

1-2014

HSTA 316.01: The Age of the Civil War, The United States 1846-1877

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

History 316, Spring 2014
MWF 12:10-1, SS 356

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THE AGE OF THE CIVIL WAR
The United States, 1846-1877

COURSE SYLLABUS

From the perspective of a century and a half, the Civil War generation is the most disruptive, violent, and significant era in all of American history. The United States is still, in the 21st century, grappling with the consequences of that mighty upheaval. As long as the United States has racial and regional issues, the Civil War has not ended. The War's long-range consequences help explain contemporary America.

The Civil War resolved two fundamental issues left undecided by the American Revolutionaries – whether the United States of America was indeed a “more perfect union” or merely a league of sovereign states, and whether a country founded on liberty and equality would continue as the world's largest slaveholding republic. In the end, “slavery was dead, secession was dead, and six hundred thousand men were dead. That was the basic balance sheet of sectional conflict.”

This course, the “Age of the Civil War,” aims at a comprehensive yet analytical examination of the breakup, travail, and reconstruction of the Union. The Civil War is a “Great Event,” which may be treated in terms of Causes, Course, and Consequences. Mediate causes stretch back to the 17th century; long-range consequences reach the present; we focus on the tumultuous years from 1846 to 1877. Although the conflict has important social, economic, political, and diplomatic developments, we must never forget that it was at heart a war – a vast military struggle in which people were killed and lives disrupted. No other activity makes sense outside of “the progress of our arms,” upon which, Abraham Lincoln pointed out, “all else depends.”

The historian Allan Nevins writes that the Civil War was “over slavery and the future position of the Negro race in North America.” He thus captures one major theme of the period 1846-1877 (if not the major theme of the period 1607-2014): race relations, or the status of Blacks in American society. This theme unites the Civil War era, from discussions of slavery in the territories to Dred Scott to emancipation to Reconstruction.

Like all History courses, this one has specific learning objectives, gained through class attention, note-taking, reading, reflection, questioning, writing, quizzes, and exams. Among these learning objectives are 1) Knowledge, or content, 2) Understanding, or comprehension, 3) Application, or relevance, 4) Analysis, 5) Synthesis, and 6) Evaluation, or judgment, comparison, and contrast.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

Buy These Books

Michael Shaara, *The Killer Angels* (1974).
Charles Bracelen Flood, *Grant and Sherman: The Friendship That Won the Civil War* (2005).

On Reserve in the Mansfield Library

Paul S. Boyer, et.al., *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People* (2008)
Carol Berkin, et.al., *Making America: A History of the United States* (2008)
James Kirby Martin, et. al., *America and Its People* (1989).
James A. Henretta, et. al., *America's History* (1993).

A Civil War Folder, containing the following material:

- Course Syllabus
- Civil War Statistics
- Civil War Reading Lists
- James Sloan Gibbons, "We Are Coming, Father Abraham."
- Julia Ward Howe, "Battle Hymn of the Republic."
- Carol Reardon, "I Think the Union Army Had Something to Do with It: The Pickett's Charge Nobody Knows," in Gabor S. Boritt, ed., *The Gettysburg Nobody Knows* (1977), 122-43.
- "Was the Civil War Total War?" in Eugene H. Berwanger, ed., *The Civil War Era: Historical Viewpoints* (1994), 143-59. Contains James M. McPherson, "Lincoln and the Strategy of Unconditional Surrender" and Mark E. Neely, Jr., "Was the Civil War a Total War?"
- James M. McPherson, "American Victory, American Defeat," in Gabor S. Boritt, ed., *Why the Confederacy Lost* (1992), 17-42.

Requirements

History 316 has five (5) requirements: Attendance; an in-class quiz on the coming of the War (Feb. 21); a short paper on *The Killer Angels*; a short paper on Grant and Sherman; and a Final Examination on victory and defeat. Grade proportions are mutable, but roughly:

Attendance	10%
The Coming of War Quiz	10%
Short Paper I	25%
Short Paper II	25%
Final Exam	30%

Attendance: A sign-up sheet will be circulated each day; it's your responsibility to autograph it.

The Coming of War: in-class quiz, February 21.

Short paper 1: "*Killer Angels* and the Battle of Gettysburg," based on Shaara, *The Killer Angels*, and the Civil War electronic reserve article by Carol Reardon. Due: Monday, March 24.

