History 345L: The Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1877

Spring 2013
Unique #39465
T & TH 3:30-5:00
WAG 101

George Forgie
forgie@austin.utexas.edu
Garrison 3.212 (475-7231)

OVERVIEW. This course investigates the political, military, constitutional, diplomatic, and social aspects of the American Civil War and its aftermath. It seeks to provide students with an understanding of the background and purposes of the war, the strengths and strategies of the combatants, and the reasons why the war took the course that it did. The destruction of slavery is a central focus of the course. The last third of the course takes up the history of Reconstruction, concentrating on how the various plans of the victors affected and were affected by the lives and aspirations of the vanquished and the freed slaves.

BOOKS. The following paperbacks should be purchased:
James McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom
Allen C. Guelzo, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America
Gary W. Gallagher, The Confederate War
Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction
Albion Tourgée, A Fool's Errand: A Novel of the South during Reconstruction

CLASSES. Each class will consist of a lecture of 50-60 minutes, followed by discussion among those students who wish to stay. You may record the classes if you wish, but (unless authorized by SSD) no laptop computers or similar devices may be used or open during the lecture. The use—any use—of phones in class is not permitted. The consequence for students seen texting is yet to be determined, but it will probably fall just this side of the death penalty.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
Tuesday, January 15
Introduction

Thursday, January 17
The Background of Disunion and War

Tuesday, January 22
The Outbreak of War

Thursday, January 24
Outlooks and Strategies

Tuesday, January 29
First Engagements
Thursday, January 31  
Early 1862 (I)  

Tuesday, February 5  
Early 1862 (II)  

Thursday, February 7  
The Peninsula Campaign  

Tuesday, February 12  
The Antietam Campaign  

Thursday, February 14  
Emancipation (I)  

Tuesday, February 19  
Emancipation (II)  

**Thursday, February 21**  
*First Midterm Examination*  

Tuesday, February 26  
Chancellorsville and Gettysburg  

Thursday, February 28  
The Vicksburg Campaign  

Tuesday, March 5  
Late 1863: Lincoln at Gettysburg  

Thursday, March 7  
Military Campaigns of 1864  

Tuesday, March 19  
Experiences of the Soldiers  

Thursday, March 21  
The U.S. Election of 1864  

Tuesday, March 26  
The Crumbling Confederacy  

Thursday, March 28  
End of the Civil War
Tuesday, April 2  
Second Midterm Examination

Thursday, April 4  
Reconstruction: Introduction

Tuesday, April 9  
Reconstruction, 1864-1865

Thursday, April 11  
1866: The Fourteenth Amendment

Tuesday, April 16  
Reconstruction in 1867-1868: Impeachment

Thursday, April 18  
Land for the Freed People?

Tuesday, April 23  
Reconstruction Politics in the South

Thursday, April 25  
Redemption to 1874

Tuesday, April 30  
The End of Reconstruction

Thursday, May 2  
TBA

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING: In addition to the final examination (which will be comprehensive) on Saturday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, there will be two midterm exams--on Thursday, February 21, and Tuesday, April 2, at the class period. Each of the midterms will count 25% of the course grade. The final examination will count 50% of the course grade. The exams will consist of short-answer and essay questions on the material from the classes and readings (including any handouts that may come your way from the instructor). Enrollment in this course constitutes a commitment on your part to be present at all of these examinations. Exams will not be given ahead of schedule, nor will any make-ups be given, for any reason.

COURSE GRADING SCALE:
93-100% A
90-92% A-
87-89% B+
83-86% B
80-82% B-
77-79%    C+
73-76%    C
70-72%    C-
67-69%    D+
63-66%    D
60-62%    D-
Below 60%    F

READING ASSIGNMENTS:
Assignment for the first exam, Thursday, February 21:
(1) McPherson *Battle Cry of Freedom*, pp. 213-567
(2) Guelzo, *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation* (all)

Assignment for the second exam, Tuesday, April 2:
(1) McPherson *Battle Cry of Freedom*, pp. 568-862
(2) Gallagher, *Confederate War* (all)

Assignment for the final exam, Friday, May 11:
(1) ALL OF THE ABOVE, plus
(2) Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction* (all)
(3) Tourgée, *Fool's Errand* (all)

TEACHING ASSISTANT:
Nick Roland
nroland@utexas.edu

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd

STATEMENT FROM THE CENTER FOR THE CORE CURRICULUM:
“This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.”