**HIST 4830: RISE AND FALL OF THE SLAVE SOUTH**
MWF, 10-10:50am | Environmental Science 125 | Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrew J. Torget  
**Office:** Wooten Hall 258 (although I will not be there often this semester).  
**Office Hours:** Will be held via Zoom by appointment. If you need anything, please email me and we can set up a time convenient for you.  
**Email:** Andrew.Torget@unt.edu  
**Phone:** 940-369-5116

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**  
This course will explore the development of the American South from its earliest colonial settlements through its destruction during the U.S. Civil War. The course will explore the broad economic, political, and social development of the region, while focusing on the role that slavery played in shaping the southern United States as a major economic and political force in the nineteenth-century Atlantic World. In so doing, we will delve deeply into the defining problems of race, slavery, and freedom in American history. The course is structured as a senior-level history course and is therefore intensive in both reading and writing, focused on developing analytical thinking skills.

**COMMUNICATION**  
The best and most reliable way to contact me is via email (Andrew.Torget@unt.edu) and I will do everything I can to respond to you within 24 hours during the workweek (although occasionally I might take up to 48 hours). Please note that I do not regularly check my email during the evenings or on weekends, but I will always prioritize responding to your email as soon as I am able.
REQUIRED TEXTS
The readings are essential to success in the course and will be indispensable for writing your reaction papers and performing well on the exams:


• Solomon Northrup, *Twelve Years A Slave* (Numerous editions since it was first published in 1853, and any will be just fine).


• In addition, I will occasionally post additional sources to Canvas which are also required readings.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY
For this course, you will need access to the following technology:

• A computer with internet access.

• Ready access to Canvas ([https://unt.instructure.com/](https://unt.instructure.com/)), which we will be using extensively for the class. If you need a primer on Canvas, please visit: [https://online.unt.edu/canvas-basics-unt-students](https://online.unt.edu/canvas-basics-unt-students).

• Adobe Acrobat Reader or another program to read PDFs.

• Speakers or headphones to listen to audio on your computer.

• A word processing program to write essays.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

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• Grading will be on a ten-point scale: an A is 90-100; B is 80-89; C is 70-79; D is 60-69; below 60 is an F.
• The exams will consist of short answers and essays. These will be conducted through Canvas as untimed take-home exams and I will provide a study guide in advance.
• For the research paper assignment, you will write an analytical essay based on original research you will conduct in an online archive. I will post an assignment sheet on Canvas (as well as discuss it in class) that explains the paper assignment in detail and well ahead of the deadline.
• Most weeks, you will write and submit short reaction papers on the assigned readings. I will provide a detailed guide to doing these papers.
• There will be six different discussion board assignments throughout the semester, wherein I will provide a prompt and you will participate in an online discussion through Canvas.
• For specific due dates, please see the course schedule below.

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Please note that all assignments will be due online through our class Canvas site by midnight on the Friday for the week that it is assigned. The schedule is also subject to change as necessary over the course of the semester.

**Week 1: Beginnings and Explorers (August 24, 26, 28)**
- Due by August 28:
  - Reaction Paper: Ed Ayers, “What We Talk About When We Talk About the South” (available on Canvas).
  - Discussion Board Post on Canvas: Introduce yourself and tell us your answer to the question: what is the South?

**Week 2: Colonial Settlements (August 31, September 2, 4)**
- Due by September 4:
  - Newspaper Discussion Post.

**Week 3: Building Slave Societies (September 9, 11)**
- No class on Labor Day, September 7.
- Due by September 11:
Week 4: Revolutions (September 14, 16, 18)
• Due by September 18:
  o Newspaper Discussion Post.

Week 5: Jefferson’s Empire (September 21, 23, 25)
• Due by September 25:
  o EXAM ONE via Canvas.

Week 6: Slavery and the Early Republic (September 28, 30, October 2)
• Due by October 2:
  o Newspaper Discussion Post.

Week 7: Cotton Revolution (October 5, 7, 9)
• Due by October 9:

Week 8: The Age of Jackson (October 12, 14, 16)
• Due by October 16:
  o Reaction Paper: Johnson, *Soul by Soul*, Ch. 5-Epilogue.

Week 9: Life in the Big House (October 19, 21, 23)
• Due by October 23:
  o Newspaper Discussion Post.

Week 10: Life in the Slave Cabins (October 26, 28, 30)
• Due by October 30:
  o EXAM TWO via Canvas.

Week 11: Abolitionists and Slave Revolts (November 2, 4, 6)
• Due by November 6:
  o Newspaper Discussion Post.

