Fall 2020

Hist 200: Gateway to History: Abraham Lincoln's America

Room: Rush [Fully Online]

Class Times: Tues & Thurs 11:05-12:20pm.

Instructor: Larry Hudson

Office Hours: Wednesday: 11:00-1:00pm. (or by appointment)

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**Course Schedule**

The recent celebrations that marked the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the nation’s 16th President’s role in “freeing the slaves” occupied so much of the scholarly and popular attention that many of his other achievements were overshadowed. This course looks to re-assess Lincoln’s contribution to a burgeoning American Nationalism.

Through his actions as leader of the newly formed Republican Party, but primarily through his own words, we will examine his performance as politician, President, Commander-in-Chief, and statesman, the course will suggests that Lincoln, in guiding the nation through an increasingly bitter civil war, while attempting to preserve the Union, above all else, was driven by a new vision of the American nation.

A close look at his speeches, actions, and leadership style will permit an examination of the political and personal forces underlying the shift in Lincoln’s focus from “saving the Union,” to creating a “new nation.” Drawing heavily on his own words, the course will evaluate Lincoln’s contribution to new American nationalism.

Course readings will consist of a selection of Lincoln’s speeches and writings, supplemented by historian Eric Foner’s, The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery.

**Course Requirements**:

Class Paper: (Due 8 Sept.) 10%; Weekly Annotations and Response Papers (Due the Thursday after Tuesday’s Class Discussion--first due on Thursday 17 September--response papers only from 10/22) 50%; Class Participation 10%; Research Paper 30% (Tuesday 8 Dec.). Electronic and hard copies of all assignments will be required by their due date.

**For your Information**:

The College’s credit hour policy on undergraduate courses is to award 4 credit hours for courses that meet for the equivalent of 3 periods of 50 minutes each week. Students enrolled in Hist 271 will be expected to spend at least two hours each week engaged in close reading of assigned and relevant course texts; compiling detailed notes that will be discussed in class, and provide the major source material for course written assignments.

**Note-Taking and Research:**  
As the material from the Assigned Readings will inform our discussions throughout the course, as well as constitute the major sources on which you will draw for your written assignments, you are strongly encouraged to **maintain clear and detailed notes on all class readings**. Students are expected to arrive in class prepared to comment on and discuss the assigned readings.

**Attendance**

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 have to miss class should inform the instructor of the reason for their absence, in advance whenever possible.

**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. All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will be treated as such. Anyone who engages in such activities will be turned over to the College Board on Academic Honesty for disciplinary action, as outlined at <http://www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/.>

**Students with disabilities:** The University of Rochester respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources. The access coordinators in the Office of Disability Resources can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can reach the [Office of Disability Resources](http://www.rochester.edu/college/disability/index.html) at: [disability@rochester.edu;](mailto:disability@rochester.edu;) (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall.

**Reference Librarian:**

Please take time to introduce yourself to Lara Nicosia, the Outreach Librarian for History [lnicosia@library.rochester.edu](mailto:lnicosia@library.rochester.edu) or ask for her at the Circulation Desk.

**Required Texts**:

Eric Foner, The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery, New York: Norton, 2010

Electronic version of Lincoln’s speeches, [mainly from] Roy P. Basler (ed), Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, available at: <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/>

**Course Syllabus**

**Week One** Thursday 27 August

**Introductions**

Names and Naming

**Week Two** Tuesday 1 September **What is History?**

[E. H. Carr](https://learn.rochester.edu/bbcswebdav/courses/HIS100.2016FALL.27299/his100hudsonfall16_readings/Carr_What.pdf), What is History? chaps. 1-2 (Blackboard)

Essay Prompt Handout First Paper due: 8 Sept.

**Week Three** Tuesday 8 September **Lincoln: The Early Years**

A] Eric Foner, The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery, pp. 3-29.

B] Lyceum Address, January 27, 1838.

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/lyceum.htm>

(First Response/Annotated Paper due Thurs. 17 Sept.)

