



NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY  
HIS 314-01 Antebellum America, 1815-  
1860

**SPRING 2024**

**HIS 314-01 Antebellum America, 1815-1860, 3 CREDITS**

**Fridays 9:00am-12:00PM Brown Hall 211.12 and Slover Library**

**DR. STEPHANIE J. RICHMOND, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, DEPT. OF HISTORY  
AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Brown Hall 211.07

(757) 823-9073 (office)

(757) 354-4741 (virtual)

[srichmond@nsu.edu](mailto:srichmond@nsu.edu)

Zoom: <https://nsu-edu.zoom.us/j/6537644126>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION, PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES**

This course examines the social, cultural, and political history of the United States during the antebellum period, from the end of the War of 1812 to the election of Abraham Lincoln as president. Particular attention will be paid to the changing role of women, the struggle to end slavery, and the arrival of new immigrants and their position in American society.

PREREQUISITES: ENG 102 or permission of the instructor

**COURSE RATIONALE**

Antebellum America is an elective course for history majors and others interested in the history of the United States before the Civil War.

**COURSE GOALS AND MEASURABLE INTENDED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES** (Intended Course Outcomes)

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Describe** major themes and events in US history from 1815-1860.
- **Identify** the differences between primary and secondary sources.
- **Use** primary sources to make historical arguments in written assignments for class.
- **Use** Chicago style citations in academic writing.

**COURSE MATERIALS / REQUIRED TEXT(S) / SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**

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

Alexandra Finley, *An Intimate Economy*

Diana Ramey Berry, *Price Per Pound of Flesh*

Additional readings on Blackboard

**PRIMARY METHOD(S) OF INSTRUCTION / METHODS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS**

The class format is lecture and discussion. Each week we will meet and have a mix of lecture and discussion with in-class activities. Students are expected to attend lectures, take notes, read all assigned materials before each class, ask questions, and engage in in-class discussion about the assigned readings. If you need to miss class for any reason, please let the professor know. Multiple absences or extended absences must be accompanied by a note from the Dean of Students office excusing the absence.

**Statement on Face Mask Requirement:** Protecting the health and safety of our community is every member's responsibility. Therefore, properly worn face masks that cover both the nose and mouth are **highly encouraged** prior to entry into all academic areas, including classrooms, labs, studios, centers, and departmental suites.

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR (Expectations for Student Engagement in the Course)**

**\*\*\* This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor or depending upon the progress of the class. \*\*\***

Generally, Quizzes are due on Thursdays and Papers are due on Sundays.

Week of Jan 15	Introduction and What is Antebellum America? Readings: Foreman et al, "Writing about Slavery" (provided in class)
Week of Jan. 22	Doing Black History in the Antebellum Era Readings: Harris and Berry, "Introduction", Foster, "No Perfect Archive" <b>Quiz 1 Due Friday 1/26</b>
Week of Jan. 29	The Antebellum Slave Trade Introduced Readings: Soul by Soul, Intro-Chapter 3 <b>Quiz 2 Due Friday 2/2</b>
Week of Feb. 5	Slavery and the South Readings: Soul by Soul Chapters 4-6 <b>Quiz 3 due Friday 2/9</b>
Week of Feb. 12	Making History: Where do monographs come from Citation Workshop Readings: Soul by Soul, Chapter 7-end Listen to Doing History Ep. 4 <b>Quiz 4 due Friday 2/16</b>
Week of Feb. 19	The Black Middle Class Readings: Ball, Introduction and Chapter 1 <b>Paper 1 due Feb. 25</b>
Week of Feb. 26	Economic History Readings: Berry, Price Per Pound of Flesh, Intro- Chapter 2 <b>Quiz 5 Due Frida</b>
Week of March 4	Project Introduction CLASS MEETS AT SLOVER LIBRARY Readings: Berry Chapter 3-5
<b>Week of March 11</b>	<b>Spring Break (no classes)</b>
Week of March 18	Project Work Day CLASS MEETS AT SLOVER LIBRARY Readings: Berry, Chapter 6- end <b>Quiz 6 Due</b>
Week of March 25	Agency and Slavery CLASS MEETS AT SLOVER LIBRARY Readings: Finley Intro-Chapter 3 <b>Quiz 7 Due Friday, 3/29</b>
Week of April 1	Intimate Histories CLASS MEETS AT NSU Readings: Finley Chapter 4-End <b>Quiz 8 Due Friday, 4/5</b>
Week of April 8	Annotation CLASS MEETS AT SLOVER LIBRARY Readings: Schermerhorn, "Capitalisms Captives" <b>Paper 2 Due Sunday 4/14</b>
Week of April 15	Microhistories from datasets CLASS MEETS AT SLOVER LIBRARY Readings: Dunn, "Winney Grimshaw"
Week of April 22	Organizing Data CLASS MEETS AT SLOVER LIBRARY Readings: Bell, "Counterfeit Kin" <b>Quiz 9 Due Friday, 4/19</b>
Week of April 29	Final Project Work CLASS MEETS AT SLOVER Readings: Book reviews <b>Quiz 10 Due Friday, 4/26</b>

**RELATED UNIVERSITY-WIDE AND COURSE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

- Writing: Students are required to write two formal papers over the course of the semester to develop writing skills
- Critical Thinking: Students will practice critical thinking skills through paper assignments, class discussion and the final project.

**EVALUATION / ASSESSMENT METHODS**

- **Quizzes (35%):** There are ten quizzes in this course on the assigned readings. Quizzes are due the night before class meets. Quizzes are open book/notes and consist of short answer. Quiz questions must be answered in complete sentences. Missed quizzes may only be made up if the student can provide appropriate documentation for an excused absence (doctor's note, etc.)
- **Papers (25%):** There are 2 required papers for this course. Papers are due at the dates and times posted in the course schedule. Paper assignments are available on Blackboard from the start of the semester. Papers must be turned in via Blackboard's assignment system. Papers must be in one of the following file formats: .doc, .docx, .txt, .pdf, or .rtf. Papers that are not in one of the formats listed will not be accepted and will be given a zero. Students must contact the professor BEFORE the assignment is due if they are having difficulty turning in the assignment on Blackboard. Emailed papers will not be accepted.
- **Project (20%):** The entire class will work together on a project on Virginia emigrants to Liberia. More details are available on blackboard and will be developed in the last 6 weeks of the course.
- **Participation (20%):** Participation in each week's discussion board and Collaborate sessions worth 20% of the total grade. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions through Collaborate and the discussion board threads.

**GRADING STANDARDS / EVALUATION CRITERIA**

*The instructor reserves the right to revise the grading criteria as appropriate and will make reasonable attempts to notify students.*

- **Grading Rubric for papers:**

All written assignments will be graded on grammar, spelling, organization, clarity, argument, use of sources, proper citation style, and directions provided in the assignment itself.

A: A papers answer the question or prompt fully. They use the assigned sources to make an effective argument with a clearly stated thesis. A papers contain few to no grammar and spelling errors, cite sources properly and meet the minimum paper length of the assignment. They have a clear organization style that reflects the structure of the argument (i.e. a 2 part thesis has a structure with two sections). A papers have introductions which contain thesis statements, and conclusions which connect the argument with the larger themes of the course.

B: B papers answer the question or prompt fully. They use the assigned sources to make an argument with a thesis. Sources are cited properly and papers meet the minimum paper length of the assignment. B papers contain some grammar and spelling errors that do not obscure the meaning or argument of the paper. They have some organizational style but it may not reflect the thesis structure. They have introduction with thesis statements, and conclusions which summarize the argument.

C: C papers answer the prompt or question at least in part. They use the sources to attempt to make an argument with a vaguely stated thesis. Sources are cited, but may not be correctly cited, and paper meets the minimum page length required in the assignment. C papers contain grammar and spelling errors that may partially obscure the meaning or argument. They have some loose organization. They have introduction and conclusions that may or may not contain a thesis statement.

