This course asks the central question: What does “Southern” history look like when women’s experiences and actions are placed in center stage? In other words, how does focusing on women’s lives – and privileging women’s voices – better account for, challenge, or change the ways we think about the events that have shaped the North American Southeast (now largely referred to as “the South”) over the past 500 years?

Over the course of this semester we will seek to answer this question by focusing on key texts and radical scholarship in the fields of Native American, African American, and Euro-American women’s history. By doing this, the idea is that together we will not only interrogate the ways in which relationships between women and men have shaped ideas and experiences concerning race, class, sexuality, and political belonging, but we will also consider how interactions between women themselves have played signal roles in both constructing and dismantling structures of violence, inequality, and dispossession.

Required Texts:
Crystal N. Feimster, *Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching*


Thavolia Glymph, *Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household*

Tiya Miles, *Ties that Bind: The Story of an Afro-American Family in Slavery and Freedom*

Paper 1: Write a 2-3-page close reading of a primary source document. Draw on at least two sources we have read in class to support your points. Due February 9.

Paper 2: Drawing on the material we have read thus far, write a 3-5-page paper exploring how you think women’s lives and experiences shaped the South up through the Civil War. Cite at least 4 separate texts/authors to make your point.

Paper 3: Identify an individual activist or women’s movement in the region. Drawing upon at least two primary sources and three secondary sources outside of those we have read in class, write a 5-7-page paper highlighting the individual(s) involved, the contexts that gave rise to their mobilizations, and the forms of knowledge utilized to either resist or effect change and/or re-envision the future of the region.
Course Schedule*

**Week 1: Introduction**
*Tuesday, January 13*
Course introduction

*Thursday, January 15*
In-class film (TBD)

**Women and Gender in the Native Southeast**
*Tuesday, January 20*

*Thursday, January 22*
Theda Perdue, “A Woman’s World,” in *Cherokee Women: Gender and Culture Change*, 41-64.

**Weeks 3 and 4: The Politics of Colonial Encounter**
*Tuesday, January 27*
Camilla Townsend, *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma*, 1-64.
(Group Facilitation)

*Thursday, January 29*

*Tuesday, February 3*
(Group Facilitation)

*Thursday, February 5*

**Week 5: Women, Slavery, and the Gendered Logics of “Race”**
*Monday, February 9*
Paper 1: Primary Source Analysis.

* Course schedule is subject to change.
Tuesday, February 10

Thursday, February 12

**Week 6: Gender, Race, and Resistance in the Context of Colonial Slavery**
**Tuesday, February 17**

**Thursday, February 19**

**Week 7: Race and Slavery Across “Gender Frontiers”**
**Tuesday, February 24**

**Thursday, February 26**

**Week 8: Violence and Domesticity**
**Tuesday, March 3**

**Thursday, March 5**

**Spring Break**
**Tuesday and Thursday, March 11 and 13**
No classes
Week 9: Race, Ethnic Cleansing, and the Making of the “Deep South”
Tuesday, March 17

Thursday, March 19

Week 10: Emancipation and the Meaning of Freedom
Tuesday, March 24
Thavolia Glymph, Out of the House of Bondage, PAGES.

Thursday, March 26

Friday, March 27
Paper 2: Write a 3-5-page paper drawing upon the secondary sources we have read thus far to consider how women’s history shaped “the South” up through the Civil War.

Week 11: Reconstructing the State
Tuesday, March 31

Thursday, April 2
Crystal N. Feimster, Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 12: Women in Jim Crow
Tuesday, April 7
Crystal N. Feimster, Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching

Thursday, April 9
Crystal N. Feimster, Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching
**Weeks 13 and 14: Unsettling Apartheid**

**Tuesday, April 14**
Library Visit.

**Thursday, April 16**

**Tuesday, April 21**

**Thursday, April 23**
Final Discussion

May 1
Final paper due.