

The American South to 1865

Last Updated: Fri, 01/02/2026

Course prefix: HTS

Course number: 2006

Section: A

CRN

33331 35249

Instructor first name: Christopher

Instructor last name: Lawton

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

Far from the myths about the slow constancy of the antebellum South, this is a course about a region in the throes of momentous transformation. Somewhere between the Revolution and the Confederacy, a geographic determination became a cultural and political construct and the southeastern states became “the South.” Yet “the South” was never as stable, uniform, or old as the mythmakers would have it, then or now.

This semester we will explore histories of Southern space, place, and identity by focusing mainly on issues of race, class, and gender in the decades before the Civil War. We will work together to try to identify and understand some of the extremes that defined varieties of existence across the antebellum South. We will then consider whether it was because of those extremes, or despite them, that Southerners were able to find coherence enough to forge forward through secession and attempt to create their own nation.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content,

and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion