

History 269/469/AAS 249
 Spring 2016
 The Civil War: A Search for National Unity
 Tuesday & Thursday 11:05-12:20pm.
 Meliora 224
 Instructor: Larry Hudson
 Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00--1:00pm. or by appointment
 Tel: 585 275 4557
 E-mail: Larry.hudson@rochester.edu

Course Outline

As we conclude the sesquicentennial celebration of the nation's bloodiest war, we will re-evaluate the causes of the conflict, identify the major events, actors, and re-view the interpretations of the country's two leading Civil War historians. We will examine the battles that had the most significant impact on the immediate and longer term outcome of the war, and those that shaped the direction the new nation would take. Positioning ourselves differently from historians of an earlier generation, we will be particularly concerned with producing a more balanced representation of the nation's most meaningful political and military conflict.

Course Grading will be based on a Class Participation, 10%; Three Class Papers of 2-3 sides (30%); Two Class Tests (20%); Battle Presentation—(oral and written, 2-4 sides) (20%); and a Term Paper, 4-6 sides (20%).

Academic Honesty

Authors of the words and ideas contained in your written essays must be fully cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and will be severely punished.

A Word on Note Taking and Research:

As the material from the Assigned Texts (supplemented where necessary by the Additional Readings) will inform our discussions throughout the course, as well as constitute the major sources on which you will draw for your written assignments.

For your Information:

The faculty of the Department of History considers class attendance essential to the mastering of the content of its courses and the production of quality history papers. Students who miss class should inform the instructor of the reason for their absence, in advance whenever possible. Students should come to class prepared to comment on the assigned readings. If you have a physical or mental disability that requires an accommodation or academic adjustment, please arrange a meeting with me at your earliest convenience.

Reference Librarian

Please take time to introduce yourself to the library specialist in United States History and Culture: Alan Unsworth aunsworth@library.rochester.edu or check at the Reference Desk

Course Required Texts:

Edward Ayers, In the Presence of my Enemies: The Civil War in the Heart of America, 1859-1863

James M. McPherson, The Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era

David Blight, Frederick Douglass' Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee

Edward L. Ayers, What Caused the Civil War?: Reflections on the South and Southern History

COURSE OUTLINE

Week One--Thursday January 14 First Class

Reading for Week Two:

E. H. Carr, What Is History chaps. 1-2

Available on Blackboard Reserve

Section One History and Historical Consciousness

Week Two-- Tuesday 19 January

Topic: What is History?: Historians and Civil War History

Reading for Week Three:

Edward L. Ayers, What Caused the Civil War?: Reflections on the South and Southern History, pp. 12-35

Roy Rosenzweig and David Thelen, The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life, pp. 114-137

First Class Paper 2-3 sides (Due Jan. 26 in class)

See Handout for Essay prompt

Week Three-- Tuesday January 26

Reading for Week Four:

David Donald, "American Historians and the Causes of the Civil War," The South Atlantic Quarterly, vol. 49 (1960), pp.351-355. (Online)

Ayers, What Caused the Civil War, pp. 131-144.

James M. McPherson, The Battle Cry of Freedom, Chap. 1

Second Class Paper: Causes of the War. (Due February 16 in class) See Handout for Essay Prompt)

Section Two Civil War Causation

Week Four-- Tuesday February 2 Historiography: Historians on the Civil War and its Causes.

Reading for Week Five:

Ayers, What Caused the Civil War, pp. 65-93.

Edward Ayers, In the Presence of Mine Enemies: The Civil War in the Heart of America, 1859-1863, pp. 3-33, 42-58.

Week Five-- Tuesday February 9

The South as Another: Place: Southern Distinctiveness

Reading for Week Six:

A Cash Koeniger, "Climate and Southern Distinctiveness," The Journal of Southern History, vol. 54, (February 1988), 21-44

Grady McWhiney and Perry D. Jamieson, Attack and Die: Civil War Military Tactics and the Southern Heritage, 171-191

Week Six-- Tuesday, February 16 Two Nations; Two People

Reading for Week Seven:

C.C. Goen, Broken Churches, Broken Nations: Denominational Schism and the Coming of the Civil War, chap. 4 (Reserve)

David Blight, Frederick Douglass' Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee, chaps. 1-2

Ayers, In the Presence of Mine Enemies, pp. 223-227

Third Class Paper, Irrepressible Differences? due Tuesday 1 March

Week Seven--Tuesday, February 23

A Nation of Religious Zealots

Reading for Week Eight:

Ayers, In the Presence of Mine Enemies, pp. 95-110, 143-160, 172-187.

Civil War Battle: First Bull Run/Manassas

Ayers, In the Presence of Mine Enemies, pp. 191-200 McPherson, The Battle Cry of Freedom [Manassas 339-350](#)

Section Three A Young Nation Goes to War

Week Eight-- March 1

Reading for Week Ten:

Ayers, In the Presence of Mine Enemies, pp. 332-376

Noah Andre Trudeau, "Like Men of War": Black Troops in the Civil War, 1862-1865, chap. 3 (Reserve)

Blight, Frederick Douglass' Civil War, chaps. 6 & 7.

Week Eight March 8

Spring Break

Week Nine— March 15 Topic: From Contrabands to Soldiers to Citizens

Reading for Week Eleven:

Ayers, In the Presence of Mine Enemies, Shiloh pp. 234-248

McPherson, The Battle Cry of Freedom [Shiloh 405-414](#)

Ayers, In the Presence of Mine Enemies, Second Manassas pp. 297-331

McPherson, The Battle Cry of Freedom Second Manassas pp. 524-567

Written Battle Presentations due on day you present.

Week Ten-- March 22

McPherson, The Battle Cry of Freedom [Antietam 538-545](#)

Ayers, In the Presence of Mine Enemies, Chancellorsville 377-395

McPherson, The Battle Cry of Freedom [Chancellorsville 638-646](#)

Week Eleven--Tuesday March 29

McPherson, The Battle Cry of Freedom Gettysburg, [Vicksburg & Gettysburg 646-665](#)

McPherson, The Battle Cry of Freedom Fort Wagner pp. 684-688

Reading for Week Thirteen:

George Rable, Civil Wars: Women and the Crisis of Southern Nationalism, chap. 5 (Online)

Jacqueline Glass Campbell, When Sherman Marched North from the Sea:

Resistance on the Confederate Homefront, 58-74 (Online)

Susie King Taylor, Reminiscences of my Life in Camp with the 33D United States Colored Troops Late 1st. South Carolina Volunteers (Reserve)

Section Four New Directions in Civil War Studies

Week Twelve-- Tuesday, April 5

Life on the Home Fronts: A New Civil War History?

Week Thirteen-- Tuesday, April 12

The End of the "Second American Revolution

Term Paper Prep

Week Fourteen-- Tuesday, April 19

Term Paper Prep.

Presentations (1)

Week Fifteen--Tuesday, April 26

Last Class

Presentations (2)

Term Paper due: April 26 (In class)