



Graduate Degrees in Southern Studies 2023-2024 Handbook

MA in Southern Studies MFA in Documentary Expression

**Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi**
<http://www.southernstudies.olemiss.edu>

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Graduate Programs in Southern Studies

The Center for the Study of Southern Culture offers two graduate degrees: the Master of Arts (MA) in Southern Studies and the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Documentary Expression. The MA program began in 1986, and the MFA program celebrated its inaugural class in 2017. Both programs bring together scholars, professors, and students from various backgrounds whose common interests involve the study of the U.S. South. Even with a combined average of 25-30 students, the programs are close-knit and interwoven. Students and professors work together in a relaxed but intellectually stimulating atmosphere.

The MA Curriculum

The Southern Studies curriculum incorporates numerous regional studies courses from various disciplines and departments, including African American Studies, Anthropology, Art History, Economics, English, Gender Studies, History, Journalism, Music, Political Science, Religion, and Sociology. Many of the classes offered by these departments are cross-listed for Southern Studies and are open to our students. All students must select courses from at least three academic disciplines (Southern Studies may be one), with a maximum of 12 hours in any single discipline, excluding Southern Studies. MA students complete a prospectus (12-15 pages, plus bibliography) in their second semester, while enrolled in SST 602.

There are three ways to earn the MA in Southern Studies: the thesis track, the documentary track, and the internship track.

Thesis Track

The thesis track requires 30 hours of coursework (including SST 601 and 602, and a minimum of six hours of the thesis course, SST 697). These thesis hours can be divided among multiple semesters or completed in one. Coursework must incorporate at least three disciplines (one may be Southern Studies) and may include two (and no more) Independent Studies (SST 605). A thesis must be a presentation of original scholarship in the form of a written work (80–120 pages). The thesis student must pass a final oral defense. Students should think about the thesis early in their program: using seminar papers to formulate a thesis project helps facilitate research and can contribute to timely completion of the master's degree.

Internship Track

This option requires a minimum of 36 hours, which includes SST 601, 602, and 30 hours of additional coursework. The internship itself is at least six credit hours (SST 603). A student interested in pursuing this track should make arrangements with a suitable institution to set up the internship. Faculty members may participate in this process, but it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure the position. Internships may not be completed as part of a student's regular employment. An on-campus faculty member will advise the student and generally oversee the project. A representative of the sponsoring institution will supervise the intern on site. Internship students will hold the internship for the duration of an entire semester, working approximately 20 hours a week. At the end of the internship, students will make an oral presentation about their work and write a 40-50 page essay that both recounts their experience and pursues, using academic resources, some research question that grows out of it. Students on the internship track assemble a three-member committee just as students on the other two tracks do.

Documentary Track

The documentary track for the Master of Arts degree requires 30 hours of coursework—including 601, 602, 533 (Fieldwork & Oral History), either 534 (Documentary Photography) or 537 (Introduction to Documentary Film-Making), and 6 hours of thesis. (Note: SST 533 is a prerequisite for both SST 534 and 537.) The thesis hours can be divided across multiple semesters or completed in one. As with the other two tracks, these courses must incorporate at least three disciplines (one may be Southern Studies) and may include two (and no more) Independent Study classes (SST 605). A final documentary project—using audio, still photography, film, or a combination thereof—must be presented, along with a self-reflective essay (40-60 pages) that chronicles the evolution of the student’s thinking regarding the documentary process and the development of his/her final project. Students on this track assemble a committee to oversee their work, just as students on the thesis and internship track do.

The MFA Curriculum

The MFA in Documentary Expression requires 30 hours of coursework: 21 hours of content-based classes and 9 hours of thesis credit. MFA students must complete SST 601(Graduate Seminar I), SST 533 (Fieldwork & Oral History), SST 610 (MFA Seminar), and SST 633 (MFA Fieldwork). They must also complete at least two of the following: SST 534 (Documentary Photography), SST 544 (Advanced Documentary Photography), SST 537 (Documenting the South in Film), or SST 538 (Advanced Documentary Film), plus three credit hours of SST 699 (MFA Workshop). Students who enter the program with an MA in Southern Studies from UM may apply 6 hours of that degree for SST 533, 534, 537, 538, or 601 but they may not repeat classes taken for credit while earning the MA.

Students may begin taking thesis hours upon arrival, provided that the Admissions Committee finds their project idea to be sufficiently developed. MFA students complete a written prospectus (12-15 pages, plus bibliography) and have it approved by their three-person supervisory committee by the end of their second semester in the program. Final projects may take the form of still photography, film, oral history, audio recordings, or some combination thereof, plus a written component, approximately 50-75 pages in length, that both addresses the writer’s process and situates their project within relevant scholarly discourse. As with the MA, students pass an oral defense in order to complete the degree.

MFA Workshop (SST 699) – 3 Credits Required

MFA students are required to attend Documentary Workshop (SST 699) and will receive one credit hour per semester. All students must present their original work at least once per semester. Students will provide feedback to their peers on presented work. Documentary Workshop also provides critical information including news and updates about the program and thesis requirements. MA students on the documentary track are also encouraged to register for and join SST 699.

End of First Semester Showcase and Screening

All MFA students will present a completed new work (or work in progress) with artist’s talk at the end of the first semester. The event will be open to the public and include Q&A with each producer.

MFA Thesis Prospectus and Defense

By May 1, first-year MFA students must successfully defend a written project prospectus (8-10 pages, including bibliography) with their supervisory committee. The prospectus should consider both written and documentary project components of the final thesis including intended medium, structure, and public presentation options for the documentary project. Successful prospectus defense must be on file with the graduate director to be eligible for summer funding.

Documentary Project and Written Thesis

Final projects may take the form of photography, oral history, film or audio documentary, or some combination thereof. While students may continue work begun prior to enrollment the bulk of the thesis production must be within the MFA program. The written component, approximately 50-75 pages in length, addresses 1) the writer's process; 2) their artistic intention; and 3) situates the project within relevant scholarly discourse. MFA students must pass an oral defense of their documentary project and written thesis in order to complete the degree. All materials must be provided to the committee at least two weeks prior to defense.

