EXAM INFORMATION

- Exam Two will be Tuesday, April 12.
  - Format same as Exam 1.
  - Multiple choice short answer including maps plus choice of essay topics.
  - See Study Guide.
  - Missed exam make-up is all essay format.
- The Extra Credit for Exam Two is due no later than the start of the exam on April 12.
- Remember to provide examples from all 4 choices for max extra points.
- All other extra credit is by the end of the semester.

Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada

The South: Diverse Landscapes of Southeastern North America
Prof. Anthony Grande
CAPE 2016
Chapter 6 and parts of 4, 8, 13.

Regional Landscape Studies

- NORTHLANDS
- NORTHEAST COAST
- MEGALOPOLIS
- CANADA’S NATIONAL CORE
- AMERICA’S HEARTLAND
- APPALACHIANS and the OZARKS
- THE SOUTH
  - PLAINS and PRAIRES
  - MOUNTAINS and PLATEAUS
  - DESERT SOUTHWEST
  - NORTH PACIFIC COAST
  - HAWAII

<<For each region:
1. Know its physical geography.
2. Identify its unique characteristics.
3. Be able to explain the human imprint.
4. Discuss its sequence occupancy and economic development.

The South’s Sub-regions

Major sub-regions:
- Atlantic Coastal Plain
- Piedmont
- Florida Peninsula
- Gulf Coastal Plain
- Lower Mississippi Delta Region

Overlapping Vernacular Regional Terms of the South

- Old South: area of the 5 southern plantation colonies (MD, VA, NC, SC, GA)
- Deep South: area from SC to eastern TX excluding peninsula FL but including the Mississippi Delta region
- Upland South: Piedmont region of the Southern Appalachians
- Mississippi Delta: ancient delta of Mississippi River, extending S from the Ohio River confluence to the Gulf of Mexico
- Southern Coastlands: Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains, including peninsula FL

The South

When you think about this region, what images come into your mind?

Disney World
Heat and humidity
Growing cities
Hurricanes
Southern cooking
Mississippi R delta
Civil War
Plantations
Beaches/Resorts
Bible Belt
Other Vernacular Terms

- **Bible Belt**: Coined in 1925 by a journalist during the Tennessee vs. Scopes teaching-of-evolution trial. Implies a region whose people espouse religious fundamentalism: particularly, literal interpretation of the Bible.
- **Dixie**: Its origin is uncertain. Could be from French Louisiana currency (dix = 10) or the Mason-Dixon Line (area south of the line). During the Civil War, the song “Dixie” became the unofficial anthem of the Confederate States of America.

General OVERVIEW of the South

- A subtropical climate: heat and humidity.
- A strong sense of regional identity: similar beliefs, customs, attitudes throughout the region.
- A long standing relationship with the land: rural population and agricultural.
- Regionalism is reinforced from the outside: often perceived/portrayed superficially and in caricature by outsiders.
- There’s diversity within the regionalism: many sub-regions with their own version of “southern culture”.
- Coastal South is faced with increased danger from natural hazards: severe storms; sea level rise.

OVERVIEW: Physical Geography

- Low-lying coastal area focused on the sea; natural harbors that become ports; susceptible to storm surge/sea level rise.
- The continental shelf off the coast is wide; prime areas for fishing (commercial/sport) and mineral exploration (Gulf of Mexico).
- Sandy barrier islands and lagoons parallel the coast; allowed for the creation of the Intracoastal Waterway System (TX to NJ) and a setting for 20th century vacation homes/resorts.
- Coastal plain has relatively flat terrain with slow flowing rivers, swamps and marshes (bayous); insect/reptile pests. Historically focused human attention away from the coast.
- Piedmont section of the Appalachians; cooler, less humid, better water supply; variety of trees. Fall Line marks the sharp boundary between the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

OVERVIEW: Economy

- **Five Economic Sub-regions**
  1. Atlantic Coast: tourism, vacation homes, import-export trades
  2. Piedmont: manufacturing, R&D, finance
  3. Gulf Coast East: recreation, agriculture, retirement communities, sport fishing
  4. Gulf Coast West: resource extraction, industrial production, commercial fishing, trade (break-of-bulk and transshipment)
  5. Lower Mississippi Delta Region: agriculture, esp. cotton and rice, transportation services, food processing

OVERVIEW: A Changing Area

- Growing urbanization.
- Growing “non-Southern” population.
- New manufacturing enterprises.
- New agricultural orientations.
- Improved race relations.
- “Southern way” of doing things has been altered (by Federal law and in-migration).
- Feeling less regional and more national.

