

**HIST 4320-010 (Fall 2009)**  
**The American South**

**Dr. Brian D. McKnight**  
**T/Th 2:00-3:15 p.m. (A-221)**

Office Hours and Contact Information:

- Office: Academic Building 210-A
- Hours: M-Th, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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Scope of Course:

This class will explore the history of the American South from initial European settlement to the present. Our study will seek to answer the complex questions surrounding this unique region through readings in southern history, literature, philosophy, and sociology. The overlying question that we will seek to answer during this course is “has the South become American or has the United States been southernized?” By focusing our attention on such an inquiry, I think we will be able to arrive at some quite remarkable conclusions, particularly in regard to the relationship between politics and society and the relativity of the term “progress”.

Required Texts:

- Breen, *Tobacco Culture*. Princeton University Press.
- Freehling, *The South vs. The South*. Oxford University Press.
- Kirby, *Media Made Dixie*. University Press of Georgia.
- Morgan, *American Slavery, American Freedom*. W. W. Norton.
- Silbey, *Storm Over Texas*. Oxford University Press.
- Turabian, *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. University of Chicago Press.
- Williamson, *William Faulkner and Southern History*. Oxford University Press.
- Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*. Oxford University Press.
- Wyatt-Brown, *Honor and Violence in the Old South*. Oxford University Press.

Class Format:

Our class time will be spent either in lecture or in discussion. You are expected to speak up throughout the class and offer insights.

Assignments:

Reading Quizzes: (30%)—There are 15 weeks of reading in this class. On the Tuesday of twelve of these weeks, I will give a short reading quiz. At the end of the semester, your two lowest grades will be dropped leaving you with ten quiz grades.

Participation: (20%)—You are expected to contribute to the course by taking an active part in the regular class discussions.

Your poor attendance can doom you in this regard, but simply attending without contribution is not enough to achieve maximum credit. I am assigning and testing over these books for a reason and other than that, you have a major paper. I'm not giving exams or any other test nor are you required to complete other assignments, so I think asking you to read a few books and write a single paper is a pretty fair trade off.

Research Paper: (50%)—You will be responsible for an original piece of scholarship as a result of this class. The paper will be between 10-12 pages and the topic must be cleared through me. The graded paper is due by 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 20. After I review your paper, you must make all relevant changes and turn in an edited version during the final exam period. You will not get your grade until the final version is submitted.

Important notes:

- This course will have the following attendance policy: For each absence after the third, you will lose one point on your final grade. This gives you one and a half weeks to miss for any reason before the penalty is charged.
- No encyclopedia or online sources (I will deduct points). This is an upper-division college course and you should do your research in the library among books and journals of intellectual substance.
- No late assignments will be accepted.
- Seek perfection in your writing. Go the extra mile to eliminate grammatical and technical errors.
- Become familiar with the Chicago/Turabian citation style. No MLA, APA, or any other will be accepted.
- Consult with me frequently to make sure you are moving in the right direction and have examined the best available sources for your paper.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated, nor will any other form of cheating. If caught, you will fail this class. It's just that simple. If you have any questions about this rule, ask them before I catch you.