End of Program Public Talk and Thesis Exhibition

MFA graduates will schedule and organize a public event showcasing their final MFA project including a talk with Q&A prior to thesis defense. It is recommended that the event take place off- campus at a location that will be determined by the project type. MFA faculty and staff will help provide suggestions and assistance.

Visiting Documentarian Meetings & Lectures

Throughout the program several working documentarians will be invited to campus to show and discuss their work in public screenings and/or lectures. These visitors have agreed to open their schedules for one-on-one meetings with MFA students to view their works and discuss ideas pertaining to their portfolio, works in progress, or their thesis project. All MFA students are strongly encouraged to attend these events and to sign-up for meetings with our visitors. Priority will be given via a first- come-first- served online sign-up.

Equipment and Facilities

All Documentary Track MA and MFA students have access to equipment available in the SouthDocs equipment room in Kinard Hall (2nd Floor, Wing D) via [Chegroom](#), an online equipment reservation system. Any questions about reserving equipment should be addressed to Karen Tuttle (ktuttle@olemiss.edu). A temporary 15- minute parking space has been designated behind Kinard Hall for equipment loading and unloading.

SouthDocs provides 24/7 access to their audio recording booth, multimedia editing suite, and classroom lab. A reservation system may be implemented for these resources during times of heavy use. There is also a computer with Adobe in the Barnard Observatory Grad work room, 2nd floor.

Additional Guidelines, MA and MFA

INDEPENDENT STUDIES: students can only take two Independent Study courses (SST 605) per degree. We do not encourage first-semester students to take SST 605, in part because they need to familiarize themselves with graduate seminars and in part because faculty members, whom students typically will not know yet, must agree to supervise the independent study. Designing an independent study is the task of the student, and a written syllabus, with clear expectations for final outcomes, should accompany the class.

SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES: students can repeat both SST 598 and SST 599 twice per degree.

INTERNSHIPS: students on the thesis or the documentary track may also register for 3 or 6 hour internships at any point during their coursework. For three hours of credit, the student must work at least 10 hours per week for the duration of the semester and keep a weekly journal about his or her activities. For six hours of credit, the student must submit a research paper of 12–15 pages on a topic pertaining to the internship and work 12–15 hours per week per semester.

INTERDISCIPLINARITY: students may not take more than 12 hours in any single discipline, excluding Southern Studies. The MA requires that the final transcript show hours taken in at least three different disciplines, one of which may be Southern Studies.

ADVISING: after the first semester, students enroll themselves using MyOleMiss during the regular registration windows. The Graduate Director serves as the adviser for each student in the program until he or she begins working more closely with a thesis supervisor.

ASSEMBLING A COMMITTEE: By **April 1** first-year MA or MFA students should choose a committee chair to direct their MA or MFA project, and at least two other faculty members to serve as their supervisory committee. You will work most closely with the director, but you need to consult periodically with the other members of the committee as well. Committee members may be from departments other than Southern Studies. Students should notify the graduate director once the committee is in place and complete the [GS2- Graduate Advisory Committee Form](#).

* *Students starting the MFA after obtaining an MA in Southern Studies will form committees and defend their prospectus during their first semester of MFA study.*

PROSPECTUS: During the second semester of the MA program, students will develop a prospectus of their thesis, documentary, or internship project. The form and content of the prospectus will vary somewhat according to the track (thesis, documentary, or internship). Generally, though, the prospectus should articulate: (1) the scope of the project; (2) the question, problem, or topic the project will address; (3) the scholarly literature with which the project is in conversation; (4) a timeline for completion of the project; (5) a list of committee members who will oversee the project; and (6) a bibliography. Students will develop the prospectus over the course of their time in SST 602, and will present their prospectus to the class at the end of the semester.

IRB-APPROVAL/CITI TRAINING: A MA or MFA student whose project includes social science research methods (interviewing of unnamed research participants, participant observation, ethnography) needs to complete [CITI training](#) and to acquire [IRB approval](#) for their project. Students should work with their thesis advisor to determine if IRB approval is required for their project.

On-Campus and Digital Resources

Center for the Study of Southern Culture Institutes and Publications

- [The Southern Documentary Project \(SouthDocs\)](#): SouthDocs produces works of documentary storytelling from the perspective of studying the American South.
- [The Southern Foodways Alliance](#): The SFA documents, studies, and explores the diverse food cultures of the changing American South.
- [Living Blues Magazine](#): America's first blues publication, was acquired by the University of Mississippi in 1983.
- [The Southern Register](#): The Center's quarterly newsletter provides readers with Center-related news and updates.
- [Study the South](#): *Study the South* is a peer-reviewed, multimedia, online journal published and managed by the Center.

J.D. Williams Library

*The **Archives and Special Collections** department in the **John D. Williams Library** was established in 1975 to collect and to house rare books, manuscripts, maps, noteworthy editions, and ephemera. The Archive contains several units with distinctive collecting and service responsibilities. The **Mississippi Collection** is one of the largest collections of books concerning Mississippi. The collection includes holdings of early works on Mississippi as well as comprehensive author collections of Mississippi writers Larry Brown, William Faulkner, Willie Morris, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams, Richard Wright, and others. The **Faulkner Collection** now ranks as one of the strongest research collections on Faulkner in the world. In addition, the collection contains materials related to Mississippi's history and culture and the **African Americana Collection** of books, journals, and sheet music relating to African American culture and history. The Archive also maintains an extensive collection related to civil rights.

***The Blues Archive** contains recordings, books, journals, and memorabilia of blues music as well as the Goldstein Collection of written material on folklore. In addition, B. B. King donated his collection of blues, gospel, and jazz recordings by various artists.

***The Southern Media Archive** opened in 1994 as a division of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. In August of 2000 the Southern Media Archive became a part of the Archives and Special Collections department in the John D. Williams Library. The Archive houses some movies and independent film collections plus numerous audio field recordings. The mission of the Archive is to identify, collect, preserve, and make accessible the cultural expression of the U.S. South through various forms of documentary media.

