**HIST 4830: RISE AND FALL OF THE SLAVE SOUTH**  
MWF, 11-11:50am | Wooten Hall 115 | Fall 2021

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrew J. Torget  
**Office:** Wooten Hall 258  
**Office Hours:** MW, 12pm-1pm. Anyone wearing a mask can visit with me in-person in my Wooten office. Alternatively, everyone is welcome to connect to my Zoom meeting room during office hours: [https://unt.zoom.us/s/3162589826](https://unt.zoom.us/s/3162589826). If you cannot meet during these times, simply email me and we’ll find a time that works for your schedule.  
**Email:** Andrew.Torget@unt.edu

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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](mailto: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/), 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.
- 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
Grade Breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam One</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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<td>Exam Two</td>
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<td>Exam Three</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Papers</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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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 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note:
• All reaction papers and exams will be turned through our Canvas site and they will always be due by midnight Friday for the week they are assigned.
• For discussion posts, they will be due by midnight on Thursdays for the week they are assigned and then your response to posts by your classmates will always be due by midnight of Friday (the following day).

Week 1: Beginnings and Explorers (August 23, 25, 27)
• Due by August 27:
  o Reaction Paper: Ed Ayers, “What We Talk About When We Talk About the South” (available on Canvas).
  o Discussion Board Post on Canvas: Introduce yourself and tell us your answer to the question: what is the South?

Week 2: Colonial Settlements (August 30, September 1, 3)
• Due by September 3:
  o Reaction Paper: Berlin, Generations of Captivity, Ch. 1.
  o Newspaper Discussion Post via Canvas.

Week 3: Building Slave Societies (September 8, 10)
• Due by September 10:
  o Reaction Paper: Berlin, Generations of Captivity, Ch. 2.
Week 4: Shifting Circumstances (September 13, 15, 17)
• Due by September 17:
  o Reaction Paper: Berlin, Generations of Captivity, Ch. 3.
  o Newspaper Discussion Post via Canvas.

Week 5: Revolutions (September 20, 22, 24)
• Due by September 24:
  o EXAM ONE via Canvas

Week 6: Jefferson’s Empire (September 27, 29, October 1)
• Due by October 1:
  o Reaction Paper: Berlin, Generations of Captivity, Ch. 4.
  o Newspaper Discussion Post via Canvas.

Week 7: Cotton Revolution (October 4, 6, 8)
• Due by October 8:
  o Reaction Paper: Johnson, Soul by Soul, Ch. 1-4.

Week 8: The Age of Jackson (October 11, 13, 15)
• Due by October 15:
  o Reaction Paper: Johnson, Soul by Soul, Ch. 5-Epilogue.

Week 9: The Roaring 1820s (October 18, 20, 22)
• Due by October 22:
  o Newspaper Discussion Post via Canvas.

Week 10: Debating the Future of Slavery (October 25, 27, 29)
• Due by October 29:
  o EXAM TWO via Canvas

Week 11: The World the Abolitionists Made (November 1, 3, 5)
• Due by November 5:
  o Newspaper Discussion Post via Canvas.

Week 12: The Problem of the West (November 8, 10, 12)
• Due by November 12:
  o Reaction Paper: Northrup, Twelve Years A Slave, Ch. 1-11.

Week 13: Road to Secession (November 15, 17, 19)
• Due by November 19:
  o Reaction Paper: Northrup, Twelve Years A Slave, Ch. 12-22.
Week 14: Civil War (November 22, 24)
• Due by November 24:
  o RESEARCH PAPER due via Canvas

Thanksgiving Break: No class November 26!

Week 15: Emancipation and Legacies (November 29, December 1)
• Due by December 1:
  o Reaction Paper: Dew, Apostle of Disunion.

THE FINAL EXAMINATION will be given on December 6 from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

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.

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. 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.

Face Masks
UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

I will be wearing a face mask during our classes and I highly encourage each of you to wear one as well. On a personal note, I have a young daughter at home who is not yet age-eligible for COVID vaccination and we, as a family, are doing everything that we can to minimize her exposure. If you choose not to wear a mask, I respectfully request that you maintain a distance of six feet from me during our interactions.
**Attendance**
Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly -- over the semesters the most reliable predictor of someone’s final grade in my courses has always been their attendance. That said, we are living in the Age of COVID and there will be times when people cannot (and should not) attend in person because of illness and to protect the health of the community.

As such, **attendance will not be part of your grade this semester**. If you are healthy, I absolutely want you to come to class. 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 course. 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. 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)**
If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

After that, when you can, please send me an email ([Andrew.Torget@unt.edu](mailto: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. You will NOT be penalized in any way for missing class for health-related reasons -- 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. All course assignments are already set to run through Canvas, 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 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 and discussion board assignments). 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](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 on any assignment, you will receive a zero for that assignment.
- 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**

- Synchronous (live) sessions in this course will be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. 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.

- Anyone enrolled in the class may make audio recording of my lectures -- or use the video recordings 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.

- 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 violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and 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 or visit during office hours (either in person or via Zoom) 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/)). For information about the UNT Food Pantry, please see: [https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/food-pantry](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/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. 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.

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**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://studentaffairs.unt.edu/food-pantry](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/food-pantry))