

The History of Mobile Spring Semester 2002

Dr. Michael Thomason

This is a Senior level History course in which you will be expected to do a good deal of reading and essay writing, and a final paper, based, at least in part on archival research using primary sources. You are expected to attend class and excessive absences (more than 5) for whatever reason will result in a lower grade. Also the class will start on time, so please be here at 8:00. If you arrive after 8:15 you will be counted as absent for that day. You may bring coffee or a soft drink in with you to help wake up...but no food. If you must leave class for any reason before it 9:15 please explain why in writing by the beginning of the next class or you will be counted absent. It is distracting and bad manners to get up and leave a class before it is over, so don't do it except in an emergency. Turn off all cell phones and /or beepers while you are in class for the same reason.

I urge you to take notes in class and read the assignments carefully. I will add readings to supplement those on the attached list, especially in the areas of the depression and civil rights. Please do your reading as we go along and not in the hours before the tests. The final will be comprehensive. All tests will consist of identifications of persons, places and things, explaining who or what it is when and where it was and why it is historically significant, in other words a short essay. Then there will be long essays and questions about the various readings assigned, which will be difficult to answer if you haven't done the reading(s). You will take the tests in pen, using standard 8.5 X 11" paper writing on one side only. You will be expected to write good standard English, with accurate spelling and grammar in a handwriting I can read with ease and pleasure. Anything less will adversely affect your grade, how adversely being dependant on just how bad your English or handwriting is. I am especially serious about your English. This is a senior level course and you had better be able to write well by now.

In addition to the lectures and reading assignments you will write a 10 - 15 page paper on a topic in Mobile history which you must select and obtain my approval for by Feb.14. To achieve this goal you will submit a statement describing your paper's topic and listing at least three sources, besides our text books you will use. One of these sources must be a primary document collection in a local archives(your grandmother's diary won't do- unless it is in a local archives). My point is that I want you to have done enough digging to know what you are getting into and whether or not the sources exist to write a good paper. I will try to help you with this as I can, but I do not have a list of topics tucked away somewhere to hand you. Again, this is a senior level course and you should have had experience carving out research projects before now. All papers will be due in at the beginning of class April 23. I will return them to you at the final exam on April 30, which begins at 8:00 am .

Your grade will be determined by how you do on the tests and paper primarily. Each test will count 20% of your grade, the paper 30% and class participation, etc 10%. Class participation means coming to class, acting like a senior in college while there, and asking questions in class if you have any.

Mobile's history is important to me. I realize that I have devoted the majority of my professional life to it, and have no regrets. There is much to learn here, far more than any one person can ever know, but that is all the more reason for trying to learn as much as you can about this place and the peoples who have made it what it is.

My office hours are after this class and by appointment. My office is Humb 350, phone # 460-6210. I will be happy to talk with you about this course at any mutually agreeable time.

Weekly assignments; The History of Mobile Spring semester 2002

Texts; Mobile: The New History of Alabama's First City (Mobile)

Down the Years: Articles on Mobile's History from the Gulf Coast Historical Review
(DTY)

Week 1, Jan.8&10 Introduction, Mobile Introduction and Ch1: DTY, Waselkov, "Archaeology..."

Week 2, Jan.15&17 French and English Rule, Mobile, Ch 2: DTY, Foret, " Suppressing..."

Week 3, Jan, 22&24 Spanish Rule and the War of 1812, Mobile, Ch 2

Week 4, Jan. 30&31 Territorial & early Antebellum Mobile, Mobile, Ch.3

Week 5, Feb.5&7 Antebellum Mobile, Mobile Ch.3: DTY, Pruitt, "Crime and Punishment..."; Sledge, "An Ornament..."; Penick, "James Copeland..."

Week 6, Mardi Gras Feb 12: **First Hour Test** Feb 14 All term paper topics must be **approved** by this date

Week 7, Feb 18&21 Civil War and Reconstruction, Mobile, Ch. 4: DTY, Owsley, "Incidents...."; Amos, "Trials of a Unionist..."; Brent, "No Compromise...": Hinson, "The Beginning..."

Week 8, Feb. 25&27 The New South, Mobile Ch. 5: DTY, Rogers, " An Esthete..."; Ewert, " The Politics..."; Sledge, "Rudolph Benz..."

Week 9, March 5&7 The Progressive Era, Mobile, Ch. 6: DTY Thomason, "Commercial Photography...";Jonas, "Mardi Gras..."; Harvey, "Without Conscious..."

Week 10, March12-14 Spring Break

Week11, March 19&21 Mobile Between the Wars, Mobile, Ch 7

Week 12, **Second Hour Test** March 26; World War II, March 28, Mobile, Ch. 8: DTY, Harrison, "Riveters, Volunteers..."; Thomas, "The Mobile Homefront..."

Week13, April 9&11 Civil Rights, Mobile, Ch.9

Week 14, April 16&18 Mobile Since 1945, Mobile, Ch. 10

Week 15, April 23 Summary and Review, Mobile: Epilogue **All term papers due at 8:00 AM.** .
April 25, Special assignment TBA

April 30, 8:00-10:00 **Final Exam**