***The Mississippi Home Movies Collection** provides a visual record of life in the state prior to World War II. From the earliest 8mm film shot in 1938 to Super-8 footage shot in 1990, family movies chronicle rural and town life throughout Mississippi.

*The Cofield Studio operated in Oxford from the 1920s to the 1980s. The **Cofield Collection** contains many formal portraits of William Faulkner as well as informal pictures of the writer, his family and friends, the town, and Lafayette County. The collection is both a documentary reflection of Oxford and the surrounding area and of Faulkner's fictitious Yoknapatawpha.

*Between 1961 and 1962, professional photographer and Faulkner enthusiast Martin J. Dain came to Oxford to document town and rural life in the hill county of North Mississippi. Dain made intimate portraits of daily life in the African American and white communities of Lafayette County. The **Dain Collection** is composed of 8,734 35mm black-and-white negatives, including over 100 photographs of William Faulkner at his home, Rowan Oak.

*The **Howard Collection**, containing approximately 160,000 black-and-white negatives from the studio

of Vic Howard, documents everyday life in Harlan County, Kentucky, from the 1940s through the 1970s. Howard's images of African American and white Appalachians, coal miners, local musicians, and the patterns of everyday life provide one of the most comprehensive indigenous photographic collections of the Appalachian region in existence.

***The Modern Political Archive** contains the papers of Mississippi politicians, judges, lawyers, and political organizations. Congressional collections that are currently open to researchers include the files of John Sharp Williams, Pat Harrison, Thomas G. Abernethy, William M. Whittington, and James O. Eastland. Although they represent the public service careers of single individuals, these collections also document the efforts of Mississippi residents who wrote their congressmen to express opinions on a wide array of topics and for assistance negotiating the red tape of the federal bureaucracy.

If you have questions about using library resources, your first point of contact should be Alex Watson, Research & Instruction Librarian and Professor (apwatson@olemiss.edu). He works particularly with graduate students in the humanities.

Computers

The Weir Hall computer labs have general use computers. The labs consist of a number of PCs and Macs as well as printers and scanners. The Center has a computer available for student use throughout the day in room 207 as well as scanners and a printer. The printer, along with other office machines including fax and copier, are not for *personal use*, however. Students are on their honor not to abuse printer privileges. For computer and related help, call the I.T. Help Desk at 915-5222.

Funding for Research Travel from Southern Studies

Southern Studies is able to offer up to \$500 for our graduate students who need to travel for research. Please see the guidelines at the end of the handbook for more information about how to apply.

Campus Resources Related to Wellbeing

- [UMatter](#)—Students and Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact U Matter: Student Support and Advocacy at 662-915-7248 or kforster@olemiss.edu. Students who struggle to afford groceries or access sufficient food to eat are especially encouraged to visit the [Grove Grocery: The UM Food Pantry](#) in 213 Kinard Hall or email grovegrocery@go.olemiss.edu. Students who are struggling to meet their basic needs may also find the following website helpful: <https://www.findhelpplafayettecounty.org/>.
- [UMatter](#)—Students Support and Advocacy: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources in the Title IX Office in 120 Lester Hall or at 662-915-7735.

UMatter Student Support Services and Advocacy provides free and confidential information, consultation, support, advocacy to University of Mississippi students and graduate students who have experienced a traumatic, disturbing or life disruptive event. U Matter is not a part of the police department, or the Equal Opportunity and Regulatory Compliance office, and is a confidential resource for students. U Matter provides targeted support and resources for students that are responding to Title IX or conduct matters at the university. These services include academic and housing accommodations for Title IX concerns, individual case management for responding students, support in Title IX investigations and conduct matters, connecting students with advisors for adjudication processes, and referrals to services on campus and in the community. Contact U Matter, umatter@olemiss.edu, 662-915-7248, 301 Student Union with questions or for support.

- [VIP: Survivor Support](#): Students who may have experienced any type of gender-based violence including sexual assault, relationship abuse, or stalking are encouraged to reach out to VIP: Survivor Support by calling 662-915-1059 or emailing sapoole@olemiss.edu for confidential emotional support and resources. Students may need support with their academics, non-emergency medical care, forensic exams, STI testing, reporting options, safe rooms/safety planning, and/or referrals for psychological support. Students will receive nonjudgmental emotional support and create an individualized plan to meet their needs.
- [University Counseling Center](#): The University Counseling Center is a professional facility offered by the University of Mississippi to assist students, faculty, and staff with many types of life stressors that interrupt day-to-day functioning, including the stressors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. They offer individual counseling, couple's counseling, group counseling, stress management, crisis intervention, assessments and referrals, outreach programs, consultations, and substance abuse services. There is no fee for currently enrolled University students and everything you say to your counselor is confidential. You can contact the Counseling Center for information about mental health issues at <https://counseling.olemiss.edu>, counslg@olemiss.edu, 662- 915-3784, 320 Lester Hall, and <https://www.facebook.com/universitycounselingcenterolemiss/>. You can schedule an appointment or get information about appointments by calling the UCC at 662-915-3784.
- [UMSafe](#): provides resources and information for individuals who are alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment, individuals who have been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment, and other members of the University community.
- [Bias Education and Response Team](#): for reporting bias-related incidents, such as threats or acts of harassment or intimidation, which are motivated by a bias against a person because of that person's identity.
- [Diversity and Community Engagement](#): supports the mission of UM by transforming people, institutions, and communities through partnership, access, and engagement that fosters belonging, enriches learning and development, enhances research, and creates equitable opportunities for all.
- [Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement](#): develops programs and services that support UM's core value of inclusiveness.
- [Sarah Isom Center](#): for Women and Gender Studies educates about issues of gender and sexuality, promotes interdisciplinary research, and advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- [LGBTQIA+ Programming and Initiatives](#)

Southern Studies Core Faculty and Staff

Core Faculty

Simone Delerme

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Undergraduate Student Co-advisor

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Dr. Simone Pierre Delerme joined the University of Mississippi's Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Center for the Study of Southern Culture in the fall of 2013. She specializes in Latino migration to the U.S. South, with interests in race relations, language ideologies, social class inequalities and suburbanization.

