

The Insurgent South:
Radical Protest in the Post-Civil War South (History 320-01)
Capers 423 TR, 2:30-3:45pm
Spring 2014

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The Course

The South's tradition of grassroots popular protest movements belies its reputation as a region of conservatism, apathy, and passivity. Some of the most tumultuous and transformative social movements of the past 150 years, including the populist revolt and the civil rights movement, have had deep roots in the South. Over the course of the semester we will examine these movements in detail. We will explore political movements on the left, the right and many that cross over conventional ideological lines. Race is a central course theme. Racism has served as the point of unity for the Ku Klux Klan and the Redeemers, for instance, but we will also look at the ways in which subordinated southerners--African Americans, women, and white textile workers--have struggled to make real the promise of democracy through their struggles for political equality and economic justice. The one hundred year reign of the Democratic Party--itself the product of a grassroots insurgency--will be another central course theme. Many of the movements we discuss emerged as the result of failures of the formal political structure to meaningfully address the demands of diverse disaffected groups. By the end of the semester, we will have gained a deep understanding of the ways in which southern political culture has been shaped by the protest activity of hungry sharecroppers, visionary farmers, militant miners, brave students, and middle-class reactionaries.

Class format

Most classes will feature some combination of lecture and discussion. Lectures are meant to complement the main themes of the readings, explain particular episodes in detail, and provide course continuity. It is imperative that you complete the assigned reading at the start of the week.

Grading

Final grades will be based on three equally weighted categories: quizzes; a final exam; and two research papers. Attendance and participation, as well as a few additional writing assignments will help me determine your final letter grade. If you're texting during class, for instance, you will be dropped to a lower grade.

The final exam will include a combination of multiple choice questions and essays. The midterm and final papers will require you to use secondary and primary source research to explore a course theme in more detail.

Expectations

I expect you to attend each class, arrive on time, complete the assigned reading, and bring your copies of that day's readings with you. You should always come to class prepared to participate in discussion. You will have to do more than just skim over the readings: you should also think carefully about what the author is saying, draw connections between different readings, compare readings to what you know from other sources, make notes, and come to class armed with questions or discussion points.

Students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code in all their written work. I have no tolerance for plagiarism, which means the intentional or unintentional use of the ideas and/or words of other authors without crediting them appropriately. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the course, and be reported as an honor violation.

Readings

Goodwyn: *The Populist Moment*

MacLean: *Behind the Mask of Chivalry*

Watson: *Freedom Summer*

Lewis: *Massive Resistance: The White Response to the Civil Rights Movement*.

Some supplementary readings will be sent to you as PDF attachments or as hyperlinks.

Calendar

Week	Topic	Reading/Assignment
Jan 16	Introductions	
Jan 21-23	Reconstruction and Redemption	After Slavery
Jan 28-30	The Populist Moment	Goodwyn, pp. 1-93. Quiz
Feb 4-6	The Populist Moment	Goodwyn, pp. 97-173
Feb 11-13	Modernity and the South	MacLean, pp. 3-76. Quiz
Feb 18-20	Resurgent Klan 1920s	MacLean, pp. 77-188
Feb 25-27	The Uprising of '34 (General Textile Strike)	Hall (PDF). Quiz
March 4-6	The CIO/Operation Dixie	Painter (PDF)
March 11-13	Civil Rights Movement	Watson, pp. 15-165. Quiz. Mid-term paper
March 18-20	Civil Rights Movement	Watson, 169-276
March 25-27	Spring Break	Spring Break
April 1-3	Massive Resistance	Lewis. Quiz
April 8-10	Women's Liberation/Counterculture	Macaulay (PDF)
April 15-17	Backlash 1970s	Carter (PDF)
April 22-24	Tea Party and globalization	Carter (PDF). Zeskind (PDF). Quiz
April 29	Wrap up	
May 6	Final exam (1pm)	Final papers due