Landform Regions

- Continental Shelf: the undersea extension of the continent, wide and relatively shallow ocean areas.
- Coastal lowlands: generally flat to rolling terrain island, with a low-lying, marshy, indented shoreline.
- Mississippi Delta Region: ancient delta of Mississippi R.: now a flood plain with very fertile alluvial deposits.
- Piedmont: Part of the Appalachian system. Fall Line = sharp boundary between the Piedmont and coastal plain.
Coast to Mountains: the Carolinas

1. Geologic cross-section of North Carolina

2. Ecozone cross-section of South Carolina:

Barrier Island Coastline

Barrier island: a long, narrow, low profile island, parallel to the mainland and separated from it by a lagoon.

They are temporary geologic features.

Built of sediment collected from washed-up and wind-driven sand. Shaped by long shore current, waves, and wind. Subject to overwash and breach during severe storms.

Barrier Islands

Galveston, TX

Hilton Head, SC

Offshore Pensacola, FL

Offshore Louisiana

COASTS in CRISIS

Louisiana Barrier Islands

Barrier islands form, change shape and disappear because of five interrelated factors.


Then came Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

The Outer Banks

North Carolina

The Outer Banks is a 200 mi long string of barrier islands. Cape Hatteras lighthouse had to be moved 1500 ft. inland (1999) to save it from collapsing into the sea. Offshore area is called the “graveyard of ships.”

Cape Lookout

Intracoastal Waterway

Created by improving the channels between the barrier islands and the mainland from TX to NJ.

Cape Hatteras

Cape Lookout

Cape
**Lower Mississippi Landscape: Delta Region**

A portion of the Mississippi River boundary between the state of Mississippi (right) and Arkansas and Louisiana.

**Meander and Oxbow Lake Formation**

- The channels of meandering streams change course, especially in times of flood.
- When the old channel dries up, a "scar" is created.
- Scars tend to have fertile soil and are used for farming.

**Meander Scars**

**Satellite View of New Orleans**

New Orleans: most important port of the region and focus of trade to continental interior via Mississippi River. Portions are below sea level due to subsidence.

**Bayou**

Defined as either:
- a. Body of water or wetland found in flat, low-lying areas
- b. Extremely slow moving stream with a poorly defined shoreline.

Probably comes from the Choctaw word bayuk (a small stream), and applied by French Acadian immigrants to any waterway.

**Piedmont**

- Piedmont (foothills of the Appalachian Mts.) forested area; varied resources; good water.
- Vertical zonation of climate is evident across the region. This allowed colonists to get relief from the heat and humidity of the coastal plain.
  - Inland region subject to occasional severe weather: frost, freezing rain, ice storms and snow in winter; thunderstorms, flooding rains and tornadoes in spring, summer and autumn. Southern edge of the zone of interaction between tropical and polar air masses.
Climates

- **Cfa - Humid Subtropical** - throughout the region; hot humid summers, mild winters; year-round precipitation.
  - Very long growing season (over 270 days)
  - Altitude cools the Piedmont (vertical zonation) differentiating it from the rest of The South.

EXCEPTION:

- South Florida is **Aw: tropical savanna** (winter dry).

- **Tornados** especially in spring and autumn.
- **Thunderstorms** throughout the year; Tampa Bay area is #1 in US
- **Hurricane** threat annually.
- **Global warming** with rising sea levels is a concern.

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Shoreline Hurricane Damage

- **Galveston, TX**
- **Outer Banks, NC**

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The Everglades

A unique ecological region created by climate and geology.
- It’s a “river of grass” 60 mi wide, flowing south from Orlando to the tip of Florida.
- It is in danger because of fresh water diversion to Miami and farmland and because of east-west road construction.
- The mangrove forest exists in briny water. May be adversely affected by sea level rise.

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SinkHoles

- **A Florida Menace**

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South Florida Conflict Zones

- Burmese python, an invasive species
Florida Keys

The Florida Keys is a chain of coral islands, NOT SAND, linked by causeways, stretching 130 mi from Key Biscayne to Key West. The Florida Keys Formation is the world's 3rd largest barrier reef. A cay or key is a low coral island (Sp. cayo = shoal).

US Route 1, the Overseas Highway, connects the Keys with the U.S. mainland.

Distinctive Demography

- High in-migration since 1980s. Most residents of today's South were born elsewhere.
- A large very “non-southern” population.
- Mix of refugees (Cubans, Haitians) and retirees.
- Snowbirds: People from the northern states and Canada who spend the winter in Florida.
- Pull Factor: favorable climate and tax rates

Unique historic local cultural groups:
- Creoles, Cajuns, Gullahs

Demographics

Note difference in southern Louisiana, southern Texas and Florida peninsula.

Demographics: Ethnic Concentrations

Percent of total county population, 2010 US Census

Demography: Creoles and Cajuns

Creoles: people of French/Spanish/Afro-Caribbean descent usually from the West Indies. Associated with speaking a pidgin language combining words from other languages with French.

Cajuns: people of French Canadian descent. They were expelled after the French and Indian War. Settled in U.S. Remain distinctive: French dialect, Catholic religion, food.

Demography: Gullah

Gullah: descendants of Africans brought as slaves to cotton plantations on the Sea Islands.

Noteworthy for their distinctive African language and culture, which has been handed down by generations relatively intact.

Once isolated, their unique culture is now threatened by development and tourism on the coastal islands.
Demography: Hispanics and Caribbean Islanders

- **Hispanics** (South Texas and South Florida)
  - From Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Rep
  - Social/cultural landscape remains distinctive:
    - Spanish-speaking
    - Catholic
    - Cuisine
- **Caribbean Islanders** (South Florida)
  - From Haiti and the West Indies
  - French, English and South-Asian backgrounds

Native Americans

With the spread of white settlement there was a forcible removal of local Indians to Oklahoma (1830s).
Descendants of those who escaped relocation remain in the South:
- Eastern Cherokee (NC)
- Choctaw (MS)
- Seminole (FL)

Exploration of the Southeast

- Spanish explorers traveled inland from the Gulf Coast. Spain claimed Florida and the Gulf coastal area.
- The French moved downstream along the Mississippi River to its mouth. France and Spain contested the Mississippi River Basin.
- English colonists settled along the coast between Virginia and Georgia. They claimed all land west to the Pacific Ocean.

Settlement Sequence

- St. Augustine, FL was the site of the **first** permanent European settlement in N.Amer. (Spain, 1565).
- Jamestown, VA and Roanoke Island, NC: sites of the earliest English settlements (early 1600s).

- Early settler goals were commercial and exploitative.
  - Geographical advantages:
    - Areas were very suitable for agriculture.
    - Game was plentiful.
    - Navigable rivers allowed movement away from coast and access to interior forests and resources as far as the Fall Line.

Triangle Trade Route

- Sailing ships on the Triangle Trade route (1600s-1800s) used global winds and ocean currents to cross the Atlantic.
- c.12 million Africans were taken as slaves and brought to the Western Hemisphere.

Plantation Agriculture

- Plantations grew specific cash crops that could not be grown in Europe.
  - Highly structured agricultural organization
  - Usually tied to a single cash crop for export.
  - Were self-sufficient units: needed much land and a large labor force requiring people with many different skills.
- Small local populations led to use of slave labor; first local Indians and indentured Englishmen, then African. (Europeans have a history of using forced labor.)
- Only the richer plantations had mansions.
- Most plantations had their own docks. Frontage on a deep, protected waterway was important.
James River Plantations VIRGINIA

http://www.shirleyplantation.com/index.html

Boone’s Hall Plantation near Charleston, SC

Slave quarters were located off the main entrance road near the manor house.

Economics: North vs. South

Before the Civil War, slaves were found in all Southern states except the counties within the Appalachian Highlands. Greatest concentration of slaves was in the plantation areas of the coastal plain and lower Mississippi Valley — cotton, rice, sugar cane and tobacco producing areas.

