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HSTA 361.01: The American South

Anya Jabour

University of Montana - Missoula

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History 361: The American South from Slavery to Civil Rights

Professor Anya Jabour

E-mail: anya.jabour@umontana.edu

Class Hours: MWF 12-12:50 in LA 138

Office Hours: MW 1-2 p.m. in LA 254

Course Description:

This course offers a broad overview of an American region from the colonial era to the present. As such, it addresses the causes, development, and consequences of significant institutions, such as slavery; ideas, such as racism; and events, such as the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. This course emphasizes analysis of human behavior in historical and cultural context and through the lenses of race, class, and gender. Students will synthesize material presented in lecture and readings and will analyze primary source materials (texts) in historical and cultural context.

This course fulfills one of the “U.S.” courses required of history majors and minors. It also may be used toward a major or minor in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Please arrange to see me if you have questions about either of these degree programs.

Course Readings:

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Ida B. Wells, *Southern Horrors and Other Writings*

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

These books are available for purchase at the UC Bookstore. They also are on reserve at Mansfield Library. Other readings and lecture outlines will be posted on Moodle.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance and participation are vital to your success in this class. This is a lecture-based class, meaning that the “text” is my lectures; there is no substitute for attending class and taking good notes. You are expected to be on time, present, and attentive at each class meeting. Failing to sign in will result in a reduced attendance grade. Late arrivals, early departures, and/or manifest inattentiveness (i.e., reading non-class materials, sleeping, texting, etc.) also will negatively affect your attendance grade. Under extraordinary circumstances, such as a documented personal, family, or medical emergency, an absence may be “excused.” All absences for university-related events (“away” games, Model UN, etc.) or public service (jury duty, Army Reserves) will be excused with written documentation. Additional work will be required for all excused absences and should be arranged in advance except in emergencies.

Good participation is also very important. There are several designated discussion days noted on the syllabus dedicated to the assigned books. For each of these days, you will be supplied in advance with a set of discussion questions. Read the assigned material carefully with these questions in mind, and come to class prepared to respond to the questions with specific examples (passages or quotations from the books, including page numbers). In addition, most Fridays will be devoted to discussion of materials provided in class and/or on Moodle or some other classroom activity. It is your responsibility to keep up with the reading and to be prepared to participate fully in class

discussions or other activities. You also are responsible for brief written assignments as described in class and/or on Moodle. Please see me if you have any questions or concerns about your participation.

The exams in this class are open-book, open-note, take-home, essay-style exams. The exams will cover both lecture and reading material. Further details will be provided in class.

Attendance: 10 percent
Participation: 10 percent
Midterm Exam: 40 percent
Final Exam: 40 percent

Course Policies

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide a reasonable modification. "Reasonable" means the changes affect only "non-essential" elements of the curriculum; the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications.

In keeping with UM's Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility policy, I will post screen-reader accessible documents (syllabi, outlines, other handouts) on the class Moodle site. All videos will be close-captioned. For additional resources and information, please visit [Disability Student Services](#).

No late assignments will be accepted except in cases of a documented personal, family, or medical emergency. In other words, late assignments will receive a ZERO.

Incompletes are intended for use by students who have fulfilled all course requirements (including attendance) prior to a documented medical, family, or personal emergency that prevents the student from completing the remainder of the course. Incompletes will be granted at my discretion based on these criteria. Students must arrange incompletes as early as possible.

Students must practice academic honesty. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in a failing grade in the course. More severe penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the University, may apply under the Student Conduct Code.

According to University policy, all courses taken for General Education credit must be taken for a traditional letter grade; students must earn a C-minus or better (that is, at least 70%) to count courses toward either General Education or their major or minor.

Classroom Etiquette:

Practice common sense and courtesy in the classroom. Be seated and prepared for class prior to the first bell. Do not disrupt class unnecessarily by arriving or departing between the bells. Turn all electronics (cell phones, iPods, etc.) off before class begins; likewise, put away non-class-related readings (newspapers, books for other classes, etc.) prior to the first bell. Bring drinks only in covered

containers; do not bring food (except for medical reasons). If you use a laptop computer or tape recorder, set it up prior to the start of class.

Course Schedule (subject to change; check Moodle for updates!)

August 27-31: The American South: An Introduction

September 3-7: The First South (No Class Monday, September 3—Labor Day)

September 10-14: “Our Family, Black and White”: The Plantation Patriarchy

September 17-21: Poor Whites and Free Blacks

September 24-28: Slave Life and Culture

Discussion Day Friday, September 28—*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, pp. 1-213

October 1-5: A Social War: Civil Wars in Southern Society

Midterm Exam Distributed Friday, October 5

Midterm Exam Due Friday, October 12

October 8-12: Reconstructing the Southern Family

October 15-19: King Cotton and Southern Servitude: Postwar Agriculture

October 22-26: The Nadir of Southern Race Relations

Discussion Day Friday, October 26—*Southern Horrors*, pp. 1-157

October 29-November 2: The Company Town: Mills and Mines

November 5-9: The New South

November 12-16: Jim Crow: The Segregated South (No Class Monday, Nov. 12—Veterans Day)

Discussion Day Friday, November 16—*Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 1

November 19-23 (No Class Weds., Nov. 21 or Friday, Nov. 23—Thanksgiving)

Discussion Day Monday, November 19—*Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 2

November 26-30: A Grassroots Movement: Civil Rights

Discussion Day Friday, November 30—*Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Parts 3 and 4

December 3-7: The New South? Conclusions and Questions

Final Exam Review Friday, December 7

Final Exam Due Friday, December 14