Delerme holds a bachelor's in political science and a master's in liberal arts from the University of Delaware, as well as master's and doctorate degrees in anthropology from Rutgers University. The research featured in her new book, *Latino Orlando: Suburban Transformation and Racial Conflict*, focuses on Latino migration to Orlando, Florida and the social class distinctions and racialization processes that create divergent experiences in Southern spaces and places. Delerme is working on a new ethnographic research project, which examines Latino migration to Memphis, TN, and North Mississippi. Delerme's work has been featured in several academic publications, including *Southern Spaces*, *Southern Cultures*, *Centro Journal*, and *Anthropology News*.

W. Ralph Eubanks

Visiting Professor of Southern Studies, English, and Honors

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Ralph Eubanks is the author of *The House at the End of the Road: The Story of Three Generations of an Interracial Family in the American South*, *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past*, and *A Place Like Mississippi: A Journey Through a Real and Imagined Literary Landscape*, which will be released in 2021. He has contributed articles to the *Washington Post* Outlook and Style sections, the *Wall Street Journal*, *WIRED*, the *New Yorker*, and *Vanity Fair*. He is a recipient of a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and has been a fellow at the New America Foundation. He is the former editor of the *Virginia Quarterly Review* at the University of Virginia and served as director of publishing at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., from 1995 to 2013.

Darren E. Grem

Associate Professor of History and Southern Studies

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Darren E. Grem earned his B.A. from Furman University and M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He held postdoctoral fellowships at Yale University and Emory University before joining the faculty at the University of Mississippi. Darren is the author of *The Blessings of Business: How Corporations Shaped Conservative Christianity* (Oxford University Press, 2016), a book that details how

conservative evangelicals strategically used business leaders, organizations, methods, and money to advance their cultural and political aspirations in twentieth-century America. With John Corrigan and Amanda Porterfield, Darren is co-editor of *The Business Turn in American Religious History* (Oxford University Press, 2017), a collection of essays that reconsiders the role of business in American religious culture and politics. Also, with Ted Ownby and James Thomas, Jr., he is co-editor of *Southern Religion, Southern Culture: Essays Honoring Charles Reagan Wilson* (University Press of Mississippi, 2018). His second long-term project, *Hard Times, USA: The Great Depression in American Memory*, is an expansive study of how Americans after World War II remembered and used the Great Depression in popular culture (memorial sites, music, literature, art, film) and in political activism for and against the New Deal state.

Darren teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in twentieth-century U.S. history, southern history and southern studies, and modern politics and culture.

Adam Gussow

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Adam Gussow has a joint appointment in English and Southern Studies. Recent themes in his seminars have included "Southern Musicians' Autobiographies," "Freedom Summer 1964: Mississippi's Civil Rights Watershed," and "Robert Johnson, the Devil's Music, and the Blues." His research and teaching interests include blues music, literature, culture, and tourism; southern music (especially country, bluegrass, and jazz); African American literature and cultural politics; the persistence of the pastoral South idea and other southern mythologies; and the long arc from slavery and segregation through the Civil Rights movement and contemporary struggles for racial justice.

Adam has a Ph.D. and B.A in English from Princeton University and an M.A. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University. Between graduate degrees, Gussow spent a decade as a blues harmonica instructor and performer, part of a Harlem-based duo that was recently profiled in a Netflix documentary, "Satan & Adam," and he continues to record albums and play gigs here in Oxford when time permits. His books include *Mister Satan's Apprentice: A Blues Memoir* (1998), *Seems Like Murder Here: Southern Violence and the Blues Tradition* (2000), and *Beyond the Crossroads: The Devil and the Blues Tradition* (2017), which won a *Living Blues Award* as "Best Blues Book of 2017." His newest book, *Whose Blues? Facing Up to Race and the Future of the Music*, will be published by UNC Press in the fall of 2020.

Andy Harper

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Andy Harper is the director of the Southern Documentary Project (SouthDocs), which produces documentary film and radio features as well as oral history projects. Dr. Harper holds a bachelor's degree in English from Millsaps College, a master's degree in history from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a PhD in history from Northern Arizona University. His specialties include environmental history, Mississippi history, and documentary studies.

Melanie Ho

Producer/Director, Southern Documentary Project
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Melanie is a Vietnamese American filmmaker and writer from Florida. She received her MFA from UCSC's Social Documentation program. Mel's most recent experimental documentary, [sống ở đây | to live here](#), explores the Vietnamese community in New Orleans and the relationship between land and labor, seen through their foodways. Her work focuses on trauma, familial relationships, gender, displacement, and intimacy. Mel is working towards amplifying the voices of those on the margins. You can catch her most nights thinking about her nonexistent love life and fish sauce.

Zaire Love

Filmmaker, Southern Foodways Alliance
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Zaire Love is an award-winning filmmaker, music maker, and writer whose mission is to honor, amplify, and archive the stories and voices of the Black South concentrating her work in Memphis, TN, and Mississippi. Her artistry is an ode to being Black and Southern in America because the Black South has always had meaningful "cornbread" to share. Zaire is a graduate of Spelman College [BA], Houston Baptist University [M.Ed], and the University of Mississippi [MFA]. In addition to her work with SFA, Zaire is currently making and creating with her studio, [Creative Cornbread](#).

Katie McKee

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Katie McKee has a joint appointment in English and Southern Studies. She teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses, including SST 101, 102, 401, 402, 601, and 602. Recent topics in her graduate seminars have included "The Literature of the Civil War and Reconstruction," "The New Southern Studies," "Literary Regionalism," "Nineteenth-Century Women Writers," and "Nineteenth Century American Travel Writing."

Katie has a BA from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, and an MA and PhD in American literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She joined the Southern Studies faculty in 1997. She is coeditor with Deborah Barker of *American Cinema and the Southern Imaginary* (2011) and author of *Reading Reconstruction: Sherwood Bonner and the Literature of the Post Civil War South* (2019). Her research interests include 19th-century Southern literature, Global South studies, humor studies, the South in film, and Southern women writers.

