



Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information, <https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

**HIST 597-01B: Readings in the Old South**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2021**  
**Preliminary Syllabus**

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr Nick Nelson  
Office Location: Ferguson 145  
Office Hours: TBD; Via Email; By Appointment  
University Email Address: [robert.nelson@tamuc.edu](mailto:robert.nelson@tamuc.edu)  
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**  
Communication Response Time: Normally 24-36 hours, except weekends

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### **Books:**

Walter Johnson, *River of Dark Dreams : Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom*  
Keri Leigh Merritt, *Masterless Men: Poor Whites and Slavery in the Antebellum South*

#### **Course Description**

This is a graduate readings course in the Old South (i.e. the Southern United States prior to Reconstruction) Students will become familiar with a variety of secondary literature on the region and period, through reading, writing reports, presentation, and discussion.

**Student Learning Outcomes** (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Students will become familiar with major aspects of the historiography and history of the Old South.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Use of a web-browser to access the internet. Use of a word processor such as Microsoft Word to create documents.

### **Instructional Methods**

This class will meet via Zoom on a weekly basis. Students will do independent reading and write reviews in preparation for course discussions. There will be some lecture component, but class meetings will mostly be guided discussion.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Students will read 9 books. You will write a book review of 2 book and reports on 7 books.

**Book Reviews:** You are required to write 2 book reviews for the course, over the common books. Each review should follow the formatting and style of the template book review that will be provided, be typed **double**-spaced with 1-inch margins, free of grammatical and spelling errors, provide correct citation where necessary, include discussion of a published academic review of the assigned book, and should be no less than 3 full pages & absolutely no more than 5 pages. Furthermore, each weekday a paper is late without a documented excuse I will deduct 10% off its earned grade.

**Book Reports:** You are required to write 7 book reviews for the course, over your individual book choices. Reports are not reviews. Reports should include the following:

1. List the author, title, press, original publication date (and reprint if appropriate) using the standard bibliographic entry as a review would.
2. Summarize the overall scope and content of the book.
3. State & discuss the thesis (or theses) and relate it to other relevant historical interpretation you are already familiar with (or become familiar with in the course of this class).

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

4. Evaluate the thesis and documentation of the work.
5. Cite two published book reviews in academic journals. Name the reviewer, their affiliation at the time, and journal citation for the review.
6. Include a brief paragraph of information on the author. Try to find out some biographical information (date/place of birth for example), list the date and institution of their highest degree held, other major publications, institutional affiliation presently (or at time of publication, or retirement or death).

You will provide copies of these reports to every student in the class and the instructor. For **SIX (6)** of these reports, you will present in-class. You will have 20 minutes to elaborate and expand on the written report. You may choose to elaborate on themes already touched in the written report, or additional themes not contained in the written report. Do not just rehash what is in the written report. Following the oral presentation, expect to answer questions from other students and guide discussion of the book in your report. All students are also expected to formulate questions and further discussion on books they are not reporting on.

Books selected for a written report must be approximately 300 pages. Books significantly shorter will not count as a single report and will need to be supplemented by another short book or lengthy article. Books over 600 pages will count as two reports. We will begin choosing books during the first class meeting (if you really want to present in week 2, we can discuss choices before the first class meeting).

Each report should be typed **single**-spaced with 1-inch margins, free of grammatical and spelling errors, provide correct citation where necessary, include discussion of a published academic review of the assigned book, and should be no less than 3 full pages & absolutely no more than 5 pages. Furthermore, each weekday a paper is late without a documented excuse I will deduct 10% off its earned grade.

<b>Grading breakdown:</b>	<b>Reports, each (x7): 10%</b>	<b>(20 points)</b>
	<b>Book Reviews, each (x2): 10%</b>	<b>(20 points)</b>
	<b>Participation: 20%</b>	<b>(20 points)</b>
		<b>(110 points total)</b>

\*note, so long as you complete them all, I will drop your lowest report/review score. That is why there are 10 more points than there should be\*

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you need to reach me outside of office hours, please use email. I typically respond to email within 12 to 36 hours during the week. Do not expect a response during the weekend.

**When sending an email always do the following:**

**1) Use a subject line. This tells me what the topic is and prevents your message from ending up in my junk mail.**

**2) Include your class and section. I need to know exactly which of my courses you are in before I can help you.**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**3) End the email with your name, that is “sign” your message. I also need to know who you are.**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **Academic Honesty and Dishonesty**

You are expected to do your own work. Dishonesty will not be treated lightly. On each graded assignment I expect each student to honor the following pledge: “I hereby give my word that I have neither given nor received aid while completing this assignment.” Any student found violating this policy will receive a grade of zero for the assignment, and further action may be taken.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is taken especially seriously. If in doubt, review policy and ask.

#### **Extra-credit**

I do not usually give extra credit. Do not ask; that will lower the possibility.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

\*NOTE: this calendar will be updated with a topic schedule and readings choices after Christmas 2020\*

**13 January:** Introduction to the Old South and its historiography

**20 January:** zzz

**27 January:** zzz

**3 February:** zzz

**10 February:** zzz

**17 February:** zzz

**24 February:** zzz

**3 March:** zzz

**10 March:** zzz

**17 March:** zzz

**24 March:** zzz

**31 March:** zzz

**7 April:** zzz

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**14 April: zzz**

**21 April: zzz**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*