

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: GENDER, RACE AND NATION

Course Description

The Civil War was one of the most defining moments in US history. The secession of eleven southern states in 1860 and 1861, not only established an independent pro-slavery republic (the Confederate States of America), it unleashed one of the bloodiest and most revolutionary wars in modern history – one that abolished slavery and preserved the Union, but also redefined what it meant to be a citizen of it, the role of its government, and the identity of its people. Yet, few events are as popularly misunderstood as the Civil War. Fortunately, few have left a better cache of records for scholars seeking to understand it.

This is a research seminar. The course introduces students to key contributions, developments and debates in the literature, and provides an opportunity to undertake independent research on any topic related to the history of the American Civil War. Pedagogically the course pursues a parallel process of reading in the relevant literature and guided research on a topic of the student's choice. The course is designed to model the research and writing process professional historians use, beginning with a paper proposal and bibliography of primary and secondary sources. It proceeds through the various stages of the research process to produce drafts of the essay and finally the finished essay. All major written work is for peer review. The course fulfills the research requirement for the history major.

Requirements

Readings:

Selected primary sources

Mark Grimsley, *Hard Hand of War: Union Military Policy Toward Southern Civilians, 1861-1865*

Ari Kalman, *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek*

Drew Gilpin Faust, *The Creation of Confederate Nationalism: Ideology and Identity in the Civil War South; This Republic of Suffering*

Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South*

Ira Berlin et al, *Slaves No More: Three Essays on Emancipation and the Civil War*

Amy Dru Stanley, *From Bondage to Contract: Wage Labor, Marriage, and the Market in the Age of Slave Emancipation*

Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction*

David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*

Writing:

Paper proposal and bibliography (2 pps)

1 short paper analyzing a primary source (2-3 pps)

Final essay (15-20 pps)

Paper proposals and drafts of papers will be submitted for peer review and discussion in seminar.

Evaluation Method

Final grades for the course will be determined as follows:

Attendance, participation, and peer review: 30%

Paper proposal and bibliography: 10%

Primary source analysis: 10%

Final paper: 50%

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week 1. *Introduction*

Week 2. *Surveying the Civil War Terrain*

Reading: Abraham Lincoln, "Speech on the Dred Scott Decision," June 26, 1857;
Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863; Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863

South Carolina, "Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina From the Federal Union," December 24, 1860

Alexander H. Stephen, "Cornerstone Address," March 21, 1861

Confederate States of America, Conscription Act, April 16, 1862 ("An Act to Provide for the Further Defense.")

United States of America, Conscription Act, March 3, 1863 ("An Act for enrolling and calling out the National Forces and for other purposes.")

"Preliminary Report ... Made to the Secretary of War by The American Freedmen's Inquiry Commission," June 30, 1863, 38th Congress, First Session, Senate, Executive Document, No. 53.

Major General Patrick R. Cleburne et al, to Commanding General.....The Army of Tennessee, January 2, 1864

Week 3. *Making War*

Reading: Grimsley, *Hard Hand of War*
Faust, *Confederate Nationalism*

Week 4. *Experiencing War*

Reading: Faust, *This Republic of Suffering*

Week 5. *Research*

NO CLASS

Movie: *Lincoln* Time and place TBA

Week 6. *Research Topics and Proposals*

Presentation of research paper topics
Proposals and bibliographies must be posted by Monday 6pm.

Week 7. *Fall of the Slave South*

Reading: McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning*

Week 8. *Emancipation*

Readings: Berlin et al, *Slaves No More*
Written analysis of primary source/or annotated bibliography due Monday 9pm
Reports to class on research projects (topic, sources, archives)

Week 9. *Labor, Law, and Ideology*

Reading: Stanley, *Bondage and Contract*

Week 10. *Reconstruction*

Reading: Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction*

Week 11. *The Civil War and the West*

Reading: Ari Kalen, *A Misplaced Massacre*

Week 12. *Memory and the Civil War*

Reading: David Blight, *Race and Reunion*; Ta-Nehisi Coates, "Take Down the Confederate Flag Now," *The Atlantic*, 18 June 2015

Week 13. *Research Paper Workshop*

Presentation of first drafts

Week 14 *Research Paper Workshop*

Presentation of first drafts