Week 12: The Problem of the West (November 9, 11, 13)
• Due by November 13:

Week 13: Road to Secession (November 16, 18, 20)
• Due by November 20:
Week 14: Civil War (November 23, 25)
- Due by November 25:
  - RESEARCH PAPER via Canvas.

Thanksgiving Break: No class November 27! Per UNT policy, we will not hold in-person class after the break and will transition completely online for the rest of the semester. I will provide information on how we will complete the course online as we approach Thanksgiving.

Week 15: Emancipation and Legacies (November 30, December 2, 4)
- Due by December 4:

THE FINAL EXAMINATION (Exam Three) will be given via Canvas the week of December 5-11.

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COURSE POLICIES

My COVID-19 Philosophy
Let’s just all agree that these are unprecedented times. As such, I am taking an overall approach to this class (and life in general) that embraces a basic idea: we are ALL trying our best in truly difficult circumstances and we all need compassion and grace in that effort. We are trying to learn together during an unprecedented period that may place you in highly uncertain positions. Some of you may be caring for family members and some of you may have jobs and schedules that are unpredictable or that shift over the course of the semester. All of us have far more stress in our lives. And all of us are trying to keep ourselves and those around us healthy, sheltered, fed, and sane.

I want you to know that my first and driving priority is always your safety and well-being – both physical and mental – which are far more important to me than any grade or deadline. I will do whatever I can to support you throughout this semester and help you succeed in this class. To ensure that I can, I ask that you please stay in communication with me, especially if things get tough. I will, for example, check on you via email if I do not hear from you for a while. And if you need ANYTHING for the course at any point in the semester, simply ask me and I will do everything within my power to support you.

COVID Protocols for Our Classroom
To ensure that our classroom remains a safe and healthy environment for everyone, we will follow a few basic protocols over the course of the semester:
- Face coverings are required in all UNT facilities. Students are expected to wear face coverings during this class. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access to request an
accommodation. UNT face covering requirements are subject to change due to community health guidelines.

- While we are in class, everyone needs to maintain social distancing of at least six feet whenever possible.
- To ensure safe distances, and to assist in contact tracing, we will be using a seating chart each day in class.
- UNT provides each classroom with cleaning supplies and each of us will be disinfecting our own workspaces each day.

Attendance
The university requires me to take attendance for COVID contact tracing purposes, so we will be using a seating chart to monitor attendance each day. That said, attendance will not be part of your grade this semester. If you are healthy, I absolutely want you to come to class – there is something powerful about learning in a face-to-face setting and the interactions we can have together in the classroom. If, however, you are not feeling well, I want you to take that seriously for your own health and the health of everyone else in the class. If you are feeling unwell, or have possibly been exposed to COVID, please stay home and take care of yourself rather than come to class (and let me know via email). I will be recording all my lectures and posting them to our class Canvas site so that even if you need to stay home you will continue to have full access to all our course materials.

If You Get Sick (Or Suspect You Could Become Sick)
In that case, PLEASE do not come to class! Your first step should be take care of yourself medically and then contact the UNT COVID Hotline (844-366-5892 or covid@unt.edu). After that, when you can, please send me an email (Andrew.Torget@unt.edu) and we will adjust whatever we need to adjust to make sure you can complete the course. I will happily work with you to come up with a plan that will fit your situation and ensure that you can take care of yourself and still complete the course. PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU WILL NOT BE PENALIZED IN ANY WAY IF YOU CANNOT COME TO CLASS. Again, your health and safety are far more important to me than any assignment, deadline, or grade.

Plan for Transitioning the Class Fully Online (Should that Become Necessary)
If the need arises to take our class fully online during the semester, we are prepared to make a smooth transition to delivering everything through our Canvas site. Fortunately, all the course assignments are already set to run through Canvas and so that portion of the class would remain the same if we transitioned entirely online. We would maintain the same schedule as well. The only major difference would be that I would record the course lectures on my own and then post them at the start of each week to our Canvas site, along with any of the course materials necessary for that week (such as reaction paper assignments and discussion boards). If that were to happen, I would also post announcements to Canvas that would outline in detail how these transitions would work, so please monitor Canvas announcements throughout the semester. And if you
ever find yourself in need of help with technology in accessing course materials online, please visit UNT’s Learn Anywhere site: https://online.unt.edu/learn.

