

SOCI 3420
Sociology of the South
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:20 – 12:45

Office Phone: 678-3778
Office Location: Clement 309D
Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The South is the site of American horror and grotesquerie, the “peculiar institution,” racial violence, and Jim Crow, of Bible Belts, Sun Belts, football, sweet tea, and sundresses. This course explores the South from slavery to present, mindful that, as Faulkner tells us, *the past is never dead; it's not even past*. It examines the culture and structure of the South, highlighting how haunting our every sacred tradition is the history and contemporary reality of race and gender inequality.

COURSE MATERIALS

Patricia Yaeger, *Dirt & Desire: Reconstructing Southern Women's Writing, 1930-1990*
Danielle McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance*
Zandria F. Robinson, *This Ain't Chicago: Race, Class, and Regional Identity in the Post-Soul South*
Lynell Thomas, *Desire & Disaster in New Orleans: Tourism, Race, and Historical Memory*
[Pop South](#), historian Karen Cox's blog

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Personal Essay. Regardless of one's physical location or geography of birth, as people living in the United States of America, we are all connected to the South. Write a **three-page** critical essay that grapples with your relationship to the South and southern identity, with particular attention to how your race, class, gender, and sexuality shape your relationship to the region. What is *your* South? Who and what are included in it? What is not? Reflect on the changes that have happened in the South and the milieu into which you were born. You will also revisit and re-write this essay at the end of the semester. **The personal essay is due January 29th and April 23rd. It is worth 25% of the final grade.**

Reading Reflections. Each Tuesday by 8 AM, you will respond thoughtfully and critically to the readings for that week in a 1 - 2 page reflection. You **should not** summarize the reading. Instead, you should consider the following questions: What about the text resonated with you? How is this reading related to things you already know and/or to previous readings? What did you not understand about the course readings? You will complete a total of 10 reading reflections over the course of the semester. These are to be turned in via eCourseware. **Reading reflections are worth 20% of the final grade.**

Midterm Examination. The midterm examination will cover all of the course material for the first half of the course, and will evaluate your ability to explicate theoretical concepts vis-à-vis course themes. The examination will occur in class on March 5, 2014 and will require a blue book. **The midterm is worth 25% of the final grade.**

Final Examination. The final examination is comprehensive and will evaluate participants' ability to apply theoretical concepts to a range of course themes. The final exam is May 7th at 8 AM. **The final exam is worth 30% of the final grade.**

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COURSE CALENDAR

This is a suggested reading schedule so that you might pace yourself to keep up with the amount of material. However, I suggest you read ahead as much as possible to glean maximum benefit from the course discussion.

PART I
RACE, CLASS, GENDER, & THE DIRTY SOUTH:
FROM SLAVERY TO CIVIL RIGHTS

Jan 20	Course Introductions Reading Reflection 1 Due
Jan 22	Skim the posts at Pop South Skim Guernica Mag's Special Issue The American South: On the Map and in the Mind Laymon & Lacey essays in that Special Issue
Jan 27 <i>Dirt & Desire</i>	Reading Day; No Class Reading Reflection 2 Due Prologue and Chapters 1 & 2 of <i>Dirt & Desire</i> (read as far ahead as you can)
Jan 29	Chapters 3 - 5 Personal Essay Due
Feb 3 & 5	Chapters 6 - 8 Reading Reflection 3 Due
Feb 10 <i>At the Dark End</i>	Chapter 9 + text wrap-up Reading Reflection 4 (covering <i>At the Dark End of the Street</i>) Due
Feb 12	Prologue and Chapters 1 & 2 of <i>At the Dark End of the Street</i>
Feb 17 & 19	Chapters 3 - 5 Reading Reflection 5 Due
Feb 24 & 26	Chapters 6 - 8, Epilogue + text wrap-up Reading Reflection 6 Due

Midterm Examination Week: March 3 - 5, 2015

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PART II
CULTURE, DISASTER, & DESIRE IN THE POST-CIVIL RIGHTS SOUTH

March 17 & 19	Lumans essay in <i>Guernica Mag</i> Special Issue Goldfield, “Towards a Regional Framework for the Urban South” Reading Reflection 7 Due
March 24 & 26 <i>This Ain't Chicago</i>	Introduction, & Chapters 1 & 2, <i>This Ain't Chicago</i> Reading Reflection 8 Due
March 31	Chapters 3 & 4 Reading Reflection 9 Due
April 2	Conclusion + text wrap-up
April 7 & 9 <i>Desire & Disaster</i>	Chapters 1 & 2 in <i>Desire and Disaster in New Orleans</i> Reading Reflection 10 (on <i>Desire and Disaster in New Orleans</i>) Due Reading Day; No Class
April 14 & 16	Chapters 3 & 4 Reading Reflection 11 Due
April 21 & 23	Chapters 5, Epilogue + text wrap-up Reading Reflection 12 Due Personal Essay Redux Due
April 28	Course Wrap-Up

The final exam is May 7th at 8:00 AM.