“Arts and Cultures of the Slave South”
CCFA 202/ARTH 263/ARH 242
Maurie D. McInnis and Louis P. Nelson
MW 3:30-4:45
Physics 203

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“Arts and Cultures of the Slave South” is an undergraduate, interdisciplinary course that covers the American South to the Civil War. While the course centers on the visual arts—architecture, material culture, decorative arts, painting, and sculpture—it is not designed as a regional history of art, but an exploration of the interrelations between history, material and visual cultures, foodways, music and literature in the formation of Southern identities. The course will cover subjects ranging from African American spirituals to creolization and ethnicities in Louisiana, from the plantation architectures of both big house and outbuildings to the narratives of former slaves. In the process, students will be introduced to the interpretive methods central to a wide range of disciplines, from archaeology and anthropology, to art and architectural history, to material culture, literature, and musicology. In addition to two weekly lectures by co-faculty Maurie McInnis and Louis Nelson, students will also attend weekly discussion sections and special events including guest lectures, field trips, movie nights, and demonstrations and samplings of traditional southern foods.
Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip Paper</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Dates to remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>Last day to drop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>Field Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 28</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 19</td>
<td>1st Paper due</td>
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<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw</td>
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<td>Mar. 24/25</td>
<td>Southern Foodways</td>
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<td>Apr. 22</td>
<td>Movie Night</td>
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<td>Varies (see below)</td>
<td>2nd Paper due</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Final exam 2-5</td>
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Policies

- Attendance in weekly section is required.
- More than two absences will result in lowering your section grade by ten points per absence.
- Make-up policy. In order to be eligible for a make-up you must have your absence approved beforehand.
- Writing assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Those submitted late will lose one letter grade for every 24 hours (A to B, etc.) or portion thereof. Writing assignments may not be submitted by e-mail.

Semester Project

At the beginning of the semester, students will be broken into working groups of three or four from within their discussion sessions, and each group will select one of the many visual arts objects from the class web site. Each object will have a series of research questions and a short bibliography to assist in initial research. These questions will range widely often branching into different disciplines and non-visual modes of artistic expression. Students will be responsible for selecting an object as a group and selecting their individual research questions. These projects are designed to be simultaneously group and individual research projects. While students are encouraged to share research within the group, each individual will be responsible for researching one of those questions and developing a contextual interpretation of the object.

Working together as a group will allow students to share research and information. But, more importantly, giving each student their own research agenda will demonstrate — through experience—the diversity of interpretive possibilities of any one object. The
breadth of the questions will send students to unexpected sources of knowledge to help build the context necessary to answer the question.

**In-Section Oral Presentation**
Beginning the week of Apr. 16, section meetings will be dedicated to 20 minute illustrated group presentations. Each team will be responsible for introducing their object to the section and then each individual will summarize the findings from his/her research. This will provide the entire section the opportunity to see the multiple interpretive possibilities of objects very different from their own.

**Paper**
Each student will turn in a 5-7 page research paper [12 point font, double spaced] based on his/her research question. Papers are due (in section) one week after the in-class presentation. For those presenting the week of Apr. 23-27, papers will be due Thursday May 3, by 5 p.m. in the TA’s mailbox in Fayerweather Hall.

**Field Trip**
This class includes a required field trip to a site that expands upon the course material. We have planned a visit to Shirley Plantation in Charles City, County. The house was built in the 1730s and the property has a number of late 18th-century outbuildings. Students will have an opportunity to see the 1st floor of the main house and tour a number of the outbuildings. We will also visit Cloverfields Plantation in Albemarle County. The plantation is privately owned and features a mid-19th-century main house and a number of late 18th to mid-19th-century outbuildings including a smokehouse/dairy, kitchen, and a slave quarter. Visiting the two plantations allows us to discuss differences between 18th and 19th-century plantations as well as Chesapeake and Piedmont sites.

Students may opt to visit an alternative site, but should get approval from faculty beforehand. Students are expected to write a 2-3 page response paper (12 point font, double spaced) in which they consider some aspect of the site in relation to material presented in class or readings.

**Exams**
The exams in this class will be essay questions driven by pairs of slides. Students will be shown two objects familiar from readings or lectures and asked a question that concentrates less on factual information and more on broader contextual and analytical issues. Like the mid-term, the final will have a series of slide pairs. In addition, there will be one long essay question. Well before the exam, four essay questions will be handed
out. Two will appear on the exam; you will be expected to write on one. You are encouraged to work together in groups in preparing answers for these final essays; part of the learning process is learning from your peers. You will ultimately have to judge whether you find their insights worthy of your answer. Your answers to these essay questions should reference bibliography covered in the class.

**Texts** (available at the UVa bookstore)

**Required**
Reading packet at Brillig Books, Elliewood Avenue

**Weekly Class Schedule**

**Framing the Slave South**

January 17: Introduction
January 22: The South in 1700

Readings:
(Dis)Continuities?
January 24: January 24: Material Africanisms
January 29: Guest Lecture--Scott Deveaux, McIntire Department of Music

Readings:

Georgianization
January 31: The Georgian South
February 5: In Pursuit of Refinement

Readings:
“Washington’s Rules of Civility”
http://www.history.org/Almanack/life/manners/rules2.cfm

Plantation Landscapes
February 7: Plantations I
February 12: Plantations II
February 14: Guest Lecture--Fraser Neiman, Monticello

Readings:
Deborah Gray White, “Female Slaves in the Plantation South,” in Before Freedom Came, pp. 101-123.

**Southern Landscapes**

**February 19:** Religious Landscapes

**February 21:** The Urban South

**February 24:** (Saturday) Field Trip

**February 26:** Constructing the South

**Readings:**


**February 28:** Midterm

**March 3-11:** Spring Break
Cultural Engagement
March 12: Native Americans
March 14: Backcountry and Creoles
March 19: African-Americans

Readings:

Musical Engagements
March 21: Guest Lecture--Eric Lott, English Department
March 26: Guest Lecture--Richard Will, McIntire Department of Music

Readings:

Southern Foodways
March 24: Group 1
March 25: Group 2
March 28: NO CLASS

African American Religions
April 2: Guest Lecture--Melvin Butler, McIntire Department of Music
April 4: Guest Lecture--Valerie Cooper, Department of Religious Studies

Readings:


**Politics, Personalities, and Places**

**April 9: The Politics of Consumption**

**April 11: George Washington’s Mount Vernon**

**April 16: Denmark Vesey’s Charleston**

Readings:


**Film Screening**

**April 22, 5 p.m.: Portions of Gone with the Wind and Roots**

**Southern Legacies**

**April 18: Guest Lecture--Lisa Woolfork, Department of English**

**April 23: Guest Lecture--Ed Ayers, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences**

**April 25: Dell Upton--Department of Architectural History**

**April 30: The South in 1900**

Readings:


Film: *Gone With the Wind and Roots* (reserve in Clemons)

**May 5: Final Exam (14:00-17:00)**