as a short list of approved book titles, will be provided separately. Students may choose to review a book that is not on that list with the instructor's approval. (Only non-fiction books will be approved.) Students may turn in zero, one, or two extra credit papers (but no more than one per exam). If only one paper is submitted during the semester, then it may be either a film review or a book review, but if two papers are submitted, then one of each type must be submitted.

Each extra credit paper must be turned in as a printed copy (typed and double-spaced) at the beginning of the period in which the exams are given.

Classroom etiquette: All participants in this class (students and instructor alike) will be expected to refrain from rude and disruptive behavior in class, to keep their cell phones turned off in class, and to stay awake in class. In addition, of course, all participants in this class are expected to comply with the Georgia Tech honor code, including the provisions regarding plagiarism. (See: <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/content/2/the-honor-code>)

Grading scale:

Mid-term exam=30 percent; final exam=30 percent; written assignment=20 percent; class attendance/participation=20 percent

Course grades will be assigned according to the following scale, with no exceptions:
A=89.50 or better; B= 79.50-89.49; C=69.50-79.49; D=59.50-69.49; F=59.49 or below

Course schedule:

Week 1 (January 10 & 12) Course introduction; Reconstruction and the Emergence of the New South

Reading assignment: Link, Preface, Introduction, and chap. 13

Week 2 (January 17 & 19) Reconstruction and the Emergence of the New South (continued); Farmers, Workers, and Industry in the Early New South

Reading assignment for Tuesday: Meyers, chap. 9

Reading assignment for Thursday: Link, chap. 14

Week 3 (January 24 & 26) Race Relations in the Early New South

Reading assignment for Tuesday: Link, chap. 15

Reading assignment for Thursday: Meyers, chaps. 10 & 11

Week 4 (January 31 and February 2) “Redeemers,” Populists, and Progressives

Reading assignment for Tuesday: Link, chap. 16

Reading assignment for Thursday: Meyers, chap. 12 plus pp. 154-162 (docs. 3 through 9)

Week 5 (February 7 & 9) The South during the “Great War” and the “Roaring Twenties”

Reading assignment for the week: Link, chaps. 17 & 18 plus Meyers, p. 258, doc. 3)

Week 6 (February 14 & 16) Tuesday: documentary film; Thursday: TBA

Week 7 (February 21 & 23) **Tuesday, Feb. 21: Midterm exam**

Thursday: The South, the Great Depression, and the New Deal (Read Link, chap. 19.)

Week 8 (February 28 & March 2) The South, the Great Depression, and the New Deal

(continued) Reading assignment for Thursday: Meyers, chap. 13 (except for the previously assigned document 3 on p. 258)

Week 9 (March 7 & 9) World War II as Turning Point in the History of the South

Reading assignment for Tuesday: Link, chaps. 20 & 21

Reading assignment for Thursday: Meyers, chap. 14

Week 10 (March 14 & 16) Civil Rights and the Second Reconstruction

Reading assignment for the week: Link, chap. 22

Week 11 (March 20-24) Spring break

Week 12 (March 28 & 30) Civil Rights and the Second Reconstruction (continued)

Reading assignment for Tuesday: Meyers, chap. 15

Thursday: documentary film

Week 13 (April 4 & 6) The Rise of the Sunbelt South

Reading assignment for the week: Link, chaps. 23 & 24

Week 14 (April 11 & 13) The Rise of the Sunbelt South (continued)

Reading assignment for Tuesday: Meyers, chap. 16

Reading assignment for Thursday: “Flags of Our Fathers: Voting on Confederate Symbols in the State of Georgia” by M. Reksulak, G.R. Karahan, and W.F. Shughart II

Week 15 (April 18 & 20) Georgia Tech and the New South

Reading assignment for the week: “Engineers and the New South Creed: The Formation and Early Development of Georgia Tech” by James E. Brittain and Robert C. McMath, Jr.

Week 16 (April 25) Last day of class—no reading assignment

Final exam, May 2, Tuesday, 6:00 PM