

**History 4485: Case Studies in History**  
**Atlanta's Trial of the Century**  
Fall 2017

**Professor:** Steve Goodson **Place and Time:** TLC 3205, MW 3:30-4:45  
**Office:** TLC 3224 **Phone:** (678) 839-6042 **Department Phone:** (678) 839-6508  
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**Office Hours:** MW 1:30-3:00; TTH 1:30-5:00; or by appointment.

**Course Description and Goals:** Case Studies in History is a new course which will focus on smaller topics that can be covered thoroughly in a semester. In Atlanta's Trial of the Century, we will study the infamous Mary Phagan-Leo Frank murder case of 1913-1915. In addition to following and interpreting the sequence of events, we will place the case in its historical and geographical contexts, looking to learn what it reveals about Atlanta, Georgia, the New South, and the United States of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Assignments will allow students to sharpen their writing, interpretive, and research skills.

**Exams:** There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. Exam questions will be drawn from the assigned readings, from class discussions, from lectures, and from any other material (films, music, handouts, etc.) presented in class. The final exam will not be cumulative. Make-up exams will be given only if the student provides a written doctor's excuse, and it is the student's responsibility to let me know in advance if he or she will have to miss an exam.

**Class Participation:** History is a reading-intensive discipline. Nothing is more crucial to a good historian than the ability to read carefully, thoroughly, and critically. In order to be prepared and to participate in discussions, students will need to do the required reading *in advance* of each class session. In order to encourage students to do the reading, there may be short in-class writing assignments as well as unannounced quizzes. Attendance will be taken daily and a student's attendance record will play a significant role in determining his or her final grade. Students are expected to arrive in class on time and to remain until class is ended. Inappropriate classroom behavior will *severely* damage a student's final grade. Please silence cell phones and do not use them during class.

**Paper Assignments:** Each student will be required to prepare three-to-four-page papers on the three books we will be reading this semester. In addition, each student will write an end-of-term paper (seven to nine pages). All paper assignments must be submitted in order for a student to pass the class. Plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the course. Students will need to submit each assigned paper to the Drop Box on CourseDen and provide the professor with a hard copy.

**Evaluation:** Each exam will account for 25% of the final grade, the three book papers for a total of 20%, the final paper for 20%, and class participation for 10%.

**Additional Information on UWG Policies:** <https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

**Required Books:**

Steve Oney, *And the Dead Shall Rise; The Murder of Mary Phagan and the Lynching of Leo Frank*  
David Fort Godshalk, *Veiled Visions: The 1906 Atlanta Race Riot and the Reshaping of American Race Relations*  
Clifford M. Kuhn, *Contesting the New South Order: The 1914-1915 Strike at Atlanta's Fulton Mills*  
C. Vann Woodward, *Tom Watson: Agrarian Rebel*

**Tentative Class Schedule and Required Reading:**

Aug. 9 – Introduction

Aug. 14 – Oney, Chaps. 1, 2

Aug. 16 – Oney, Chaps. 3-4

Aug. 21 – Oney, Chap. 5

Aug. 23 – Oney, Chap. 6

Aug. 28 – Oney, Chap. 7

Aug. 30 – Oney, Chap. 8

Sept. 6 – *Veiled Visions*

Sept. 11 – Oney, Chap. 9

Sept. 13 – Oney, Chap. 10, pages 190-227

Sept. 18 – Oney, Chap. 10, pages 227-260

Sept. 20 – Oney, Chap. 11

Sept. 25 – Oney, Chap. 12

Sept. 27 – **Midterm Exam**

Oct. 2 – Oney, Chap. 13

Oct. 4 – *Contesting the New South Order*

Oct. 9 – Oney, Chap. 14

Oct. 11 – Oney, Chap. 15

Oct. 16 – Oney, Chap. 16

Oct. 18 – Oney, Chap. 17

Oct. 23 – Oney, Chap. 18

Oct. 25 – Oney, Chap. 19

Oct. 30 – No Reading

Nov. 1 – *Tom Watson: Agrarian Rebel*

Nov. 6 – Oney, Chap. 20

Nov. 8 – Oney, Chaps. 21, 22

Nov. 13 – Oney, Chap. 23

Nov. 15 – Oney, Chap 24 and Epilogue

Nov. 27 – No Reading

Nov. 29 – No Reading – Final Papers Due

Dec. 6 – **Final Exam (2:00-4:00)**