HIST 4830: RISE AND FALL OF THE SLAVE SOUTH
TR, 12:30pm-1:50pm | Wooten Hall 115 | Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Andrew J. Torget
Office: Wooten Hall 258
Office Hours: TR, 11:30am-12:30pm. 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

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* (Available in 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.
- A word processing program to write essays.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING
Grade Breakdown:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam One</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>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Papers</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:
• Reaction papers will be turned in through our Canvas site and they will always be due by midnight on Thursday for the week they are assigned.
• For discussion posts, they will always 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 on Friday (the following day).

Week 1: Beginnings and Explorers (August 22, 24)
• Due by August 24:
  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 29, 31)
• Due by August 31:
  o Reaction Paper: Berlin, Generations of Captivity, Ch. 1.
  o Newspaper Discussion Post via Canvas.

Week 3: Building Slave Societies (September 5, 7)
• Due by September 7:
  o Reaction Paper: Berlin, Generations of Captivity, Ch. 2.
Week 4: Shifting Circumstances (September 12, 14)
  • Due by September 14:
    o Reaction Paper: Berlin, Generations of Captivity, Ch. 3.
    o Newspaper Discussion Post via Canvas.

Week 5: Revolutions (September 19, 21)
  • Due by September 21:
    o EXAM ONE in class!

Week 6: Jefferson’s Empire (September 26, 28)
  • Due by September 28:
    o Reaction Paper: Berlin, Generations of Captivity, Ch. 4.

Week 7: Cotton Revolution (October 3, 5)
  • Due by October 5:
    o Reaction Paper: Johnson, Soul by Soul, Introduction-Ch. 3.
    o Newspaper Discussion Post via Canvas.

Week 8: The Age of Jackson (October 10, 12)
  • Due by October 12:
    o Reaction Paper: Johnson, Soul by Soul, Ch. 4-Epilogue.

Week 9: The Roaring 1820s (October 17, 19)
  • Due by October 19:
    o Newspaper Discussion Post via Canvas.

Week 10: Debating the Future of Slavery (October 24, 26)
  • Due by October 26:
    o EXAM TWO in class!

Week 11: The World the Abolitionists Made (October 31, November 2)
  • Due by November 2:
    o Newspaper Discussion Post via Canvas.

Week 12: The Problem of the West (November 7, 9)
  • Due by November 9:
    o Reaction Paper: Northrup, Twelve Years A Slave, Ch. 1-11.

Week 13: Road to Secession (November 14, 16)
  • Due by November 16:
    o Reaction Paper: Northrup, Twelve Years A Slave, Ch. 12-22.

Thanksgiving Break: No class November 21 or 23!
Week 14: Civil War (November 28, 30)
- Due by November 30:
  - RESEARCH PAPER due!

Week 15: Emancipation and Legacies (December 5, 7)
- Due by December 7:

THE FINAL EXAM will be given on December 14 from 10:30am to 12:30pm in Wooten 115.

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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance**
Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. Over the semesters, the single most reliable predictor of someone’s final grade in my courses has always been their attendance. I will be taking daily attendance for my own records, but attendance will not be a formal part of your grade.

**Canvas** ([https://unt.instructure.com/](https://unt.instructure.com/)) will be the central clearinghouse for this course, and we will use it for a variety of purposes:
- I will post PowerPoint slides for my lectures each week on Canvas.
- Weekly assignments and any course announcements will be posted on Canvas, in addition to being announced during class.
- Some assignments, such as reaction papers and discussion posts, will be turned in and graded through Canvas.

**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.

**Communication and Digital Skills.** This course fulfills the CLASS requirement for Communication and Digital Skills. At the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate effective communication using a digital technological platform and do at least two of the following:
• Demonstrate the ability to communicate a central idea effectively using appropriate organization/structure.
• Demonstrate the ability to develop content at an advanced level using a combination of effective supporting materials.
• Demonstrate the ability to engage in verbal and nonverbal communication behaviors that are appropriate for the audience and adhere to the conventions of the medium selected (written, oral, or visual).

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 and you may 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 for their own personal use in studying for the course. However, making 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 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/.

- **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/.

- **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: https://careercenter.unt.edu/.

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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/). For information about the UNT Food Pantry, please see: 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:

- UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care).
• 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.