Short Paper 2: "Grant and Sherman," based on Flood, *Grant and Sherman*, and the electronic reserve articles by McPherson and Neely. Due: Monday, April 21.

Final Examination: Handed out Friday, May 9. Due Tuesday, May 13, 10:10-12:10 PM, in LA 256 (Fritz mailbox, go in the History Office door and make a left u-turn, top right box).

Schedule of Lectures, Assignments, and Deadlines

M Jan. 27 Introduction: Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction

SETTING THE STAGE

READ: Text, to 1850.

W Jan 29 The American South: Agrarian Republicanism and Slavery

F Jan 31 The American North: Market Republicanism and Abolition

M Feb 3 Destiny Manifested: Texas and the Mexican War

W Feb 5 The American Party System and the Compromise of 1850

THE IMPENDING CRISIS

- READ:** Text, the 1850s.
- F Feb 7** The Kansas-Nebraska Act, the Rise of the Republican Party, and the Election of 1856.
- M Feb 10** The Dred Scott Decision, the Lecompton Constitution, and the Panic of 1857.
- W Feb 12** Lincoln, Douglas, Slavery, and Race.
- F Feb 14** John Brown and the Critical Election of 1860
- M Feb 17** WASHINGTON-LINCOLN BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
- W Feb 19** The Secession of the Lower South
- F Feb 21** Fort Sumter: The Coming and the Causes of the Civil War
IN-CLASS QUIZ ON THE COMING OF WAR

THE CIVIL WAR: THE IMPROVISED WAR, 1861-1862

- READ:** Text, the Civil War
- F Feb 24** Mobilization, Strategy, and First Manassas
- W Feb 26** Jefferson Davis and the Confederate Republic
- F Feb 22** George B. McClellan and the Peninsular Campaign
- M Mar 3** Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia
- W Mar 5** Ulysses S. Grant and the Battle of Shiloh

THE CIVIL WAR: WAR BECOMES REVOLUTION, 1862-1863

- READ:** Text, the Civil War.
- F Mar 7** The Rising Tide of Anti-Slavery, 1861-1862
- M Mar 10** The Battle of Antietam
- W Mar 12** The Emancipation Proclamation and Its Impact
- F Mar 14** Don Carlos Buell, Braxton Bragg, and the Confederate Counter-Offensive in the West in 1862
- M Mar 17** The Economics of War: Triumph of the Market
- W Mar 19** A People's Contest

THE CIVIL WAR: THE ORGANIZED WAR, 1863

- READ:** Text, the Civil War; Shaara, *Killer Angels*; Reardon, "Pickett's Charge."

- F Mar 21** The "Dare Mark" Campaign: Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville
- M Mar 24** The Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863
FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE
- W Mar 26** The Siege of Vicksburg
- F Mar 28** Stone's River, Tullahoma, Chickamauga and Chattanooga

THE CIVIL WAR: THE ORGANIZED WAR TO VICTORY, 1864-1865

- READ:** Text, the Civil War
Flood, *Grant and Sherman*
McPherson and Neely, "Was the Civil War Total War?"
- M Mar 31** SPRING BREAK
- W Apr 2** SPRING BREAK
- F Apr 4** SPRING BREAK
- M Apr 7** William T. Sherman and the Fall of Atlanta
- W Apr 9** The War of Attrition: Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor
- F Apr 11** Phi Alpha Theta: NO CLASS
- M Apr 14** The Re-election of Abraham Lincoln
- W Apr 16** Marching through Georgia
- F Apr 18** Marching through the Carolinas to Bentonville
- M Apr 21** From Petersburg to Appomattox
SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE
- W Apr 23** The Civil War: Who Won? Who Lost?
- F Apr 25** Aftermath

RECONSTRUCTION AND REDEMPTION

- READ:** Text, on Reconstruction
McPherson, "American Victory, American Defeat"
- M Apr 28** The Problems of Peace
- W Apr 30** Andrew Johnson: Presidential Reconstruction
- F May 2** Andrew Johnson: Radical Reconstruction and Impeachment
- M May 5** The Southern Question
- W May 7** Social and Economic Reconstruction

FINAL EXAMINATIONS DUE

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

10:10 -12:10 P.M. MDT

LA 256 (Fritz mailbox, go in the History Office door and make a left u-turn, top right box)

**It is well that war is so terrible: else we
would grow too fond of it.**

-Robert E. Lee