



Shelby Ray Watson

Thesis Defense
College of Humanities &
Social Sciences
Department of History
History, MA

“Prison Capital: Convict Leasing in Texas”

After the fall of slavery and the end of Reconstruction, the practice of convict leasing in Texas became one of the most lucrative financial and social institutions in the state. The practice was tied to both economic necessity and Jim Crow era racism in the New South. Over the course of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the practice of convict leasing evolved from a backwards, dilapidated practice into one of the most important social, economic, and political tools of the era. This study seeks to reinvest political economy as a topic of historical discussion to help recontextualize the role of the Texas State Penitentiary in post-Reconstruction Texas.

Event Information

November 5, 2024
12:00 P.M.
AB IV, Room 452

Committee Members

Dr. Jeff Littlejohn
Dr. Bernadette Pruitt
Dr. Uzma Quraishi



Sam Houston State University

PUBLIC DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT