This course explores the history of the American South, from its formation and rise as an Atlantic slave power in the seventeenth century to the fall of the slaveholders’ republic in the American Civil War. As such, it engages a range of critical subjects in southern and American history: the Atlantic slave trade; the emergence of slavery, the plantation system and its racial order; the master-slave relationship; African-American life under slavery; the changing gender and class relations of southern society; the defense of slavery and the road to secession and Civil War. It ends with a focus on the Confederate political project and its undoing in the course of the nation’s bloodiest war.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
The following texts are required for the course and are available at Penn Book Center. Books are also on reserve in the library. The additional readings and documents are available both as a soft pack and on e-reserves accessible through Blackboard.

Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*

Peter Kolchin, *American Slavery, 1619-1877*

Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*

Drew Faust, ed., *The Ideology of Slavery: Proslavery Thought in the Antebellum South, 1830-1860*

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

Walter Johnson, *Soul By Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*

Charles Frazier, *Cold Mountain*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Students are required to attend lectures and weekly sections and to complete all assignments.

EVALUATION METHOD:
Final grades for the course will be determined by a midterm exam (20%), a 12-15 page research paper (30%), a take home final exam (30%), and participation in precept (20%). Students should note that the reading and research for the term paper is in addition to the weekly readings listed on the syllabus.

PREREQUISITES:
Some prior U.S. history, African American Studies or American Studies course work preferred.

TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1. **Introduction**  


Week 2. **Making of an Atlantic World**  
Sept. 19. Slavery and the Making of the Atlantic World  
Sept. 21. Servitude and Slavery on the Periphery

In *Root of Bitterness*, “Laws of Virginia, 1662.”  
All on Blackboard.  

Week 3. **Origins of a Slave Society**  
Sept. 26. Emergence of Southern Slavery  
Sept. 28 William Byrd’s World: Plantation Slavery in the Eighteenth Century

Reading: Earl of Dunmore, *Proclamation*, 7 November 1775 on Blackboard.  

Week 4. **Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution**  
Oct. 3. The Planters’ Revolution and the Slaves’ Revolution  
Oct. 5. Jefferson and Slavery


Week 5. **Slavery and Freedom in the New Republic**
Oct. 10. Making the Cotton Kingdom
Oct. 12. Masters and Slaves

Week 6. The World the Slaveholders’ Made
Oct. 17. The Plantation Regime
Oct. 19. Slave Communities

Reading: Johnson, *Soul By Soul*, pp. 78-161.

Week 7. The World the Slaves Made
Oct. 24. The Politics of Slaves: Resistance and Revolt
Oct. 26. MIDTERM

Reading: Johnson, *Soul By Soul*, pp. 163-220.

Week 8. FALL RECESS
Oct. 31. NO CLASS
Nov. 2. NO CLASS

Week 9 The Slaveholders’ Republic
Nov. 7. Southern Women, Free and Slave
Nov. 9. Yeoman Farmers and Southern Democracy

“Dear Missis, July 1849.”
Stephanie McCurry, “The Two Faces of Republicanism.”
Steven Hahn, “The Yeomanry of the Non-Plantation South.”
Stephanie McCurry, “The Politics of Yeoman Households.”
All on Blackboard.

Week 10. The Politics of Slavery
Nov. 14.  Slavery, Party and the Problem of the Territories
Nov. 16.  NO CLASS

Reading: William Cooper, “The Jackson Party and Southern Politics.”
William Cooper, “The Territorial Issue.”
William Cooper, “Political Revolution.”
All on Blackboard.

Week 11.  The Impending Crisis
Nov. 21.  The Impending Crisis
Nov. 23.  THANKSGIVING BREAK

All on Blackboard.

Week 12.  The South Secedes
Nov. 28.  The Lower South Leads
Nov. 30.  The Upper South Divides

Frazier, *Cold Mountain*, pp. 1-158.

Week 13.  The Confederate Project
Dec. 5.  Perfecting the White Republic
PAPER DUE IN CLASS
Dec. 7.  The Modern Slave Regime at War

Reading: Charles Frazier, *Cold Mountain*, pp. 159-356.

Week 14.  Civil War Undoing
Dec. 12.  The Inner Civil War
Dec. 14.  The Slaves’ Civil War
TAKE HOME FINAL DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS

Reading: *The History of William Webb, Composed by Himself.*
Winthrop Jordan, ed., *Tumult and Silence at Second Creek*, Document A. Lemuel P. Conner’s Record of Slave Testimony Before the Examination Committee, Second Creek, Adams County, Miss, Mid-Sept
1861.
Major-General Patrick Cleburne et al to Commanding General . . . Army of Tennessee, January 2, 1862.
All on Blackboard.
WEEK 1.

WEEK 2.
“Laws of Virginia, 1662” in Nancy Cott, ed., *Roots of Bitterness*.
Letter of William Byrd II. to Charles Boyle, Earl of Orery, 5 July 1726 in *The Correspondence of the Three William Byrds*.

WEEK 3.

WEEK 4.
Garry Wills, “The Declarations of Jefferson and of the Congress,” in *Inventing America*.

WEEK 9.
“Dear Missis,” July 1849.
Stephanie McCurry, “The Two Faces of Republicanism: Gender and Proslavery Politics in Antebellum South Carolina.”
Stephanie McCurry, “The Politics of Yeoman Households in South Carolina,” chapter 2 of Clinton and Silber, eds., *Divided Houses: Gender and the Civil War*

WEEK 10.
William Cooper, “The Jackson Party and Southern Politics,”
William Cooper, “The Territorial Issue.”
William Cooper, “Political Revolution.” Chapters 8, 10, 11 of *The Politics of Slavery*.

WEEK 11.
Steven Hahn, Prologue (“Looking Out from Slavery”) and Chapter One (“Of Chains and Threads”) of *A Nation Under Our Feet*.

WEEK 12.
WEEK 14.
Major General Patrick R. Cleburne et al to Commanding General, the Corps, Division, and Regimental Commanders of the Army of Tennessee, January 2, 1863.
Steven Hahn, “The Choked Voice of a Race At Last Unloosed,” chapter 2 of *A Nation Under Our Feet*. 