Catarina Passidomo

Graduate Director

Southern Foodways Alliance Associate Professor Southern Studies and Anthropology

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Catarina has a joint appointment in Anthropology and Southern Studies, serves as the Center's Graduate Director, and works closely with the Southern Foodways Alliance. Catarina joined the faculty of the University of Mississippi in 2014. She is interested primarily in studying food systems to better understand and contest broader social systems and phenomena. Through work with her students and the Southern Foodways Alliance, she investigates the connections between the food system and: migration between the Global South and the U.S. South; structural racism; economic inequality; and demographic and culinary changes in the American South. Catarina has published articles in *Food, Culture, and Society*; *Urban Studies*; *Geoforum*; *Agriculture and Human Values*; *The Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development*; *Oxford Bibliographies in Geography*; and *ACME*, and has contributed chapters to two edited volumes on Food Sovereignty and the food-immigration nexus. She teaches Geography 101, Southern Food Studies (SST 555), and other courses in Anthropology and Southern Studies.

John Rash

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John Rash, Assistant Professor of Film Production and Southern Studies, is a filmmaker, photographer, and video artist who has worked as visual storyteller and educator in the United States and China. John earned his M.F.A. in Experimental and Documentary Arts from Duke University in 2014 and has since focused his work on documenting the stories of the American South, environmentalism, counter-culture communities, avant-garde cinema, expanded cinema, and moving-image installation. As the founder / curator of the Southern Punk Archive (www.southernpunkarchive.com), John works to preserve the music, stories, and ephemera from vibrant D.I.Y. punk and hardcore communities throughout the American South. John was the recipient of the Soul of Southern Film award from Indie Memphis Film Festival in 2018 and continues to exhibit his work in festivals, galleries, and museums internationally.

Jodi Skipper

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Southern Studies

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Jodi Skipper has a joint appointment in Anthropology and Southern Studies. Her current research explores how African Americans are historically represented through material culture and how that interacts with the production of heritage in tourism spaces. She teaches courses on heritage tourism in the US South and on the African diaspora. She is the co-editor of *Navigating Souths* and author of *Behind the Big House*.

Center Staff and Institutional Affiliates

Brett Bonner

Editor, *Living Blues Magazine*

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Brett Bonner is the editor of *Living Blues* magazine. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, sociology, and philosophy from the University of Mississippi, as well as a master's degree in sociology. He has worked at *Living Blues* for over 30 years and has written extensively about the blues. As the editor he handles all story, review, and photography assignments and also decides the theme and scope of each issue.

Rebecca Lauck Cleary

Communications Specialist

215 Barnard Observatory rebeccac@go.olemiss.edu x3369

Rebecca is originally from Lafayette, Louisiana and earned her B.A. in journalism and M.A. in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi. She writes news and feature articles for the website and the Southern Register about all of the exciting programs and student projects happening in Barnard, as well as publicizes the Center's various events. She also registers students for classes each semester. Additionally, she teaches a section of EDHE 105 in the fall to help freshmen navigate the unfamiliar territory of college life. She helps with the Oxford Conference for the Book and is on the Board of Directors of the Literacy Council. If you have an idea for an article or are working on an interesting project, let her know!

Kell Kellum

Operations Assistant

Barnard Observatory 106

kellkellum@gmail.com, x5993

As Operations Assistant, Kell is the face of the Center. He assists with room reservations, classroom technology, and a million other things related to our home in Barnard Observatory. He has a SST BA from 2014.

Bert Neal

Administrative Coordinator

Barnard Observatory 110

bpneal@olemiss.edu x 3364

Bert Neal is the Center's Administrative Coordinator. One of her many duties is managing the financial affairs for the Center. This encompasses monitoring budgets, processing accounts payable and accounts receivable, payroll, purchases, travel requests, requests for payment, personnel forms, and the preparation and maintenance of grant applications. She was raised in a small Delta town, and moved to Cleveland, Mississippi in 1985. She relocated to Oxford in December 2019.

Afton Thomas

Associate Director for Programs
amthoma4@olemiss.edu

Afton Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in theatre from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a master's degree in theatre with an emphasis on children's theatre education from Sacramento State University. In 2014 she began work at the Center as project coordinator with the Southern Foodways Alliance and served in this position for 4.5 years. Afton's professional experience includes theatre education, hospitality management, human resources, and project management. In her current role as associate director for programs, Afton supports faculty and the Center's institutes with the planning and execution of conferences, workshops, and special events. She is also fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the Center's documentary expression MFA students on logistics and execution of their artist events.

James G. Thomas, Jr.

Associate Director for Publications
East Turret, Barnard Observatory jgthomas@olemiss.edu

James G. Thomas, Jr. began work at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture as managing editor of the twenty-four-volume *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* in 2003, and he has been the Center's Associate Director for Publications since 2011. He is editor of *Conversations with Barry Hannah*, co-editor of the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Series (with Jay Watson), associate editor of *The Mississippi Encyclopedia*, and co-editor of the online *Mississippi Encyclopedia*. He holds a BA in philosophy and English, an MA in Southern Studies, and an MFA in Documentary Expression, each from the University of Mississippi.

Thomas is also the director of the Center's annual Oxford Conference for the Book and the editor of *Study the South*, the Center's online journal, and the *Southern Register*, the Center's newsmagazine. Before joining the Center staff, Thomas worked as an editor for publications in New York and Oxford, Mississippi.

Karen Tuttle

Administrative Coordinator, Southern Documentary Project
Kinard Hall Wing D, Office 241
ktuttle@olemiss.edu x1236

Karen is the Administrative Coordinator for the Southern Documentary Project. A 1991 Ole Miss graduate with a BS degree in Education, Karen has been with the department since. She manages the day-to-day operations of the Documentary Project office, and also videotapes and edits various University functions and events. Karen was born in Memphis but is a longtime resident of the Oxford area. She is a devoted dog lover with numerous rescues to her credit.

