

**Soci. 8200**  
**SOCIOLOGY OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH**  
**Spring Semester 2006**

Instructor:	Dr. E.M. Beck, Professor of Sociology
Office:	Rm. 217B, Baldwin Hall. Office Phone: 542-2421 E-mail: wbeck@uga.edu
Office Hours:	By appointment – send me an e-mail specifying when you can meet and I'll find a time that works for both of us
Class Format:	Seminar/Lecture/Films/Field Trips
Class Meetings:	12:30-1:45p Tuesday and Thursday, Rm. 114a. Attendance is required.
Religious Holidays:	During the semester, class may fall on one or more holidays celebrated by a variety of religious or other groups. Unless the University closes on those days, class will be held.
Grades:	Final grades will be based on 3-4 brief papers (5 page max each) and either a research paper/project or a research proposal.
Field Trips	I would like to take at least two field trips: (a) sites of racial motivated violence [lynchings] in the local area and (b) field trip to Madison GA and the African-American museum.
Withdrawal	Withdrawals before <b>7 March</b> will receive a "W". Withdrawals after <b>7 March</b> will receive a grade of "WF".
Incompletes:	Except under the <i>most serious</i> and <i>highly unusual</i> circumstances, no incompletes will be given.
Academic Dishonesty:	All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. UGA's honesty policy is on the web at: <a href="http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/culture_honesty.htm">http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/culture_honesty.htm</a>
Required Reading:	Cash, W.J. 1941 [1991]. <u>The Mind of the South</u> Cobb, James C. 2005. <u>A Way Down South: A History of Southern Identity</u> Moody, Anne. 1968. <u>Coming of Age in Mississippi</u> Morris, Aldon D. 1986. <u>The Origins of the Civil Rights Movements</u>  Occasionally there may be additional readings assigned.
Further Reading:	See attached "Resources" list
Grievances:	The Department of Sociology has a Human Rights Committee for the resolution of student grievances. Any student registered for a sociology course at the University of Georgia who feels that he or she has not been treated in a fair or professional manner by an instructor is advised to follow these procedures:

- (1) The student should discuss his or her problems with the instructor of the course, unless extenuating circumstances prohibit this.
- (2) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance, the student should then discuss the problem with the Head of the Sociology Department.
- (3) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance to the student's satisfaction, the student may request the activation of the Human Rights Committee by submitting a letter to the Chair of the Human Rights I Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia. This letter should be sent to the Head of the department (Head, Department of Sociology, Baldwin Hall)

The Human Rights Committee will have the responsibility of investigating all charges in accordance with procedures on file at the Sociology offices, copies of which are available to students. The Committee will also have the responsibility of making recommendations in writing to the Head, copies of which will be made available to the student complainant and the instructor involved. The Department Head will review the recommendations, and make a decision, in writing, with copies to the student complainant and the instructor involved. Any appeal of that decision must be to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

About the Instructor:

My position at UGA is Professor of Sociology. From 1993 through 2002, I served as Head of the Department of Sociology and in 2002-03 I was the Director of the Avignon, France Study Abroad Program. I have an AB degree in History from the University of Alabama, and MA and Ph.D. degrees in Sociology from the University of Tennessee. Prior to UGA, I held faculty positions at the University of Colorado and the University of Michigan, and worked as a Research Associate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I have co-authored two books and published over 50 papers in scholarly journals or chapters in books, and have had multiple research projects funded by the National Science Foundation.

My current scholarly work concerns the political economy of white racism; in particular, the factors influencing the growth and spread of white supremacy in the South during the 1980s. My previous research project, along with colleague Stewart Tolnay, was a five-year study of lynchings in the American South from 1882-1930. That project produced an award-winning book, *A Festival of Violence*, and many papers published in scholarly journals.

My South:

My background is Anglo-white, working class, and Appalachian. I was born in southern West Virginia. My father (as a young man), grandfather, and great-grandfather were coal miners. My grandfather was a card-carrying member of the United Mine Workers; for a brief period in the 1920s, he was a member the Ku Klux Klan. My great-grandfather migrated to West Virginia from North Carolina in the mid 1890s. His father served in the Fifth Regiment of the NC State Troops during the Civil War and had a leg shot off in the Battle of Antietam. My paternal ancestors were barely literate and poorly educated. My maternal family came from east Tennessee and southern Ohio. In the Civil War, one maternal relative fought for the Union until he was taken as a prisoner of war while fighting Confederate John Mosby in the Valley of Virginia.

When I was eight my parents moved to a textile town in North Carolina and later to Alabama. In both places I attended racially segregated, working class schools where a significant percentage of parents were unemployed. When I was sixteen I quit high school

and on my seventeenth birthday I enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Later I finished school. I am the first of my paternal family line to attend college. I have never identified personally with the plantation South, the Confederacy, or the glorious “Lost Cause”.

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**Project #1:  
INTROSPECTIVE ON “MY SOUTH”  
Due: Thursday, 19 January**

I’ll argue that the South is not homogenous and that there are a variety of South’s depending on geographical location, race and ethnicity, gender, and social class.

In this assignment I want you to reflect on the social, religious, cultural, political, and economic nature of your South. Imagine you were trying to explain to a foreigner what your South is like. This should take on many different dimensions, e.g., (1) what is the physical environment of your South (where do you live, in what kind of housing, what kind of cars are driven, etc.); (2) what kind of activities are common in your South (religious, political, sports, etc.); (3) what kind of families inhabit your South (size, composition, ages, etc.); what are the race/ethnic and social class aspects of your South? I’m looking for an insightful, analytical introspective on your southern experience.

If you are not from the South, then your assignment can take on either of two forms, or some combination of the two: (a) what you have observed in the South, assuming that you have spent enough time in the South to make reasonable observations, or (b) what kind of stereotypes and notions did you learn before coming to the South.

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**Project #2:  
REPORT ON IMPORTANT SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGIST  
Due: Thursday, 2 Feb**

Select one of the classical southern sociologists below and write a brief report on his background and the significance of his work – 5 page max. You will make a verbal report to the class on Thursday, 2 Feb.

- Howard W. Odum
- Rupert B. Vance
- W.J. Cash
- John Dollard
- Arthur Raper

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**Project #3:**  
**CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF A FILM ABOUT THE SOUTH**  
**Due: Thursday, 16 Feb**

This project involves watching any of the following films and write a critical analysis of the film's portrayal of southern culture and southerners. Your paper should be 5 double-spaced type written pages (max), and address these questions:

- What is the basic plot?
- Which South(s) is (are) being presented?
- How is this South characterized?
- How are the characters being presented?
- What stereotypes, if any, are present?
- How do you think the typical southerner would react to the film?
- How about the typical non-southerner react?
- What is your personal evaluation of how the film deals with southern culture?

I'm looking for something more than just a regurgitation of the plot and the movie's characters — this paper should be *analytical*.

*A Long Walk Home*  
*A Time to Kill*  
*Birth of a Nation*  
*Cape Fear (1950s version)*  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*  
*Coal Miner's Daughter*  
*Cold Mountain*  
*Cookie's Fortune*  
*Cool Hand Luke*  
*Deliverance*  
*Divine Secrets of the Ya, Ya Sisterhood*  
*Driving Miss Daisy*  
*Easy Rider*  
*Forest Gump*

*Fried Green Tomatoes*  
*Ghosts of Mississippi*  
*Gone with the Wind*  
*Harlan County War*  
*Matewan*  
*Mississippi Burning*  
*Mississippi Masala*  
*Nashville*  
*Norma Rae*  
*O'Brother, Where Art Thou?*  
*Roots*  
*The Color Purple*  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*

## SOME RESOURCES FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF THE SOUTH

### GENERAL

- Applebome, Peter. 1996. Dixie Rising: How the South is Shaping American Values, Politics, and Culture. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Co.
- Ayers, Edward L. 1996. "What We Talk About When We Talk About the South". Pp. 62-82 in Edward L. Ayers, et al. (eds), All Over the Map: Rethinking American Regions. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press
- Bartley, Numan V. (ed.). 1988. The Evolution of Southern Culture. Athens: University of Georgia Press
- Bartley, Numan V. 1995. "Social Change and Sectional Identity". Journal of Southern History, Vol. 61 (No. 1): 3-16
- Brown, Rodger L. 1997. Ghost Dancing on the Cracker Circuit: The Culture of Festivals in the American South. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi
- Brundage, W. Fitzhugh (ed.). 2000. Where These Memories Grow: History, Memory, and Southern Identity. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press
- Campbell, Will. 1988. "Used and Abused: The Redneck's Lot". Pp. 90-104 in Dudley Clendinen (ed.), The Prevailing South: Life and Politics in a Changing Culture. Atlanta: Longstreet Press
- Cash, W.J. 1941. The Mind of the South. New York: Alfred A. Knopf
- Cobb, James C. 1984. Industrialization and Southern Society, 1877-1984. Lexington: University of Kentucky
- Cobb, James C. 1992. The Most Southern Place on Earth: The Mississippi Delta and the Roots of Regional Identity. New York: Oxford University Press
- Cobb, James C. 1999. Redefining Southern Culture: Mind & Identity in the Modern South. Athens: University of Georgia Press
- Cobb, James C. 2000. "An Epitaph for the North: Reflections on the Politics of Regional and National Identity at the Millennium". Journal of Southern History, Vol. 66 (February): 3-24
- Cobb, James C. 2005. The Brown Decision: Jim Crow & Southern Identity. Athens: University of Georgia Press
- Cobb, James C. 2005. Away Down South: A History of Southern Identity. New York: Oxford University Press
- Cobb, James C. and William Stueck (eds.). 2005. Globalization and the American South. Athens: University of Georgia Press
- Coclanis, Peter A. 1996. "The American Civil War in Economic Perspective: Basic Questions and Some Answers". Southern Cultures, Vol. 2 (Winter):
- Coclanis, Peter A. 2000. "Tracking Economic Divergence of the North and South". Southern Cultures Vol. 6 (Winter): 83-88
- Conkin, Paul K. 1998. "Hot, Humid, and Sad". Journal of Southern History, Vol. 64 (No. 1): 4-22
- Daniel, Pete. 1996. Standing at the Crossroads: Southern Life in the Twentieth Century. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press

- Daniel, Pete. 2000. Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Degler, Carl N. 1974. "Dawn without Noon: The Myths of Reconstruction". Pp. 155-169 in Patrick Gerster and Nicholas Cords (eds.), Myth and Southern History: The Old South. Chicago: Rand McNally Co.
- Degler, Carl N. 1977. "Foundations of Southern Distinctiveness", The Southern Review, Vol. 13 (April, No. 2): 225-239
- Degler, Carl N. 1987. "Thesis, Antithesis, Synthesis: The South, the North, and the Nation". Journal of Southern History, Vol. 53 (No. 1): 3-18
- Dollard, John. 1937 [1988]. Class and Caste in a Southern Town. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press
- Duck, Leigh Anne. 2006. The Nation's Region: Southern Modernism, Segregation, and U.S. Nationalism. Athens: University of Georgia Press
- Dunbar, Anthony (ed.). 2004. Where We Stand: Voices of Southern Dissent. Montgomery: NewSouth Books
- Egerton, John. 1974. The Americanization of Dixie: The Southernization of America. New York: Harpers
- Escott, Paul D. and David R. Goldfield. 1991. The South for New Southerners. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press
- Falk, William W. 2004. Rooted in Place: Family and Belonging in a Southern Black Community. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press
- Fifteen Southerners. 1981. Why the South Will Survive. Athens: University of Georgia Press
- Fitzhugh, George. 1854 [1965]. Sociology for the South; or, The Failure of Free Society. New York: B. Franklin
- Flynt, J. Wayne. 1979. Dixie's Forgotten People: the South's Poor Whites. Bloomington: Indiana University Press
- Frank, Andrew K. 1999. The Routledge Historical Atlas of the American South. New York: Routledge
- Gaston, Paul M. 2002. The New South Creed: A Study in Southern Mythmaking. Montgomery: NewSouth Books
- Gerster, Patrick and Nicholas Cords (eds.). 1974. Myth and Southern History. Volume 1: The Old South. Chicago: Rand McNally Co.
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- Graham, Michael. 2002. Redneck Nation: How the South Really Won the War. New York: Warner Books
- Gregory, James N. 2005. The Southern Diaspora: How the Great Migrations of Black and White Southerners Transformed America. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press
- Griffin, Larry J. and Don H. Doyle (eds.). 1995. The South as an American Problem. Athens: University of Georgia Press
- Griffin, Larry J. 2000. "Southern Distinctiveness, Yet Again, or, Why America Still Needs the South". Southern Cultures, Fall: 47-72

- Griffin, Larry J. 2001. "The Promise of a Sociology of the South". Southern Cultures, Spring: 50-75
- Griffin, Larry J. and Ashley B. Thompson. 2003. "Enough About the Disappearing South. What About the Disappearing Southerner?" Southern Cultures, Fall: 51-65
- Hackney, Sheldon. 2001. "The Contradictory South". Southern Cultures, Winter: 64-80
- Harvey, Paul. 1995. "'Sweet Home Alabama': Southern Culture and the American Search for Community". Southern Cultures, Vol. 1 (No. 3): 321-334
- Horowitz, Tony. 1998. Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War. New York: Pantheon Books
- Hundley, Daniel R. 1860 [1979]. Social Relations in Our Southern States. New York: H.B. Price.
- Hyde, Samuel C. (ed.). 1997. Plain folk of the South revisited. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press
- Joyner, Charles. 1996. "African and European Roots of Southern Culture: The 'Central Theme' Revisited." Pp. 12-30 in Richard H. King and Helen Taylor (eds.), Dixie Debates: Perspectives on Southern Cultures. New York: New York University Press
- Joyner, Charles. 1999. "'Let Us Break Bread Together': Cultural Interaction in the Old South". Pp. 29-40 in Charles Joyner, Shared Traditions: Southern History and Folk Culture. Urbana: University of Illinois Press
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- King, Richard and Helen Taylor (eds.). 1996. Dixie Debates: Perspectives on Southern Cultures. New York: New York University Press
- Pascoe, Craig S., et al. (eds.). 2005. The American South in the Twentieth Century. Athens: University of Georgia Press.
- Phillips, U.B. 1928. "The Central Theme of Southern History". American Historical Review, Vol. 34 (October): 30-43
- Prince, K. Michael. 2004. Rally 'Round the Flag, Boys!: South Carolina and the Confederate Flag. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press
- Ray, Celeste. 2003. "Introduction: Southern Studies". Pp. 1-37 in Celeste Ray (ed.), Southern Heritage on Display: Public Ritual and Ethnic Diversity Within Southern Regionalism. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press
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- Reed, John Shelton. 1986. The Enduring South: Subcultural Persistence in Mass Society. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press
- Reed, John Shelton. 1986. Southern Folk, Plane & Fancy: Native White Social Types. Athens: University of Georgia Press
- Reed, John Shelton. 1991. "The South. What Is It? Where Is It?" Pp. 18-41 in Paul D. Escott and David R. Goldfield (eds.), The South for New Southerners. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press
- Reed, John Shelton. 1993. My Tears Spoiled My Aim, and Other Reflections on Southern Culture. San Diego: Harcourt Brace
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- Reed, John Shelton. 2003. Minding the South. Columbia: University of Missouri Press
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- Woodward, C. Vann. 1974. "The Search for Southern Identity". Pp. 137-150 in Patrick Gerster and Nicholas Cords (eds.), Myth and Southern History: The New South. Chicago: Rand McNally
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## APPALACHIA

