

History 214: The American Civil War and Reconstruction

Spring 2009

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50 ARH 120

Sarah J. Purcell

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Office Hours: MWF 9-11 and by appointment. I am here to help you learn this semester. Please come see me during office hours or make an appointment, so I can speak with you one-on-one. Call or e-mail me anytime with questions or problems.

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, politics, 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.

Together we will investigate some of the most interesting questions in American history, and students should be ready to articulate and grapple with ideas (even the controversial and contested ones). Students in this course will learn not only about the subject of the Civil War and Reconstruction, but also about the very *process* of history.

Required Books:

Michael Barton and Larry M Logue, eds., *The Civil War Soldier: A Historical Reader* (NYU Press, 2002)

Ambrose Bierce, *Civil War Stories* (Dover, 1994)

Gabor S. Boritt, ed. *The Gettysburg Nobody Knows* (Oxford University Press, 1997)

David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Harvard UP, 2001)

Drew Gilpin Faust, *Mothers of Invention* (Vintage, 1997)

William Gienapp, ed. *The Civil War and Reconstruction: A Documentary Collection* (Norton, 2001)

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Written by Herself* (Dover, 2001)

James McPherson, *Ordeal by Fire*, 3rd Ed. (McGraw-Hill, 2000)

E-Reserve articles will be found on PioneerWeb and/or linked in the Library Catalog

Student Responsibilities and Evaluation:

This course will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, small-group work, and other in-class exercises. From time to time you will need to meet with a small group or to view a film outside of class. Students are expected to attend all classes having done the reading and ready to discuss it. Learning is a collaborative process, so speak up and share your ideas with your class-mates!

All assignments must be turned in on-time and in good order. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, with normal fonts and margins. All citations must be in University of Chicago Style. Further guidelines for paper-writing will be handed out in class. Extensions (for sickness or other emergency) will not be granted unless they are approved by the instructor ahead of time. Late assignments will receive a deduction of one-half letter grade per day and will not be accepted more than two days late. Please familiarize yourself with Student Handbook guidelines about academic honesty at Grinnell, and abide by the rules.

Students in this course will write one 3-page paper and one 5-page paper based on course materials. All students will also write a 10-page term paper encompassing research in primary and secondary Civil War sources. Other written assignments, such as film response papers will be discussed in class and will count towards class participation. There will be a take-home midterm exam and a take-home final exam.

Please note, poor attendance will seriously hurt your grade in this class. 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 require accommodation for any diagnosed disability, please let me know during the first week of class.

Grading:

Grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

5-page paper	15%
3-page paper	10%
Midterm	20%
Final exam	20%
10-page paper	20%
Class Partic.	15%

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

Course Schedule and Assignments:

Mon. (Jan. 19) Introduction: The Significance of the Civil War
MLK, JR. Day Commemoration 6:30 JRC 101

Wed. (Jan. 21) Barack Obama & The Significance of the Civil War

Reading Due: Packet handed out in class; Civil War Soldier, Introduction; Please try to watch the Presidential Inauguration and the Inaugural Address (shown live in JRC 101, ARH 302, and Harris Center Cinema—or later on television or online)

Antebellum North and South

Fri. (Jan. 23) Free Labor

Reading Due: McPherson, Ordeal, Ch. 1; Gienapp, "The North and South Contrasted," 1&2

Mon. (Jan. 26) The Slave System

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 2; Gienapp, "The North and South Contrasted," 6-9 & 11

Wed. (Jan. 28) Comparing Regions

*Reading Due: **J-Stor E-Reserve**: Edward Pessen, "How Different from Each Other Were the Antebellum North and South?" The American Historical Review 85 (1980), 1119-1149*

The Slavery Debate to 1850

Fri. (Jan. 30) Abolition versus Pro-slavery

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 3; Gienapp, "The North and South Contrasted," 3&4, 10

Mon. (Feb. 2) Harriet Jacobs and Anti-Slavery

Reading Due: Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl; Gienapp, "The North and South Contrasted," 12

The Crisis of the 1850s

Wed. (Feb. 4) Legacies of Manifest Destiny

slide show and discussion on "the West"

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 4-5

Fri. (Feb. 6) Legacies of Manifest Destiny continued

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 6-7; Gienapp, "The House Dividing," 1

Mon. (Feb. 9) The Failure of Compromise

Reading Due: Gienapp, "The House Dividing," 2-13

War Ignites

Wed. (Feb. 11) Secession as Revolution?