Melanie Young

Publication Manager, *Living Blues Magazine*
South Oxford Campus melanie@livingblues.com x5129

Melanie Young first began working with *Living Blues* in 2009 as the circulation manager. At the same time, she had an editorial internship with the publication. Since then, she's been a contributing writer for *Living Blues* and even wrote her Southern Studies master's thesis on the magazine in 2012. In 2008,

Young earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature at the University of Southern Mississippi. As publication manager, Young's duties include managing the day-to-day tasks necessary to the upkeep of the magazine, which consists of subscription services, publishing, distribution, marketing and accounting. In addition, Young also trains and supervises graduate assistants and student workers.

Southern Foodways Alliance Staff

www.southernfoodways.com sfa@olemiss.edu

Barnard Observatory, Big Tower

The Southern Foodways Alliance is an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. The SFA documents and celebrates the diverse food cultures of the American South. We set a common table where black and white, rich and poor—all who gather—may consider our history and our future in a spirit of reconciliation.

John T. Edge

johnt@southernfoodways.org

John T. is the SFA's founding director emeritus. He holds an M.A. in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi and an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Goucher College. The author or editor of a dozen books, including the foodways volume of the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, he most recently wrote *The Potlikker Papers*, a food history of the American South, now in paperback from The Penguin Press. He has won three James Beard Foundation awards, including the MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award, and is the writer and host for TrueSouth, a narrative series about Southern food culture, which airs on ESPN/ SEC Network.

Melissa Booth Hall

melissa@southernfoodways.org

Melissa Booth Hall is the SFA's Interim Co-Director. She holds a J.D. from Northern Kentucky University and a B.A. in English from Centre College. In 2003 she volunteered at the SFA's Fall Symposium...13 1/2 gallons of pimento cheese and 1000 deviled eggs later, she was hooked. Since joining the SFA's staff, Melissa has led field trips and Summer Symposia, organized countless Potlikker Film Festivals across the region (and beyond), and served as operations manager for Fall Symposiums. These days, her focus is overseeing SFA staff, outreach, donor relations, and long-range planning.

Mary Beth Lasseter

marybeth@southernfoodways.org

Mary Beth Lasseter is the SFA's Interim Co-Director. She is from South Georgia—Valdosta, to be exact. She found her way to a Southern Studies MA after graduating from the University of Notre Dame and spending a year with AmeriCorps in Tuskegee, Alabama. She wrote her master's thesis on Elvis Presley as a catalyst for white Southern feminism. Post-Elvis study for an MBA was less enjoyable, but has proven useful in her role as associate director of the Southern Foodways Alliance. She and her husband, Ned Mitchell, stay busy with their four children.

Zaire Love

zaire@southernfoodways.org

Zaire Love is the SFA Pihakis Documentary Filmmaker. She is an award-winning filmmaker, music maker, and writer whose mission is to honor, amplify, and archive the stories and voices of the Black South concentrating her work in Memphis, TN, and Mississippi. Her artistry is an ode to being Black and

Southern in America because the Black South has always had meaningful “cornbread” to share. Zaire is a graduate of Spelman College [BA], Houston Baptist University [M.Ed], and the University of Mississippi [MFA]. In addition to her work with SFA, Zaire is currently making and creating with her studio, [Creative Cornbread](#).

Sara Camp Milam

saracamp@southernfoodways.org

Sara Camp Milam is the SFA’s managing editor. Her projects include *Gravy*, SFA’s quarterly foodways journal. She has a B.A. in Spanish from Princeton University and an M.A. in folklore from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Claire Moss

claire@southernfoodways.org

Claire Moss is SFA’s development officer and is charged with annual giving campaigns and individual gifts. Claire holds a BS in social work from the University of Mississippi and a master’s in social work from Louisiana State University. Prior to joining SFA’s world headquarters, she spent the majority of her career in the nonprofit sector in both executive and development roles. She moved to Oxford with her family in the summer of 2017.

Course Listings

Course listings change frequently. Please visit individual department websites for lists of their classes and the MyOleMiss portion of the University's website for the most accurate offerings by semester. In advance of each registration period, we will publish a list of classes that we can accept for graduate credit during the upcoming term. We encourage students to locate additional possibilities on their own, but also to consult with the graduate director before registering.

SOUTHERN STUDIES (SST) COURSES

SST 533: Fieldwork and Oral History: Training in basic field research techniques of oral history and documentary photography. Students will record interviews and make documentary photographs that explore a pre-assigned topic in southern culture. Prerequisite for SST 534 and SST 537.

SST 534: Documentary Photography: Prerequisite is SST 533.

SST 536: The Southern Environment

SST 537: Documenting the South in Film: Prerequisite is SST 533.

SST 538: Advanced Documentary Film in the South: Prerequisite is SST 537

SST 555: Southern Food Studies

SST 560: Oral History of Southern Social Movements.

SST 598, 599. Special Topics: Interdisciplinary study of specialized topics in Southern culture. May be repeated (twice) for credit.

SST 601: Graduate Seminar I: Multidisciplinary reading and research seminar in Southern Studies.

Students will read and discuss a common core of readings while pursuing research in their individual areas of interest. Required for all incoming students.

SST 602: Graduate Seminar II. Required for all second-semester MA students. Students will complete a thesis prospectus.

SST 603: Internship: Supervised research and work at an on or off-campus cultural institution. Interns are required to maintain a journal of their fieldwork experiences. Students receiving nine hours of credit must submit a final research paper of approximately 40 pages and devote 20 hours per week to the internship; students receiving six hours of credit must devote 12-15 hours per week to the

internship and write a 12-15 page research paper; students receiving three hours of credit work 10 hours a week and prepare a weekly journal.

SST 605: Advanced Individual Study: Students develop their own course of study in consultation with a supervising professor.

SST 610: MFA Seminar: Required for incoming MFA students.

SST 633: MFA Fieldwork: This class exposes students to multiple forms of fieldwork (video, audio, and printed photography) and to practitioners of various kinds of documentary work, encouraging them to produce by semester's end a project that utilizes skills in at least one of the approaches to which they have been exposed.

SST 697: Thesis (see Thesis section below).

SST 699: MFA Workshop: This class functions as a workshop in which students share documentary works in progress and receive feedback from their cohort and from faculty. Students present ongoing project at multiple points in the semester and reflect on both the content of their work and the process involved in its production.