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Beaver, Patricia D. and Helen M. Lewis. 1998. "Uncovering the Trail of Ethnic Denial: Ethnicity in Appalachia". Pp. 51-68 in Carole E. Hill and Patricia D. Beaver (eds.). Cultural Diversity in the U.S. South: Anthropological Contributions to a Region in Transition. Athens: University of Georgia Press

Covington, Dennis. 1995. Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia. New York: Penguin Books

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Keefe, Susan Emley. 2003. "Religious Healing in Southern Appalachian Communities". Pp. 144-166 in Celeste Ray (ed.), Southern Heritage on Display: Public Ritual and Ethnic Diversity Within Southern Regionalism. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press

Kiffmeyer, Thomas J. 1998. "From Self-Help to Sedition: The Appalachian Volunteers in Eastern Kentucky, 1964-1970". Journal of Southern History, Vol. 64 (No. 1): 65-94

Shifflett, Crandall A. 1991. "Building Towns". Pp. 33-66 in Coal Towns: Life, Work, and Culture in Company Towns of Southern Appalachia, 1880-1960. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press

Winkler, Wayne. 2004. Walking Toward the Sunset: The Melungeons of Appalachia. Macon: Mercer University Press

## CIVIL RIGHTS

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McAdam, Doug. 1988. Freedom summer. New York: Oxford University Press

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### ETHNICITY

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- Dorman, James H. 1996. Creoles of Color of the Gulf South. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press
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- Hill, Carole E. and Patricia D. Beaver (eds.). 1998. Cultural Diversity in the U.S. South: Anthropological Contributions to a Region in Transition. Athens: University of Georgia Press
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- Reed, John Shelton. 1997. "Mixing in the Mountains". Southern Cultures, Vol. 3 (No. 4): 25-36
- Reimers, David M. 2005. "Asian Immigrants in the South." Pp. 100-134 in James C. Cobb and William Stueck (eds.), Globalization and the American South. Athens: University of Georgia Press
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- Tindall, George B. 1995. "Ethnic Southerners." Pp. 23-38 in Natives and Newcomers: Ethnic Southerners and Southern Ethnics. Athens: University of Georgia Press
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## FOOD

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Egerton, John. 2004. Cornbread Nation 2: The United States of Barbecue. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press

Egerton, John. 2005. Cornbread Nation 3: Foods of the Mountain South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press

Egerton, John. 1987. Southern Food: At Home, On the Road, in History. New York: Knopf

Ferris, Marcie Cohen. 2005. Matzoh Ball Gumbo: Culinary Tales of the Jewish South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press

Whitehead, Tony L. 1992. "In Search of Soul Food and Meaning: Culture, Food, and Health". Pp. 94-110 in Hans A. Baer and Yvonne Jones (eds.), African Americans in the South: Issues of Race, Class, and Gender. Athens: University of Georgia Press

### HUMOR

Cobb, James C. 1995. "Damn Brother! I Don't Believe I'd A-Told That!": Humor and Southern Cultural Identity". Southern Cultures, Vol. 1 (No. 4): 481-492

Shields, Johanna Nicol. 1995. "White Honor, Black Humor, and the Making of a Southern Style". Southern Cultures, Vol. 1 (No. 4): 421-430

### LABOR

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Miller, Marc S. (ed.). 1980. Working Lives: The Southern Exposure History of Labor in the South. New York: Pantheon Books

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