D: D papers address the prompt or question in part. They use limited assigned sources to attempt to make an argument. The thesis may or may not be stated. Sources are not cited correctly and paper may not meet the required minimum page length in the assignment. D papers contain grammar and spelling errors that obscure the meaning or argument. They have some loose organization. They may or may not have introductions and conclusions with thesis statements.

F: F papers may not address the prompt or question. They do not use the assigned sources to make an argument (using outside sources when not specifically instructed to do so in the assignment will result in a failing grade). Sources may not be cited and paper may not make the minimum page length required. Paper lacks organization or argument.

**Grading Schema:** Letter grades are associated with the following percentages:

- A (94-100)
- A- (90-93)
- B+ (87-89)
- B (83-86)
- B- (80-82)
- C+ (79-77)
- C (76-70)
- D (69-60)
- F (59 & below)

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS****What is expected from you**

- A. Do the assigned readings before the end of each week and complete assignments on time.

- B. Ask questions if you do not understand! If you are confused, someone else probably is too.
- C. Do your own work and ask for help if you get stuck. Don't cheat on quizzes or plagiarize your papers.
- D. Check Blackboard and your university email daily for reminders about assignments and notices of class changes.
- E. For every credit hour, students are expected to spend 2-3 additional hours doing the assigned reading, studying and working on assignments. This means you should expect to spend 6-12 hours per week on this class.
- F. Take quizzes and submit assignments on or before the days scheduled. Missed work due to illness will only be excused with a university approved excuse that must be produced before the make-up work will be graded.
- G. Be polite and respectful to the professor and to one another: spirited debate should never leave anyone feeling hurt or insulted.
- H. In the event of a class being cancelled due to inclement weather or other circumstances, complete the assigned work as if class were meeting and check Blackboard and your university email for additional instructions. Cancelled classes may meet online or be rescheduled at the discretion of the professor.

#### **What you can expect from Dr. Richmond:**

- A. All emails, text messages and voice mails will be returned within 24 hours unless I tell you otherwise (if I am sick or travelling I will post an announcement on Blackboard). I will answer any voice mails left on my phone as soon as possible provided you leave a number, but I am not always available outside of office hours or on weekends. I do not call back "missed calls" (I get a lot of calls every day, please leave a message). You are also welcome to text me at the virtual office number above. Please keep your texts and calls to reasonable hours as this line rings to my cell phone (8am-9pm).
- B. I will return all graded work within 10 days of receipt. All grades are posted on Blackboard and you can check your grade at any time.
- C. I would much rather you ask me for help or extra time if you need it than not turn an assignment in.

#### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic integrity and honesty are central components of a student's education, and ethical conduct should be maintained at all times. Under the University's Student Code of Conduct, students have the responsibility to uphold the principles of academic integrity in all of their academic work. Forms of violation include, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, falsification, multiple submissions, using works from another class assignment without instructor's permission, attempting or assisting another classmate with a graded assignment without instructor's permission, etc. Penalties for violating an academic integrity issue can include a grade penalty up to and including a failing grade for the course.

Academic Honor Code: Students will conduct themselves ethically and responsibly, safeguarding their own integrity and that of the community. In fairness to themselves and in justice to others, students will not lie, cheat or steal others' ideas, nor will they tolerate egregious behavior in others. Students will avoid deception and collusion whenever they engage in academic activities offered under the auspices of NSU. As scholars, students will scrupulously avoid plagiarism, learning to select high-quality research sources and to cite them correctly.

The History faculty will adhere to the University Catalog guidelines as quoted below. Violations of these standards will result in grade reduction or a failing grade plus a recommendation for University discipline.

"Academic or academically related misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized collaboration or use of external information during examinations; plagiarizing or representing another's ideas as one's own; furnishing false academic information to the University; falsely obtaining, distributing, using or receiving test materials; obtaining or gaining unauthorized access to examinations or academic research materials; soliciting or offering unauthorized academic information or materials; improperly altering or inducing another to improperly alter any academic record; or engaging in any conduct which is intended to reasonably likely to confer upon one's self or another an unfair advantage or unfair benefit respecting an academic or academic matter."