**Week Four** Tuesday 15 September **Annotating Lincoln**

A] Lyceum Address, January 27, 1838.

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/lyceum.htm>

B] Quick and Dirty Guide 3A (Annotating guidelines)

**Week Five** Tuesday 22 September **First Steps into Politics**

A] Temperance Address, Springfield, Illinois, February 22, 1842.

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/temperance.htm>

B] Foner, The Fiery Trial, pp. 29-32.

**Week Six** Tuesday 29 September **Lincoln: The Party Politician**

A] Eulogy on Henry Clay, Springfield, Illinois, July 6, 1852, 85

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/clay.htm>

B] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. 2.

**Week Seven** Tuesday 6 October **Slavery! Slavery! Slavery!**

A] Kansas-Nebraska, Peoria Speech, October 16, 1854, 93

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/lincoln2/1:282?rgn=div1;singlegenre=All;sort=occur;subview=detail;type=boolean;view=fulltext;q1=peoria>

B] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. 3

\*\*\*(Annotation due Thurs 8 October-response paper Thursday 15 October)

**Week Eight** Tuesday 13 October

A] Kansas-Nebraska, Peoria Speech, October 16, 1854, 93

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/lincoln2/1:282?rgn=div1;singlegenre=All;sort=occur;subview=detail;type=boolean;view=fulltext;q1=peoria>

B] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. 3

**Week** **Nine** 20 October **Race, Ethnicity, and Slavery**

A] Speech on the Dred Scott Decision, Speech at Springfield, Illinois, June 26, 1857, 117

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/lincoln2/1:438?rgn=div1;submit=Go;subview=detail;type=simple;view=fulltext;q1=dred+scott>

B] "House Divided" Speech, Springfield, IL: June 16, 1858, 131

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/house.htm>

C] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. 4

Prompt: Discuss Lincoln’s position on race, ethnicity, and slavery.

**Week Ten** Tuesday 27 October **Performing on the National Stage**

A] Cooper Union Speech, February 27, 1860, 240

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/cooper.htm>

B] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. pp. 132-144.

Prompt: How qualified is Lincoln to be the Republican Party’s nominee?

**Week Eleven** Tuesday 3 November **Amateur goes to War!**

A] Farewell Address, February 11, 1861, 277

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/farewell.htm>

B] First Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln, Monday, March 4, 1861, 284

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/1inaug.htm>

C] Foner, The Fiery Trial, pp. 144-165

Prompt: Assess Lincoln’s understanding of the task that lays before him and the country.

**Week Twelve** **and Thirteen** Tuesday 10 and 17 November **Looking to the Future?**

Research Paper Prep.

A] Address on Colonization to a Deputation of Negroes, August 14, 1862

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/lincoln5/1:812?rgn=div1;view=fulltext>

B] Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, September 22, 1862

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals_iv/sections/transcript_preliminary_emancipation.html>

C] Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863, (Bliss Copy)

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/gettysburg.htm>

D] Address at Sanitary Fair in Baltimore: A Lecture on Liberty, April 18, 1864

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/address-at-a-sanitary-fair/>

E] Second Inaugural Address, Saturday, March 4, 1865

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/inaug2.htm>

F] Last Public Speech, April 11, 1865

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/last.htm>

G] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chaps. 6-9 and Epilogue.

Prompt: “To a sympathetic nation hungry for change, Lincoln presented a clear vision of a bi-racial America.” Discuss.

**Week Fourteen** 24 November

Thanksgiving

**Week Fifteen** 1 December

Research Paper

**Week Sixteen** Tuesday 8 December

**Last Class** Tuesday 8 Dec.

Research Paper due-Hard copy in class, and electronic copy.

**Additional Reading**

Writing and Footnoting Guide: Quick and Dirty Guide A1 Quick and Dirty Guide 3B

Selected Speeches and Writings by Abraham Lincoln**:**

[**http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/speechintro.htm**](http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/speechintro.htm)

Declaration of Independence

United States Constitution

The Bible