History 214: The American Civil War and Reconstruction  
Spring 2010  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50    Science 2234  
Sarah J. Purcell  

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Office Hours: MW 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. I have a changing schedule from week to week because of the Rosenfield Program, so it’s often good to make an appointment—I can make time for you. 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:  
Ambrose Bierce, Civil War Stories (Dover, 1994)  
Gabor S. Boritt, ed. The Gettysburg Nobody Knows (Oxford University Press, 1997)  
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)  
Jacqueline Jones, Saving Savannah: The City and The Civil War (Vintage, 2008)  
James McPherson and James K. Hogue, Ordeal by Fire, 4th Ed. (Mcgraw-Hill, 2009)  
Aaron Sheehan-Dean, Concise Historical Atlas of the U.S. Civil War (Oxford, 2009)
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 classmates!

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, due on May 3. 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 Particip. 15%
Steady improvement over the course of the semester will be taken into account.

Course Schedule and Assignments:
Mon. (Jan. 25) Introduction: The Significance of the Civil War

Antebellum North and South
Wed. (Jan 27) Free Labor
Reading Due: McPherson, Ordeal, Ch. 1; Gienapp, “The North and South Contrasted,” 1&2
Fri. (Jan. 29) The Slave System  
Reading Due: *Ordeal*, Ch. 2; Gienapp, “The North and South Contrasted,” 6-9 & 11  

Mon. (Feb. 1) 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; Concise Atlas, pp. xv, 4-9  

**The Slavery Debate to 1850**  
Wed. (Feb. 3) Abolition versus Pro-slavery  
Reading Due: *Ordeal*, Ch. 3; Gienapp, “The North and South Contrasted,” 3&4, 10  

Fri. (Feb. 5) 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**  
Mon. (Feb. 8) Legacies of Manifest Destiny  
*slide show and discussion on "the West"*  
Reading Due: *Ordeal*, Ch. 4-5; Concise Atlas, pp. 2-3  

Wed. (Feb. 10) Legacies of Manifest Destiny continued  
Reading Due: *Ordeal*, Ch. 6-7; Gienapp, “The House Dividing,” 1  

Fri. (Feb. 12) Antebellum Savannah  
Reading Due: Jones Saving Savannah, pp. 3-113  

Mon. (Feb. 15) The Failure of Compromise  
Reading Due: *Ordeal*, Ch. 8; Gienapp, “The House Dividing,” 2-13; Concise Atlas, pp. 10-11  

**War Ignites**  
Wed. (Feb. 17) Secession as Revolution?  
Reading Due: *Ordeal*, Ch. 9; Gienapp, “The Road to War,” 1-4; Concise Atlas, pp. 12-13  

Fri. (Feb. 19) No class meeting  
5 pp. paper due at Prof. Purcell’s office 4:30 pm  

Mon. (Feb. 22) Ft. Sumter & First Conflicts  
Reading Due: *Ordeal*, Ch. 10; Gienapp, “The Road to War,” 5&6; “The War Begins,” 1-3
Wed. (Feb. 24) Mobilization: North and South
  Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 11-12; Gienapp, “The War Begins,” 3-9; Concise Atlas, pp. 14-17, 20-21, 24-25

1861
Fri. (Feb. 26) Civil War Songs

Mon. (Mar. 1) Fighting at Home, Appeals Abroad
  Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 13; Gienapp, “Diplomacy” 1-4; Concise Atlas, pp. 76-77

Wed. (Mar. 3) The Springtime of Northern Hope: Judging the Generals
  Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 14-15; Gienapp, “The Military Struggle, 1861-1862,” 1-10; Concise Atlas, pp. 18-19, 26-35

1862
Fri. (Mar. 5) 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,” 12-13; “Union Politics, 1863,” 1 & 2; Concise Atlas, pp. 40-45

Mon. (Mar. 8) The Winter of Northern Discontent, How to Read a Battle Map
  Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 18, Gienapp, “The Military Struggle, 1861-1862,” 11-16; Concise Atlas, pp. ix-xiii, 50-51, 54-55

Soldiers’ Experiences and Identities
Wed. (Mar. 10) What Did Soldiers Fight For?

Fri. (Mar. 12) Black Soldiers

Mon. (Mar. 15) Civil War Term Paper—How to find sources

Battlefields and Home Fronts
Wed. (Mar. 17) Savannah at War
  Reading Due: Saving Savannah, Ch. 5-7
Fri. (Mar. 19) No class meeting  

Mid-term exam due at Prof. Purcell’s office 4:15 p.m.

March 20-April 4 SPRING BREAK

Mon. (Apr. 5) Northern Women, Politics, and Domesticity  

Wed. (Apr. 7) Mothers of Invention  
Reading Due: Faust, pp. xi-233; Reading Due: Gienapp, “The Confederate Home Front” 1-13; Concise Atlas, pp. 64-65

Turning Points of 1863

Fri. (Apr. 9) Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chattanooga  
Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 19; Gienapp, “The Military Struggle, 1863,” 1-9; Concise Atlas, pp. 56-59, 62-63, 66-67

Mon. (Apr. 12) Resistance & Dissent  
Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 20-21; Gienapp, “The Union Home Front,” 1-10; Concise Atlas, pp. 60-61

Wed. (Apr. 14) Discuss Boritt, The Gettysburg Nobody Knows  
3-page paper due in class

1864

Fri. (Apr. 16) 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”

Mon. (Apr. 19) Military Stalemate/ Political Battles  
Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 22-24; Gienapp, “The Military Struggle, 1864,” 1-4; “Union Politics, 1864,” 1-13; Concise Atlas, pp. 68-75, 86-87

War's End

Wed. (Apr. 21) 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; Concise Atlas, pp. 78-85, 88-91

Fri. (Apr. 23) The Death of Lincoln  
Reading Due: Gienapp, “The End of the War,” 5&9
Reconstruction
Mon. (Apr. 26) Peace & Reconstruction
   Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 26-29; Gienapp, “Presidential Reconstruction,” 1-9;
   “Johnson’s Clash with Congress,” 1-8; “Congressional Reconstruction,” 1-7; Concise
   Atlas, pp. 92-99

Wed. (Apr. 28) Sex and Politics
   Reading Due: E-Reserve, Martha Hodes, “The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics,”
   Disappearance of Susan Daniels and Henderson Cooper,” Feminist Studies 22 (1996):
   363-386 *e-reserve*

Fri. (Apr. 30) The Experience of Reconstruction
   Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 30-31; Gienapp, “Political Reconstruction in the South,” 1-5,
   “Economic and Social Reconstruction,” 1-11; Concise Atlas, pp. 100-103

Mon. (May 3) The KKK and Public Culture
   View “Birth of a Nation”
   TERM PAPER DUE in class

Wed. (May 5) Savannah Reconstructed?
   Reading Due: Saving Savannah, Ch. 8-16

Fri. (May 7) 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; Concise Atlas, pp. 104-
   105

Mon. (May 10) The New South?
   Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 33 & Epilogue

A New Birth of Freedom?
Wed. (May 12) Looking Back and Looking Forward: Commemoration and the Future

Fri. (May 14) Public Memory and the Civil War
   Reading Due: Saving Savannah, Epilogue

TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, MAY 19 in Ms. Purcell’s Office