**Academic dishonesty of any kind, including plagiarism and cheating on exams, quizzes or other assignments will not be tolerated in this class. Students who plagiarize or cheat will receive a zero on the assignment they cheated on, and repeat offenders will fail the course and may be referred to Judicial Affairs for an academic dishonesty hearing at the discretion of the professor.**

**Late Work and Extensions:** Late work without prior discussion or a properly documented university approved excuse will not be accepted. If you need more time, please contact me via email or text message at least 24 hours before the assignment is due and we will set a new due date for your work. Requests for extensions after the assignment is due will require a serious excuse (severe illness, hospitalization, family emergency). Extensions are granted at the professor's discretion and a request is not a guarantee of an extension.

**NSU Email Policy:** The use of non-NSU e-mail addresses for communication with students regarding University business or educational matters is not acceptable. Your professor will only respond or send emails to you using the NSU email address you were provided with by the university.

**Statement on Recordings:** We may use technology for virtual meetings and recordings in this course. Our use of such technology is governed by FERPA, the Acceptable Use of Technological Resources Policy, and *Student Code of Conduct*. A record of all meetings and recordings—*regardless of platform*—is kept and stored by Blackboard in accordance with the Acceptable Use of Technological Resources Policy and FERPA. Your instructor will not share recordings of your class activities except with course participants, including fellow students, TAs, GAs, Mentors, guest faculty or community partners or NSU personnel when deemed appropriate. Students may not record virtual meetings on their own. Students may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

**Common Netiquette Rules:** Communication in an online environment is different from communication in a physical setting. In an online environment, most communication takes place via written text. Because this means you are missing body language cues and immediate feedback from your listener, it is important to understand some common rules for good online etiquette (netiquette). This ensures that the message you intend to convey is received correctly. The following are some common netiquette rules:

1. **Be respectful.** It is important to remember that your classmates and professors are real people who are affected by the words you say and write. Students should be addressing professors by the appropriate title and addressing each other by name while being mindful of their written tone. Students should interact online politely, just as they would be expected to do in a physical classroom environment.
2. **Be mindful.** Students should be careful with humor and sarcasm. It is important to know the difference between being funny and being rude. Students should avoid using strong language and writing in all capital letters (shouting). Students should respect the privacy of others and avoid sharing personal or professional information about classmates. Students should respect diversity and opinions that differ from their own.
3. **Be professional.** Students should strive to look their best online. Using accurate information and proper language is expected of university students. Students should be able to justify their opinions and credit the ideas of others by citing or linking to scholarly resources. Students should avoid misinforming others when they may not know the answer to something; when they are providing a guess, they should clearly state that. Writing in a legible font, avoiding textspeak, and limiting the use of emoticons is considered professional behavior. Profanity and participation in hostile interactions is unprofessional and disruptive.

**Discussion Board Netiquette:** In addition to using proper language, grammar, and spelling, students should observe the following netiquette rules in discussion boards:

1. **Read all other comments before posting.** Contribute by adding to the discussion, not by repeating in your own words what others have already posted. In addition, other students may have posted questions about the course or an assignment that have already been answered within the discussion board.
2. **Be clear and stay on topic.** Be clear about what you are saying so that it is not misunderstood. Read your words aloud before posting to test the clarity of your message.
3. **Be mindful of your tone.** The tone of messages in an academic environment should be polite and display respect for others. The use of sarcasm, profanity, and ALL CAPS (shouting) should be avoided.
4. **Be credible.** Do not mislead other students by providing information that might not be accurate. If your response is a guess, state that clearly. Be sure to give credit where it is due by citing sources, providing links, or crediting the ideas of other classmates.
5. **Respect diversity.** Online courses bring students together from all over the world. Recognize that others may have different cultural backgrounds and skill levels with writing in the English language. Treat others with respect, regardless of race, gender, religious beliefs, and sexual orientation. Be respectful when opinions differ from your own; if you disagree, do so in a polite manner.

## BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS


If using Blackboard, provide login and navigation instructions.

For the best online learning experience, you will need:

- Windows 7 or, Mac OS X 10.6 or later
- At least 512 MB RAM
- Broadband Internet Connection (1.5 Mbps required, 3.0 Mbps recommended)
- Adobe Flash 10.1 or later
- Latest version of Java
- User privileges to install software for required software installations
- Microphone and webcam (headphones with microphone recommended) for courses that require online meetings with audio and/or video participation and for online proctoring.

Note: While mobile devices, especially smartphones, are convenient and may be utilized for some course functions, they cannot be the primary device for completing your online course work.

#### Log-In Instructions:

1. [Log in to MyNSU](#)
2. Type your username. Your username is the local part of your NSU email address (up to but not including the @ sign). Please do not include the @ symbol or the domain part. For example, if your email address is *john.doe@spartans.nsu.edu*, your user name is *john.doe*.
3. Type your password.
4. Select the Blackboard icon to  access your courses. What do I do if I can't log in to MyNSU?

For questions or concerns about accessing MyNSU, please call NSU Client Services at 757-823-8678 or email [clientservices@nsu.edu](mailto:clientservices@nsu.edu).

What do I do if I don't see my enrolled course listed under My Courses?

Please contact your instructor to make sure the course has been made available. If the course has been made available, students should be able to see new registered courses 24 hours after registering.

#### Getting Technical Help and Support

If you need Blackboard technical assistance, please email [BbTechSupport@nsu.edu](mailto:BbTechSupport@nsu.edu), or call toll free 1-844-266-4990, or [Submit a Ticket](#). You may also access Blackboard help by visiting the [Blackboard Help](#) website.

When seeking Blackboard Technical assistance, please be prepared to provide the following information:

- First Name and Last Name
- Blackboard Username
- Contact Information—email address and telephone number
- Course ID w/ section number
- Brief description of request—Provide detailed and descriptive information.

Note: Blackboard may experience service outages between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Fridays for scheduled system maintenance.

#### Supported File Names and Extensions

Although Blackboard Learn may allow you to upload files with a variety of characters, your instructor and classmates' web browsers/operating systems may prevent the file from opening. For this reason, Blackboard Learn file names should contain ONLY letters, numbers, and/or the underscore. The length of file names should be less than 125 characters. Special characters like % & # < > = \ + / ' , " : ! ? \$ @ | [ ] { } will prevent your instructor and classmates from being able to open the file. Also, be sure your file has a file extension, such as .doc, .txt. Some Mac programs don't add file extensions. If you upload a file to Blackboard Learn that doesn't contain a file extension, your instructor and classmates may not be able to open the file.

Note: Please close any opened file prior to uploading that specific file.

#### INSTRUCTION DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER AND/OR UNIVERSITY CLOSING

In the event of university closure due to inclement weather or other events, an announcement will be sent out via Blackboard with an alternate assignment that will be due 7 days after the university reopens.

#### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) STATEMENT

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, we ask if you have a disability or think you have a disability, please contact the:

##### Office of Accessibility Services and International Student Services

*Doral M. Jackson, Coordinator, O.A.S.I.S.*

*James Bowser Building, Suite 121*

*Phone: 757-823-8325*

*Fax: 757-823-2640*

#### UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

As part of NSU's commitment to provide the environment and resources needed for success, students may be required to participate in a number of university-wide assessment activities. The activities may include tests, surveys, focus groups and interviews, and portfolio reviews. The primary purpose of the assessment activities is to determine the extent to which the university's programs and services maintain a high level of quality and meet the needs of students. Students will not be identified in the analysis of results. Unless indicated otherwise by the

instructor, results from University assessment activities will not be computed in student grades.

**Revised 1992, 2001, 2005, 2008, 2018**