Theses and Internships

Most Southern Studies student theses are available through the University library. You can access a complete list from our website: www.southernstudies.olemiss.edu. Topic headings include these: History & Civil Rights, People & Places, Literature & Film, Art & Architecture, Music & Entertainment, Religion, Sports & Recreation, Politics, and Foodways. A list of the locations at which people have completed internships also appears on the website.



Southern Studies MA Degree Checklist

SST 601 ____

SST 602 ____

18 hours of coursework/6 courses (thesis or documentary track):

[additional courses for internship track: 1. ____; 2. ____]

SST 697____, ____ (thesis or documentary track)

OR

SST 603____,____(internship track)

Thesis Track = 18 hours of course work, including courses in at least two disciplines other than Southern Studies + SST 601 + SST 602 + at least six thesis hours (SST 697) + successful prospectus + successful thesis defense= 30 hours

Documentary Track = 18 hours of course work, including SST 533 and SST 534 or SST 537 + SST 601 + SST 602 + at least six thesis hours (SST 697) + successful prospectus + successful thesis defense= 30 hours

Internship Track = 24 hours of course work, including courses in at least two disciplines other than Southern Studies + SST 601 + SST 602 + at least six hours of SST 603 (internship) + successful prospectus+ successful public presentation= 36 hours

*Only 12 hours may be taken in any single discipline, excluding Southern Studies.

*SST 598 and SST 599 may each be repeated twice for credit.



Documentary Expression MFA Degree Checklist

SST 601 _____

SST533 _____

SST 610_____

SST 633_____

SST 699_____,_____,_____

SST 534 or SST 537 or SST 538 _____

elective: _____

SST 697_____,_____, _____

MFA = 21 hours of course work (including SST 601, SST 533, SST 610, and SST 633; 3 hours of SST 699; as well as SST 534, SST 537, or SST 538) + 9 hours of SST 697 + successful prospectus meeting + successful thesis defense= 30 hours.

*Students with an MA in SST from UM may bring forward 6 hours of credit from their earlier degree program. Students may not repeat classes they took as part of their MA coursework, with the exception of SST 598, 599, 605, and 697.

*Students may repeat SST 598 and SST 599 twice for credit as part of their MFA coursework.

*Students may complete two sections of SST 605 (Independent Study) as part of their MFA coursework.

2023-2024 MA Documentary Track and MFA Courses and Trajectory

All SST Documentary Courses Available as of Fall 2023

SST 533: Fieldwork & Oral History (Fall, Harper)	SST 560: Oral History of Southern Social Movement (Spring, Parsons)
SST 534: Documentary Photography (Spring, White)	SST 598: Special Topics (Varies)
SST 535: Anthropological Films (Spring, Delerme)	SST 601: Southern Studies Graduate Seminar I (Fall, varies)
SST 537: Documenting the South in Film (Spring, Harper or Rash)	SST 610: MFA Seminar (Spring, Harper or Rash)
SST 538: Advanced Documentary Film/South (Spring, Ho)	SST 633: MFA Fieldwork (Fall, Rash)
SST 540: Photographing Place in the US South (Fall, White)	SST 638: MFA Post-production (Fall, Ho)
SST 544: Advanced Documentary Photography (Spring, White or Rash)	SST 699: MFA Workshop (1 credit hour per semester)

Track for 3 year MFA (Need 15 new hours beyond MA plus 9 thesis; can carry 6 hours from MA into MFA)

Semester 1: Fall 2023	Semester 2: Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Semester 3 Fall 2024	Semester 4 Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Semester 5 Fall 2025	Semester 6 Spring 2026
SST 601 (3) SST 533 (3) Elective (3)	SST 602 (3) SST 534 or 537 (3) Elective (3) SST 699 (1) MA Prospectus	<i>Optional:</i> May take 3 or 6 hours of 697 (thesis)	Elective (3-9) Thesis (3) SST 540 (3) SST 699 (1)	Thesis (6) SST 538 (3) SST 699 (1) MA defense MFA Prospectus	Thesis (6) <i>(majority of production)</i>	SST 638 (3) SST 633 (3) Elective (3) SST 699 (1)	Thesis (3) SST 544 (3) or Elective (3) SST 610 (3) SST 699 (1) MFA Defense and Public Presentation

Track for 2 year MFA (Need 21 hours plus 9 thesis)

MA already completed outside of Southern Studies	Semester 1 Fall 2023	Semester 2 Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Semester 3 Fall 2024	Semester 4 Spring
	SST 601 (3) SST 533 (3) Elective (3) SST 699 (1)	SST 534 or 537 SST 633 (3) SST 610 (3) Elective (3) S St 699 (1) MFA Prospectus	Thesis (6) <i>(majority of production)</i>	SST 633 (3) SST 540 or 638 (3) Elective/Thesis (3) SST 699 (1)	Thesis (3) SST 544 or Elective (3) SST 699 (1) MFA Defense and Public Presentation

University-related Travel – SST Grad Students

The CSSC will provide up to \$500 per student per year for research or conference related travel. Please carefully read the following guidelines before seeking travel funding.

BEFORE YOUR TRIP:

TRAVEL PLANS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CENTER DIRECTOR BEFORE ANY ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE.

Immediately after the director's approval the student **MUST** send the following information to the Center Administrative Coordinator, Bert Neal, at bpneal@olemiss.edu:

The purpose of the trip including the start-and-end dates

Student personnel number

Student ID number

Student email address

This information will be entered into the University system, after which the student will receive a card to complete and to deliver to the UM Human Resources Department. This process enables receipt of reimbursement by direct deposit. If this process is not followed, UM Procurement Services will mail the travel reimbursement check to the address on file in the UM system (even if it is an out-of-state address).

The maximum assistance provided by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture is **\$500.00** per student per year. If assistance is provided by other campus departments, please follow their procedures and approval processes as well as the Center's. Only one travel claim form is allowed per trip even if multiple departments are helping pay the costs.

If presenting at a conference or receiving an award for original work, the Graduate School provides up to \$300.00 annually, and the Center agrees to match that amount. To utilize this funding opportunity, completion of the "[Graduate Student Travel Request Form](#)" is required (found on the Graduate School homepage under "Resources" and then "Forms and Manuals Library"). The completed form must be submitted to the Graduate School at least 10 days before the trip.