UNT COVID Resources
For UNT’s campus COVID resources for students, please visit: https://healthalerts.unt.edu/students. If you have medical questions or need any assistance, please contact:
- UNT COVID Hotline: 844-366-5892 or covid@unt.edu.
- UNT Student Health and Wellness: 940-565-2333.
- Medical City Denton Emergency Room: 940-384-3535.
- Texas Health Presbyterian Denton Emergency Room: 940-898-7000.
- Always call 911 in an emergency.

Canvas (https://unt.instructure.com/) will be the central clearinghouse for this course, and we will use it for a wide variety of purposes:
- I will post recordings of all my lectures and their accompanying PowerPoints to Canvas each week. The purpose will be to make them equally available to those who can and those who cannot come to class in person.
- Every assignment will be posted and turned in through Canvas, so that we can eliminate the need for us to exchange papers in person. You will, for example, turn in your reaction papers, exams, and research paper on Canvas.
- I will do all my grading in Canvas.
- Any course announcements will be posted on Canvas, in addition to being announced during class.

Course Learning Objectives. By the end of the course, you should be able to:
- Identify, explain, and contextualize key figures, events, and trends in Southern history through 1865.
- Place the evolution of the pre-1865 South within the larger context of the development of the United States and the Atlantic World.
- Analyze the veracity of historical information, evidence, and arguments.
- Conduct original research in a historical archive.
- Write an effective analytical essay.

General Policies
- Academic Integrity: Please become familiar with the University’s policy of academic dishonesty found in the Student Code of Conduct (http://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012). The content of the Student Code applies to this course and I refer all cases of cheating and plagiarism to the Provost’s office. There will be absolutely no toleration for academic dishonesty or plagiarism. If you choose to cheat or plagiarize, you will fail the course.
- Adult Content Disclaimer: Southern history is complicated and throughout this semester we will undoubtedly touch on mature and sensitive topics. When
controversial subjects arise, be prepared to discuss them as mature adults and with respect toward your colleagues and professor. If you have personal concerns about individual topics or subjects, please discuss those with me as soon as possible.

- **Student behavior** that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu).

**Recordings Policy**

- Anyone enrolled in the class may make audio recording of my lectures -- or use the video recordings of them that I post on Canvas -- for their own personal use in studying for the course. However, making your own video recordings or taking images of any aspect of the class or lecture (including images or video recordings of either the professor or students) are prohibited.

- Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

- Absolutely no recordings of any kind (images, video, audio, or otherwise) of the class, lectures, assignments, or any other part of the class and its materials may be posted online for any reason. Among other things, this is a potential violation of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

**Extra Assistance:**

If you ever need extra assistance with any aspect of the course, your first step should be to email me to schedule a Zoom conversation so I can help. In addition, there are several other valuable resources available to you:

- **History Help Center**: The UNT department of history operates a History Help Center (HHC) located in Wooten Hall 220 (phone: 940-565-4772). The HHC is staffed by graduate students in history and can provide help with studying for an exam, advice on how to study, take notes, and the like.

- **UNT Writing Center**: The UNT Writing Center offers help with all aspects of writing and is a terrific resource. For more information, see: [http://writingcenter.unt.edu/](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/).
• **UNT Learning Center:** UNT maintains an excellent Learning Center geared entirely toward providing students with resources for improving classroom success, with specialized tutoring and programs on issues such as time management and test-taking strategies. For more information, see: [http://learningcenter.unt.edu/](http://learningcenter.unt.edu/).

• **UNT Career Center:** UNT has an excellent Career Center—with a dedicated advisor for History Majors—whose entire purpose is to help you discover potential careers, learn to market yourself, create effective resumes, prepare for interviews, and build valuable networks. For more information, see: [http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center).

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### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOU

**Food/Housing Insecurity**
Any student with difficulty accessing sufficient food or who lacks a safe and stable place to live is urged to contact the Dean of Students ([https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/)). The UNT Food Pantry is currently closed, but this website will direct you to alternate locations that are providing food at this time: [https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry).

**Mental Health**
UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)).
- Counseling and Testing Services ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)).
- UNT Care Team ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)).
- UNT Psychiatric Services ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)).
- Individual Counseling ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)).

**Office of Disability Access Statement:**
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request
reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

**Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, and Assault:**
UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: [http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0). You may reach UNT’s Survivor Advocate directly at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

**Additional Student Support Services**
- Registrar ([https://registrar.unt.edu/registration](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration))
- Financial Aid ([https://financialaid.unt.edu/](https://financialaid.unt.edu/))
- Student Legal Services ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services))
- Career Center ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center))
- Multicultural Center ([https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center))
- Counseling and Testing Services ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services))
- Pride Alliance ([https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance))
- UNT Food Pantry ([https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry))