Course Syllabus

Instructor Information:

Name: Brian S. Wills, Professor of History
Address: Office 3016, SO Bldg. #22, Kennesaw State University, Ga.
Email address: bwills2@kennesaw.edu
Phone number: (470) 578-2966
Office Hours: Mon. and Wed., 8:00-9:30 AM
Tues. and Thurs., 8:00-11:00 AM

Textbook:


Any other readings will be provided or assigned in class.

Description and Format:

History 3310/01 will be an exploration of the American South from the colonial period to the end of the Civil War. While major political and economic events will be an important part of the course, such events grow out of the ordeals of ordinary people. Therefore, close attention will be paid to the experiences of men and women – white, black, and Native American – from all social classes whose lives created a unique society known as the Old South. As such, we will examine both the broad trends and many of the specific issues that the people during this span of time faced in an attempt to understand why these people thought and acted—that is, lived—as they did. Since History is the process of asking questions and seeking answers, you will have to participate in this process in order to “get” anything out of it.

Attendance and Requirements:

Regular attendance is expected. While some absences may be unavoidable, you should make it a point to attend class. These sessions will be important in determining your final grade, both as to the types of information you will be tested on and as part of a class participation grade. Obviously you will have to attend class in order to participate. Try your best to avoid ANY absences, even those for which you might be able to obtain excuses.

Any outside reading is required as noted on the syllabus or announced in class. You will be responsible for material on the dates shown or announced. Be sure to get any work you missed, but remember that no one is here as someone else’s stenographer.
Personal Conduct:
You are expected to be respectful of each other and the instructor. Discussion and debate are parts of the process, but should be conducted in a civilized manner. Classes are not press conferences from which one enters or departs as one wishes, answers cell phones, texts or catches up on social network lapses and opportunities or lack of sleep, etc. If you need or prefer to be somewhere else or do something other than the class, please do so. We will miss you, but we will try to soldier on somehow anyway.

Tests and Final Course Grade:
There will be a mid-term and a final exam. Missing these without prior notification to the instructor does not constitute an excused absence. In English, if you are ill, have a family emergency, etc., you will need to contact the instructor or have someone contact him on your behalf. Your failure to do so puts the instructor under no obligation to give you a make-up.

The mid-term grade (30%), a final exam grade (40%) and a class attendance/participation/special projects grade (30%) will determine your final course grade. Throughout there may be special assignments that will be part of the 30% class grade. These will be announced in class with a due date set at that time.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES WILL BE DONE THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY, BY WRITING ON PAPER, AND IF SUBMITTED, NEED TO BE IN BLUE OR BLACK PEN ONLY. THIS INCLUDES WHEN TAKING NOTES, WHICH CAN THEN BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER FORMAT AT ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE IF YOU WISH, UNLESS YOU HAVE DIRECT PRIOR PERMISSION FROM THE INSTRUCTOR TO DO OTHERWISE.

The scale for the class will be based on: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69 and F=0-59. The instructor reserves the right to assess any fractional consideration.

Office Hours:
As a general rule, I will be available throughout the semester, but specifically from 8:00-9:30 A.M. on most MW. I will also be available to meet on TR from 8:00-11:00 A.M. The exceptions will be when I am in meetings or out of town attending conferences. I am frequently in the office at other times as well as being available by appointment.

Final Note:
Academic honor and honesty are very important to the instructor and the institution. You are expected to act accordingly. It is never wise to create conditions that could be resolved by simply doing your own work or asking questions for clarification when needed.

Readings and Assignments:

Week 1: Aug. 18 & 20 Introduction: Myths of Moonlight and Magnolias
Read Boles, Preface

Week 2: Aug. 25 & 27 Before There Was a South
Boles, Ch. 1
Week 3:   Sept. 1  Labor Day—No Class  
         Sept. 3  Bringing Home the Bacon  
                   Boles, Chs. 2-4

Week 4:  Sept. 8 & 10  Rivalry and Revolution  
                   Boles, Chs. 5-7

Week 5:  Sept. 15 & 17  A South Emerges  
                   Boles, Ch. 8

Week 6:  Sept. 22 & 24  State’s Rights or Wrongs?  
                   Boles, Chs. 9-10

Week 7:  Sept. 29 &  Oct. 1  Cotton and Chattel: Profits and Paternalism  
                   Boles, Ch. 11

Week 8:  Oct. 6 & 8  Laboring in the Antebellum South  
                   Boles, Ch. 12

Week 9:  Oct. 13  Scarlet in the Antebellum South  
                   Boles, Ch. 13  
                   Oct. 15  MID-TERM EXAM

Week 10: Oct. 20 & 22  Sectionalism  
                   Boles, Ch. 14-15

Week 11: Oct. 27 & 29  Danger There’s a Breakdown Dead Ahead  
                   Boles, Chs. 16-17

Week 12: Nov. 3-5  Special Project Week [No Class]

Week 13: Nov. 10 & 12  The Southern Confederacy Confirmed and Challenged  
                   Nov. 10  Special Project DUE  
                   Boles, Ch. 18

Week 14: Nov. 17 & 19  High Tide of the Confederacy  
                   Nov. 24-30  Fall Break and Thanksgiving

Week 15: Dec. 1 & 3  Fight to the Finish  
                   Boles, Ch. 19

Week 16: Dec. 8  An End to Strife and The First Taste of Freedom?  
                   Boles, Ch. 19

FINAL EXAM for MW 9:30 A.M. Classes:   Dec. 15: 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.