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch.8- 9; Gienapp, "The Road to War," 1-4

Fri. (Feb. 13) Ft. Sumter & First Conflicts

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 10; Gienapp, "The Road to War," 5&6; "The War Begins," 1-3

5-PAGE PAPER DUE IN CLASS

1861

Mon. (Feb. 16) Mobilization: North and South

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 11-12; Gienapp, "The War Begins," 3-9; Civil War Soldier, Chapters 2 & 3

Wed. (Feb. 18) Civil War Songs

Fri. (Feb. 20) Fighting at Home, Appeals Abroad

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 13; Civil War Soldier, Chapters 12 & 13; Gienapp, "Diplomacy" 1-4

1862

Mon. (Feb. 23) The Springtime of Northern Hope: Judging the Generals

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 14-15; Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1861-1862," 1-10

Wed. (Feb. 25) The Politics of Slavery & Emancipation

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch.16-17; "Union Politics, 1861-1862," 1-10; "Confederate Politics, 1861-1863," 1-5; "African Americans," 12; "Union Politics, 1863," 1 & 2

THURSDAY, FEB 26 SCHOLARS' CONVOCATION DOUGLAS WILSON

Fri. (Feb. 27) The Winter of Northern Discontent

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 18, Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1861-1862," 11-16; Civil War Soldier, Chapter 14 & 21

Soldiers' Experiences and Identities

Mon. (Mar. 2) The Worm's Eye View: White Soldiers

Reading Due: Civil War Soldier, Chapters 6-9, 16, 19-20; Bierce, "What I Saw at Shiloh"

Wed. (Mar. 4) Black Soldiers

Reading Due: Civil War Soldier, Chapters 10 & 15; Gienapp, "African Americans," 1-13

Fri. (Mar. 6) Term Paper Assignment: How to find Sources

Work on reading Faust

Battlefields and Home fronts: Women at War

Mon. (Mar. 9) Mothers of Invention

Reading Due: Faust, pp. xi-233; Reading Due: Gienapp, "The Confederate Home Front" 1-13

Wed. (Mar. 11) Northern Women, Politics, and Domesticity

Reading Due: Wendy Hamand Venet, "The Emergence of a Suffragist: Mary Livermore, Civil War Activism, and the Moral Power of Women," Civil War History 48 (2002): 143-164, E-Reserve Project Muse

Fri. (Mar. 13) No class meeting Mid-term exam due at Prof. Purcell's office 4:15 p.m.

March 16-27 SPRING BREAK

Mon. (Mar. 30) What Did Soldiers Fight For?

Reading Due: Civil War Soldier, Chapters 5, 23-25

Turning Points of 1863

Wed. (Apr. 1) Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chattanooga & How to Read a Battle Map

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 19; Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1863," 1-9

Fri. (Apr. 3) Resistance

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 20-21; Gienapp, "The Union Home Front," 1-10; Civil War Soldier, Chapter 4

Mon. (Apr. 6) Discuss Boritt, The Gettysburg Nobody Knows

3-page paper due in class

1864

Wed. (Apr. 8) The Meaning of Death

*Reading Due: The Gettysburg Address, Ordeal, pp. A-16-A-17; The Civil War Soldier, Chapter 27; [Walt Whitman, "The Wound Dresser"; Clara Barton excerpt **distributed in class**]; Bierce, "One of the Missing"; Blight, Race and Reunion, Prologue and Ch. 1*

Fri. (Apr. 10) Military Stalemate/ Political Battles

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 22-24; Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1864," 1-4; "Union Politics, 1864," 1-13

War's End

Mon. (Apr. 13) The End of the Confederacy

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 25; Faust, pp. 234-257; Gienapp, "Confederate Politics, 1864-1865," 1-7; "The End of the War," 3&4, 11-16

Wed. (Apr. 15) The Death of Lincoln

Reading Due: Gienapp, "The End of the War," 5&9; Civil War Soldier, Chapter 22

Reconstruction

Fri. (Apr. 17) Radical Reconstruction

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 26-28; Gienapp, "Presidential Reconstruction," 1-9; "Johnson's Clash with Congress," 1-8; "Congressional Reconstruction," 1-4; Blight, Race and Reunion, Ch. 2

Mon. (Apr. 20) Sex and Politics

Reading Due: Blight, Race and Reunion, Ch. 3; E-Reserve, Martha Hodes, "The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics," Journal of the History of Sexuality 3 (1993): 402-417; Laura F. Edwards, "The Disappearance of Susan Daniels and Henderson Cooper," Feminist Studies 22 (1996): 363-386

Wed. (Apr. 22) Repudiation of Radical Reconstruction

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 29; Gienapp, "Congressional Reconstruction," 5-7; Blight, Race and Reunion, Ch. 4

Fri. (Apr. 24) The Experience of Reconstruction & The Problem of Memory

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 30; Gienapp, "Political Reconstruction in the South," 1-5, "Economic and Social Reconstruction," 1-11; Blight Race and Reunion, Ch. 5

Mon. (April 27) The KKK and Public Culture

View "Birth of a Nation"

TERM PAPER DUE in class

Wed. (April 29) The End of Reconstruction

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 31-32; Gienapp, "Opposition and Northern Disillusionment," 1-3, 9&10; "The End of Reconstruction," 1-3

Fri. (May 1) The New South?

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 33 & Epilogue; Blight, Race and Reunion, Ch. 6-8

Mon. (May 4) Black Memory

Reading Due: Blight, Race and Reunion, Ch. 9

A New Birth of Freedom?

Wed. (May 6) Looking Back and Looking Forward: Commemoration and the Future

Fri. (May 8) Public Memory and the Civil War

Reading Due: Blight, Race and Reunion, Ch. 10 & Epilogue

TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, MAY 13 in Ms. Purcell's Office