

AMH 2042, Week 1: Reconstruction: a "New South"?

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Administrivia

- Volunteer notetaker needed; see me after class.¹
- The classroom cap for this room is 46 students. This is a limit imposed by the fire code. If you are not planning to stay in this course, please drop soon to make room for others.

¹ This will require you to visit the DRC (GC 190), copy your notes there at no cost, and leave them there for the student to retrieve. Or, DRC can provide special carbonless (NCR) paper that provides immediate copies of your notes. Thanks for your willingness to help.

An exercise in curiosity

What do you know about the US South after the Civil War (between 1865 and 1880)?

What's one question you have about this time and place?

If you could find an answer to that question, how do you think your life would change?

Working in the "New South": from bondage to contract?

Racial and gender ideologies (interrelated)

What were some examples of racial and gender ideologies in the South after the end of slavery?

Ideology: a set of conscious and unconscious ideas that shapes people's actions and expectations. Ideologies are self-reinforcing; they often don't have much logic, but people behave as if they do.

Labor contracts after the end of slavery

The right to work for oneself or sell one's labor; but at what price and under what conditions?
Who defines "laziness"?

Defining "vagrancy" after the end of slavery

"Enjoying" freedom; travel to reunite families; conflict with white-dominated racial ideologies about labor; post-1877

"black codes" defining "vagrancy" as a crime

How did racial and gender ideologies in the South after slavery shape definitions of crime?

*The Reconstruction Amendments**13th Amendment (1865):*

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

What did the 13th Amendment accomplish? What were its limitations?

14th Amendment (ratified 1868), Section 1:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

What did the 14th Amendment accomplish? In the late 19th century, what were its limitations?

15th Amendment (ratified 1870):

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

End of Union military occupation (Reconstruction), 1877. Republicans (African-Americans, some poor whites), Democrats (majority of whites). Creative ways to stop black voting: poll taxes, literacy tests.

What did the 15th Amendment accomplish? In the late 19th century, what were its limitations?