North’s economy was based on industry and trade. South’s economy was based on plantation agriculture. Demand for cotton increased the need for laborers to work the fields.

See map, p. 41 of Historical Atlas

Civil War Aftermath

Most Civil War battles (1860-1865) were fought on Southern soil — much destruction.

Railroads were disrupted or in disrepair.

Equipment was confiscated or destroyed.

Shipping terminals were in ruins.

Confederate currency/bonds were worthless.

Large portion of the labor supply was eliminated

• Emancipation of slaves and the white labor pool decimated by Civil War fatalities.

Large land holdings were heavily taxed and/or sub-divided.

Reconstruction began.

See Section 5 of Historical Atlas

Post-Civil War Transition (1865-1880s)

• Southern White reaction to emancipation was institutionalized segregation.

• Few opportunities for blacks until World War I (Great Migration to northern areas).

• Greater national isolation of the South.

• Persistent regional poverty:
  — Destruction of economic infrastructure and plantation economy by Civil War battles
  — Lack of economic development incentives.

• Few jobs outside of farming
  — Poor farmers (both blacks and whites) made arrangements with land owners.

• Sharecropping System
  — Rent and repayment of loans for a share of the crop.
  — Debt perpetual, sharecropper bound to land until paid.
  — Reinforced by “Black Codes” restricting black movement.

Monumental Landscapes

Lauding the Confederacy

Hundreds of monuments remembering the Confederacy can be found throughout the South. In addition, numerous national and state battlefield parks tell the story of Civil War events.
Delayed Urban Development

- The South did not experience the influx of the urban Europeans as did the Northeast.
  - Little immigration from Europe during 1800s; very small proportion foreign-born by 1900.
  - No receiving ports; no industry.
  - Cities developed late.
- Ports/small market centers developed in 1800s.
  - Collection/transshipment points for cash crops
  - Little contact with each other; orientation was to the North or to Europe
  - Distinctly local allegiances
  - Most people lived in isolation on farms
- Areas remained strongly rural until late 1900s.

Development of Manufacturing early 1900s

- Attractions of Piedmont South:
  - High levels of underemployment
  - Opportunity to modernize operations
  - Lower taxes
- Cotton textile industry
  - Originally based in New England
  - Shifted south after the Civil War
  - Carolina Piedmont and N. Georgia
  - Drew other industries (clustering)
  - Economic impact
    - Workers paid low wages
    - Low land tax rates
    - Less regulations

Other Industrial Developments

- Railroads: construction, other public improvements increased access
- Cigarettes: manufacturing; local tobacco farms: NC, VA
- Timber resources:
  - Furniture manufacturing (NC, VA)
  - Pulp and paper
- Atlanta (GA), Birmingham (AL), Chattanooga (TN) Triangle
  - Resources plus low wages encouraged manufacturing

Changes in Economic Landscape

The South’s economy has become more national in structure and less regional since the 1970s.
Has greatly diversified:
  - automobile, pulp and paper, textiles and apparel, oil refining, aluminum, petrochemicals, food processing.
  - Plus tourism, banking and finance.

Agricultural Setting

- Humid subtropical climate
  - Long growing season (from 9-12 mo.)
  - Average rainfall greater than 50 in./yr
- Advantages for agriculture
  - Can grow crops that cannot be grown elsewhere as citrus and sugar cane: Introduced by Spanish in the 1500s.
  - Produced only in Florida, Texas, and Calif.
  - Double-cropping possible
  - Winter vegetables

Harvesting Cotton

- 1860 - 2012
Florida Tourism

Fishing

Mineral Resources

- Oil and gas fields located in LA and TX and under the continental shelf Gulf of Mexico area contains extensive oil and gas deposits.
- Salt – underground salt domes mined for rock salt.
- Sulfur – from cap rock over salt deposits
- Phosphorus – deposits in Florida.
- Proximity to coal fields of Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee gives the region access to cheap coal for power plants.
- Political issues and environmental problems related to the extraction and use of resources.

Oil Refinery

Louisiana

Houston

Houston is the 4th largest city of the US. It is a major industrial center and the focus of the oil industry. Its port facilities are located 40 mi from the Gulf, linked to it by the Houston Ship Channel (1873).

After the Exam

The Great Plains and Prairies