

Prerequisites: None. Membership in the University Honors Program is, however, required.

Course Description: We will explore traditional Southern values, relating them to contemporary controversies and phenomena. The course is less concerned with factual history than with a history of ideas and the development of patterns of thinking that seem uniquely Southern. Personal opinions are welcome in class or may be confined to the relative privacy of your notebooks. Class discussions will focus on what I hope will be unbiased argumentation (What are the arguments for? What are the arguments against?)

Objectives: Enhanced analytical ability, questioning of received values, separation of intellectual argument from personal argument, consideration of arguments posited by diverse groups, growth in critical reading and writing skills, the promotion of active Southern citizenship motivated by a thorough understanding of pertinent issues.

Topics for Discussion and Further Research: 1) The history of defining Southern characteristics: individualism, resistance to governmental initiatives, romanticism, hedonism, religious fervor, the relationship of patronizing to power, honor and violence, attitudes toward gender and race  
2) Current issues particular to the South: flag controversies, the reenactment sub-culture, neo-Confederate groups, the intersection of religion and politics, tax and constitutional reform in Alabama  
3) The relationship of characteristics listed in category 1 to current phenomena listed in category 2.

Required Texts: Cash, W.J. The Mind of the South. New York: Vintage, 1941  
Horwitz, Tony. Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War. New York: Vintage, 1999. (Both books at The Alabama Bookstore)

Other Required Reading: Three additional scholarly books (to be approved if they're not on the Preliminary Bibliography). This reading may be tailored to help you prepare for your term papers. Written critiques of these books will be submitted according to the schedule below and will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

Writing: Two ten-page research papers are required. I need to approve your topics and theses beforehand. Topics will suggest themselves as we proceed, but your explorations should deal with the Southern values that surface, no matter what your topic is. Library research is required and website sources should be kept to a minimum. A one- or two-page prospectus (in which you describe your plans for the paper in some detail) is required several weeks before the paper is due. The prospectus should include a partial or tentative Works Cited page.

Notebooks: These should contain articles on current Southern issues and may be clipped from newspapers (preferred) or taken from the Internet. They may also include photos or interviews from trips you've taken or special events you've attended. They should show evidence of curiosity and of steady attention to the semester's developments in the South. "Prettiness" is not a factor; however, your notebook should be neatly organized and contain a variety of materials. They should also include personal responses to the issues involved.

Class Participation: You are expected, first of all, to attend class regularly and also to take part in class discussions. Because most class sessions are devoted to discussion. I follow the University policy of allowing 3 unexcused absences for MWF sections and 2 for TTh sections. After that, absences will affect your participation grade. From time to time, I will ask for brief informational reports, most of which can be obtained from the Web and for which your volunteer cooperation will be credited.

Grading:

Papers	40%
Class Participation	20%
Notebook	20%
Exam	20%

Calendar:

	Section 002	Section 003
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Writing Requirements

Book critique 1	Feb. 1	Feb. 2
Prospectus 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4
Paper 1	Feb. 22	Feb. 23
Book critique 2	Mar. 1	Mar. 2
Prospectus 2	Mar. 17	Mar. 18
Book critique 3	Mar. 24	Mar. 23
Paper 2	Apr. 12	Apr. 13
Notebook	Apr. 19	Apr. 20

<u>Exam</u>	Section 002	Thursday, May 5	8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
	Section 003	Tuesday, May 3	11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Note: Students who fail to complete written requirements or their exams will receive a maximum grade of C-.

