

**Mercer University
Penfield College**

WRIT: 390 – Agriculture and Sustainability in Coastal Georgia: Writing About the History of
African American Farms and Farmers
Independent Study – Vanessa Braswell
Fall 2016, Session III
Macon Campus

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Office Hours:

Monday, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Henry
Tuesday, 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Henry
Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Henry
And by appointment

Required Texts:

Mart A. Stewart, *What Nature Suffers to Groe: Life, Labor, and Landscape on the Georgia Coast, 1680-1920*, Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2002.

Course Description:

This independent study will be conducted in collaboration with Dr. Colleen Stapleton, Associate Professor of Science and supported by a grant from InTeGrate (Interdisciplinary Teaching about Earth for a Sustainable Future). The goals of InTeGrate are to increase "earth literacy" and help develop interest in issues of sustainability among students and teachers through the development of virtual field trips to sites in Georgia as well as age appropriate materials for K-12 classrooms. These virtual field trips and supporting materials will be made available for use in classrooms from college level (for teacher preparation) to K-12.

The work of this independent study will be focused on farming in Glynn County, Georgia, with an emphasis on African American farmers and farms. In addition, it will be grounded in the history of African American agriculture in this coastal county and a definition of sustainability that includes black farmer's access to their own land, their ability to keep their land, and the agricultural practices they have used to keep their farms productive. The work of this course will result in a script for the production of a virtual field trip and written material that supports the content of the virtual field trip.

The work of this course will include a weekend trip to Glynn County, Georgia for the purpose of research in the form of interviews, videotaping, and photographing.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The student will demonstrate through discussion, primary research, formal and informal writing:

1. A grounding in the history of agriculture in coastal Georgia
2. A grounding in the history of African American farms and farmers in coastal Georgia
3. A grounding in issues of sustainability in relationship to agricultural production and African American farmers in Coastal Georgia

And will produce:

4. A script to be used in the production of a virtual field trip focused on African American farms and farmers in terms of issues of sustainability
5. Written material that supports the content of the virtual field trip

Course Requirements:

The student will meet with the instructor throughout the semester and will participate in a weekend trip to Glynn County, Georgia, for the purpose of primary research in the form of interviews, videotaping, and photographing.

Course Evaluation:

The final grade for this course will be weighted as follows:

Participation:	20%
Script of virtual field trip	40%
Supporting material for virtual field trip	40%

Work in this independent study will be evaluated A through F on the following criteria:

- A = Outstanding work
A grade of A will be awarded for work which far exceeds the minimum expectations of the assignment, not only by doing all that is asked, but by demonstrating superior skill, thoroughness, independence, and creativity. By definition, it is unlikely that many students should be able to earn this grade, as it denotes exceptional student performance.
- B/B+ = Very good work; better than average
Grades in the range of B+/B are very good grades. They indicate above average work, grasp, and mastery of the subject matter, evidenced not only by meeting the basic objectives but also by showing initiative in pursuing lines of inquiry and some creativity in the use of new understandings.

C/C+ = Good work, average expectations
 Grades in the C/C+ range indicate that the basic objectives of the assignment have been achieved, that the student has demonstrated satisfactory mastery of the work assigned. The minimum expectations of the instructor are met. This is a perfectly respectable grade, for which no apology is necessary.

D = Poor work; below expectations
 A D is assigned to work which is passing but below average competency for college students. The student receiving a D has not exerted a level of effort or shown an expertise which is expected of the average college student. This work is often incorrect or minimally thought out.

F = An F is assigned to a failing effort. This sort of work does not meet the minimum expectations of the assignment, demonstrates a serious lack of command over course material, and/or a significant lack of effort on the part of the student.

A =	90-100%	C+ =	77-79%	F =	below 60%
B+ =	87-89%	C =	70-76%		
B =	80-86%	D =	60-69%		

Class Calendar:

Dates for meetings, travel, and writing assignments will be determined by the instructor and student, and will be added to this syllabus no later than the third week of the semester.

Course Policies:

Ongoing meetings with the instructor are a vital and necessary component of this independent study. If the student is absent from a meeting due to illness or emergency, it is her responsibility to contact the instructor by email or telephone as soon as possible.

If for any reason a meeting is cancelled by the university or the instructor, the student will be notified by phone and email as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting.

Unless prior arrangements are made, written work must be submitted on time. Any written work submitted more than one week late will receive a 10% reduction of its points toward the final grade. This 10% reduction will be taken each week until the assignment is turned in. All reading and writing assignments must be completed and written assignments received by the instructor no later than the last day of the fall semester.

Academic Integrity

Mercer University strives to be a Community of Respect that includes respect for academic integrity. Students operate under an honor system and will exhibit the values of honesty, trustworthiness, and fairness regarding all academic matters. Students, faculty, and staff are expected to report any violations in the forms of, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty to the honor council appropriate to their campus and program.

Procedures related to Honor Systems and Academic Integrity are outlined in the specific handbooks for each campus and can be found on the Provost website at <http://provost.mercer.edu/handbooks>. They are also attached to this syllabus along with an Honor Pledge which must be signed, dated, and returned to the instructor.

Dr. Melanie Pavich
Session III, Fall 2016

I have read the syllabus for , and understand what is required in order to satisfactorily complete this independent study.

Name:-

Signed:_____

Date:_____

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