

History 21401: The American Civil War and Reconstruction
Spring 2018 Sarah J. Purcell

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-2:50pm Noyce Science 2021

Office: Mears Cottage, Room 212 Phone: 2693091

Email: PURCELL@grinnell.edu Email is the best way to reach me.

Office Hours: Tu 1-3, W 4-5, Fr 10:30-12, and by appointment I am here to help you learn this semester, and I can always make time for you. Please come see me during office hours or make an appointment, so I can speak with you one-on-one.

Course Outline and Objectives

No one can adequately understand American History without understanding the causes, progress, and monumental consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction. This course will examine American history from the mid 1840s to the late 1870s, with a primary focus on the Civil War. The Civil War as an historical subject is about much more than just a series of battles. In this course, we will focus on issues of race, gender, class, and economics as well as important military matters. Our goal will be to understand how and why events happened as they did, whether the fundamental conflicts of the war were solved by Reconstruction, and why the Civil War has occupied such an important place in American history and imagination. We will consider the period from different perspectives: North versus South, enlisted soldiers versus commanders, battlefield versus "home front" in order to explain events of enormous significance. We will also consider how the Civil War has been remembered, and forgotten, in the 150 years since it began.

William J. Cooper, Jr. and John M. McCall Jr., eds. *In the Cause of Liberty: How the Civil War Redefined American Ideals* (2009)

William Craft and Ellen Craft. *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: The Escape of William*

March 17. A shorter memo paper will be due February 1. Each student will work in a team to create a research poster (preceded by a proposal and accompanied by a research journal) which will be showcased at our class poster session on May 4. Other homework, assignments, and digital exercises will be discussed in class and will count towards class participation. There will be a in-class final.

Poor attendance in class will seriously hurt your grade. You cannot participate if you are not in class. If you must miss class for an activity or athletic event, please arrange your absence with me at least one week in advance. If you need to miss class because you are sick, it is your responsibility to notify Prof. Purcell via email. Prof. Purcell will also grant accommodation for any needed religious absence; please speak to her.

Please silence your cell phone, and do not check email or text messages during class. Focus on class work. If you are using a laptop or mobile device for class work, please keep your attention there! I embrace the use of computers and mobile technology in this class but when you use a device for something other than class work, you distract yourself AND those around you. Don't do it.

If you require accommodation for any diagnosed disability, please speak with me during the first week of class. Grinnell College (and this class) provides reasonable accommodations. Students must arrange their accommodations with Accessibility and Disability Services; contact John Hirschman at 641-269-3710.

Grading:

Grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

Ordeal by Fire memo	5%
5-pp papers	15% each
Research Poster Proposal	5%
Research Reflection Journal	5%
Research Poster	15%
Final Exam	20%
Class Participation	20%

Steady improvement over the course of the semester will be taken into account.

Course Schedule and Assignments:

Mon. (Jan 2) Course Introduction

Tues. (Jan 23) EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: MLK, Jr. Day event: Airing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speech at Grinnell college in October 1967, 7:30 pm in JRC 101 (the event is preceded by a reception) For extra credit: turn in a one-page reflection on the talk

War Ignites
Mon. (Feb 12) The Failure of Compromise

Wed. (Mar 7) What Did Soldiers Fight For?

Reading Due: Biehl, Chandra Manning, Ch. 6 In the Cause of Liberty, pp. 87-104; Aaron Sheehan-Dean

Civil War History 50 (2004): 526

https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/civil_war_history/v050/50.1sheehandean.pdf Lorien

The Gentlemen and the Roughs: Violence, Honor, and Manhood in the Union Army, JSTOR

Book <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt9qfvt5.7> *e-reserve*, 8

Soldiers 1-11

Fri. (Mar 9) Black Soldiers

Reading Due: Dora L. Costa and Matthew V. O'Rourke, Journal of Economic History 66 (December 2006): 936-962;

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4501109> *e-reserve*, 8-11

Mon. (Apr 2) War, Nature, Strategy
Reading Due: Brady War upon the Land pp. xii-48

Turning Points of 1863

Wed. (Apr 4) Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chattanooga
Reading Due: Ordeal # 8 u U o -9; Concise Atlas pp. 5659, 6263, 6667

Fri. (Apr 6) Resistance & Dissent
Reading Due: Ordeal Ch. 20 8 u y = 7 -10; Concise Atlas pp. 60-61

Research Poster Proposal due 5:00 pm in Web

Mon. (Apr 9) Gettysburg, Mapping, and Spatial Analysis
k) " M M " † # O o 8 Placing
History: How Maps, Spatial Data, and GIS Are Changing Historical Scholarship ed. Anne
Kelly Knowles (Redlands, CA: ESRI Press, 2008) e-reserve; Lyde Cullen Sizer,
U o † # † = Journal of the Civil War Era
(2011): 536-548, JSTOR <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26070167>*e-reserve*

Wed. (Apr 11) Vicksburg as Turning Point
Reading Due: Brady War upon the Land pp. 4971; Be sure to watch the Civil War Trust
animated campaign map click here:
<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/vicksburg/maps/vicksburganimatedmap.html>

1864

Fri. (Apr 13) The Meaning of Death
Reading Due: The Gettysburg Address, Ordeal, pp. 16-A-17; Walt † u
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5-Page Paper Due 5:00 pm in Web

Mon. (Apr 16) Military Stalemate/ Political Battles
Reading Due: Ordeal Ch. 22 8 u U o - y
h -13; Concise Atlas pp. 6875, 8687

Wed. (Apr. 8) Total War
Reading Due: Brady War upon the Land pp. 721-40

War's End

Fri. (Apr 20) The End of the Confederacy
Reading Due: Ordeal Ch. 25 8 # h o l i t i c s , 1 8 6 4 - u -