Travel Authorization Form:

To travel using Center funding, a Travel Authorization form must be completed and delivered to the Center Operations Assistant no less than 10 days prior to the trip. (**Travel forms are available at procurement.olemiss.edu/travel.**)

Airfare:

Book through the internet and retrieve one (1) additional quote that reflects a more expensive roundtrip airfare. You must select the cheaper airfare. Both quotes must include all fees that will be charged.

Forward the email from the airline to the Center Operations Assistant, Kell Kellum, at wkellum@olemiss.edu (with pictures exposed). The paid itinerary and the additional quote must be filed with your travel voucher for reimbursement.

DURING YOUR TRIP:

KEEP ALL ORIGINAL RECEIPTS AND ITEMIZED CREDIT/DEBIT CARD RECEIPTS. ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CENTER FOR SAFEKEEPING RECEIPTS DURING YOUR TRIP. Scans, photos, screenshots, etc., will not be accepted for reimbursement (with the exception of an emailed airline receipt). UM Procurement Services requires that the Center collect and keep these documents on file for auditing purposes.

Food/Meals (per diem):

There is a maximum allowable per diem rate of \$46/day, but that amount can change depending on location and time of year. A maximum tip of 20% can be added to the bill and will normally be reimbursed. If meals are provided or if you choose not to claim per diem, no receipts are needed. **NO ALCOHOL PURCHASES WILL BE REIMBURSED.**

Lodging:

An itemized, paid-in-full receipt is required for lodging. This can be requested at the front desk at the end of your stay. The University allows Airbnb stays, but a proper receipt must also be obtained. Tips totaling \$10.00 or less FOR HOTEL GRATUITIES ONLY will be reimbursed without a receipt.

Car Rental:

The University of Mississippi has several in-state contracts with various car rental companies. **(For the Rental Car Policy visit procurement.olemiss.edu/travel/).** A pre-trip confirmation is not sufficient for reimbursement. The final paid receipt from the rental company is required. Original fuel receipts should also be kept (mileage will not be reimbursed if a vehicle is rented).

Mileage:

If driving a personal vehicle, mileage will be reimbursed at \$0.625/mile. The roundtrip and/or start-and-end addresses must be provided. For a trip involving several locations, the start address, each subsequent address, and the ending address must be provided. The Center will calculate the allowable miles and reimbursement by using www.googlemaps.com.

Public Transportation/Taxi/Lyft/Uber:

For use of a city bus, subway, taxi, Lyft, Uber, or shuttle service, an original receipt is required. In the case of a subway, bus, or taxi, a receipt is normally given at the time of the ride. For Uber or Lyft, please be sure to keep the emailed receipt (with pictures exposed) and either forward via email to the Center Operations Assistant at (wkellum@olemiss.edu) or deliver with all other paperwork when you return.

Parking: Parking a personal vehicle at an airport or hotel is reimbursable. An original receipt must be provided.

AFTER YOUR TRIP:

Travel Reimbursement:

The Travel Reimbursement Voucher must be completed after the trip to indicate any expenses to be reimbursed and to close out any advances or pre-trip reimbursements. Any pre-trip reimbursement for a conference registration fee or non-refundable flight must be claimed on the Travel Reimbursement Voucher, just as it was claimed on the Travel Authorization form. The UM travel

system recognizes that it has been paid and will adjust remaining reimbursements accordingly.

As stated before, original receipts are required for reimbursement.

For help with completing this form, please contact the Center Operations Assistant, Kell Kellum, at wkellum@olemiss.edu or extension 5993.

SUMMARY:

BEFORE YOUR TRIP:

The trip must be approved by the Center Director.

Your trip information, personnel and student ID numbers must be provided to the Center Administrative Coordinator.

Follow required procedures for other departments if funding is shared.

Complete a Travel Authorization form.

Travel forms are available at procurement.olemiss.edu/travel.

Deliver the original paid receipt for a conference registration fee, along with the Travel Authorization form, to the Center Operations Assistant.

For airfare, forward email from the airline to the Center Operations Assistant at wkellum@olemiss.edu (with pictures exposed).

Paperwork must be submitted TWO WEEKS prior to departure.

DURING YOUR TRIP:

KEEP ALL ORIGINAL RECEIPTS. ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CENTER FOR SAFEKEEPING RECEIPTS DURING YOUR TRIP.

Food:

Keep ITEMIZED AND CREDIT/DEBIT CARD receipts.

No more than 20% tip.

No alcohol.

Lodging:

Retrieve an itemized receipt from hotel or Airbnb.

For hotel gratuities only, tips totaling \$10.00 or less will be reimbursed without a receipt.

Car Rental:

Keep final paid receipt.

Keep original fuel receipts.

Mileage:

Document start/end addresses; the Center will figure allowable mileage.

Mileage reimbursement rate is \$0.625/mile.

Public Transportation/Taxi/Lyft/Uber:

Keep original receipts or emailed receipts (with pictures exposed) for delivery to the Center.

Parking: Keep original receipt.

AFTER YOUR TRIP:

Travel Reimbursement Voucher:

The completed and signed Travel Reimbursement Voucher form must be delivered to the Center Operations Assistant, along with supporting paid receipts and/or paid invoices. Please deliver these documents immediately after your trip is finished.

Some useful websites

Center for the Study of Southern Culture: <https://southernstudies.olemiss.edu/>

A digital copy of this handbook is available under the Academics tab. You will also find information about current courses, events, news, and other information. Also be sure to follow the CSSC on social media!

The Graduate School: <https://gradschool.olemiss.edu/home/>.

In particular, bookmark the “endgame” page (<https://gradschool.olemiss.edu/current-students/the-end-game-preparing-to-graduate/>) which contains valuable information about forms and deadlines required to graduate. This is also a good place to go for a list of wellness resources on campus.

Oxford-University Transit: <https://www.outransit.com/>

Bus routes for campus and Oxford

(Also see resources linked in the campus resources section of this handbook.)