

History 435
The Civil War and Reconstruction Era – Spring 2009
MW, 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Timothy S. Huebner

Office: 305 Clough

Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30–4:30 p.m.; Fridays, 10:00-12 noon; or by appointment

Phone: 843-3653 (direct line/voice mail), 843-3662 (department)

E-Mail: Huebner@rhodes.edu

Course Description and Objectives:

This course focuses on the political, constitutional, social, and cultural developments surrounding the central event in United States history, the Civil War. Topics will include the development of antebellum society in the North and South, the rise of sectional politics and the crisis of secession, the impact of the war on the lives of white and black Americans, and post-war attempts to reconstruct the social, political, and constitutional order.

This course is a seminar. This means that it is vital that students attend class, read the assignments, think about the material, and participate in discussions. A research paper is also required.

After completing this course, students should have a broad understanding of the history of the Civil War and Reconstruction Era, as well as improved written, oral, and critical thinking skills.

Readings:

Scott Nelson and Carol Sheriff, A People at War: Civilians and Soldiers in America's Civil War, 1854-1877.

William E. Gienapp, ed., The Civil War and Reconstruction: A Documentary Collection. (Docs)

Bruce Levine, Half Slave and Half Free: The Roots of Civil War.

William E. Gienapp, Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America.

Gary Gallagher, The Confederate War: How Popular Will, Nationalism, and Military Strategy Could Not Stave Off Defeat.

LeeAnna Keith, The Colfax Massacre: The Untold Story of Black Power, White Terror, and the Death of Reconstruction.

Supplementary readings available in my Academic Volume folder and in handout form.

Assignments and Grading:

Your final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

- Mid-Term Examination – 20%
- Final Examination – 20%
- Research Paper – 25%
- Article review/oral presentation – 10%
- Seminar participation/quizzes – 25%

Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. More than two absences will adversely affect your grade in this course. You should make all travel and vacation plans in accordance with the schedule below. Airline arrangements, in other words, are no excuse for missing classes, deadlines, or exams.

Make-up examinations will not be given without a verifiable medical excuse. All excuses are subject to the approval of the instructor. Quizzes will be unscheduled and cannot be made up under any circumstances. No late article reviews or research papers will be accepted. All work, unless otherwise indicated, is pledged under the Rhodes College Honor Code.

Article Reviews - An asterisk (*) below indicates that a student will write a critical review of this article or book chapter. This critique must be distributed electronically to the class and submitted to Prof. Huebner by 5 p.m. of the day before the seminar. Critiques should be read by all students prior to class. You will be responsible for the information in these student critiques on your mid-term and final examinations. In addition, the student who writes the critique will present it orally to the class during the seminar.

Topics and Reading Assignments:

Part I: A Fragile Union

1. The Origins of the Sectional Conflict

Jan. 14 – Introduction to course/Three Crises in the Early Republic

Jan. 19 – No class - Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan. 21 – North and South

- Levine, chaps. 1-4
- Docs, pp. 7-11, 12-21
- * James M. McPherson, “Antebellum Southern Exceptionalism: A New Look at an Old Question,” in Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War, 3-23.

Jan. 26 – Slaves, Slavery, Free Blacks

- Docs, 21-25

2. The Political Crisis of the 1850s

(Nelson and Sheriff, chap. 1)

Jan. 28 – Crisis and Compromise

- Levine, chaps. 5-8
- Docs, 27-28, 31-33

Feb. 2 – The Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Republicans

- Levine, chap. 9
- Docs, 33-34, 38-41
- * Eric Foner, “The Republican Critique of the South,” in Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party Before the Civil War, 40-72.

Feb. 4 – Dred Scott and John Brown

- Docs, 41-43, 47-53
- * Don E. Fehrenbacher, “Roger B. Taney and the Sectional Crisis,” Journal of Southern History, 43 (1977), 555-566. (Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2207005.pdf>)
- * Peter Wallenstein, “Incendiaries All: Southern Politics and the Harper’s Ferry Raid,” in Paul Finkelman, ed., His Soul Goes Marching On: Responses to John Brown and the Harper’s Ferry Raid, 149-173.

3. Secession and the Outbreak of War

(Nelson and Sheriff, chap. 2)

Feb. 9 – The Election of 1860 and the Secession Winter

- Gienapp, chaps. 1-3
- Docs, 58-62
- “Mississippi Resolutions on Secession” (handout)
- “Proposed 13th Amendment” (handout)

Feb. 11 – The Secession Spring and the Causes of the War

- Docs, 62-65, 71-74
- * Philip Paludan, “The American Civil War Considered as a Crisis in Law and Order,” American Historical Review, 77 (1972): 1013-1034. (Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1859506.pdf>)
- * Bertram Wyatt-Brown, “Shameful Submission and Honorable Secession,” in The Shaping of Southern Culture, 177-202.

Part II. A Bloody War

4. The Battlefield

(Nelson and Sheriff, chaps. 3-5, 7-8)

Feb. 16 – The Battle Joined, 1861-1862

- Gienapp, chaps. 4-5
- Docs, 83-84, 86-91, 99-101, 125-126
- * James McPherson, “The Saratoga That Wasn’t: The Impact of Antietam Abroad,” in This Mighty Scourge: Perspectives on the Civil War, 65-75.

Feb. 18 – The War Transformed, 1863-1864

- Docs, 165-166, 149-151, 159-162
- * Harry Stout, “All Who Die for Country Now, Die Also for Humanity,” and “Lincoln, Emancipation, and Total War,” in Upon the Altar of the Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War, 167-190.

5. Society and Politics in Wartime

Feb. 23 – Confederate Nationalism

- Docs, 429-437
- Gallagher, intro-chap. 2
- * Drew Faust, “‘A Nation to Do His Work Upon Earth’: Religion, Politics, and Confederate Nationalism,” in The Creation of Confederate Nationalism, 22-40.

Feb. 25 – The Divided South

- Eric Foner, “The South’s Inner Civil War.”
- Docs, 131-138

Mar. 2 – The Union at War

- Gienapp, chaps. 6-7
- Docs, 170-175, 180-185

Mar. 4 – Mid-term Examination

6. Soldiers and Civilians

(Nelson and Sheriff, 10-12)

Mar. 9 – Union and Confederate Soldiers

- Docs, 235-241
 - * James McPherson, “The Cause of Liberty,” in For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War, 104-116.
 - * Gerald Linderman, “Courage and Civilian Society,” in Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War, 80-110.
-
-

Mar. 11 – Women in Wartime

- “Southern Nurse Criticizes Southern Women” (handout)
 - Excerpt from Civil War Diary of Sarah Morgan (handout)
 - “Gen. Benjamin Butler’s Woman Order” (handout)
 - * Alice Fahs, “The Feminized War,” in The Imagined Civil War: Popular Literature of the North & South, 1861-1865, 120-149.
-

Mar. 16-18: Spring Break

III. A New Nation?

7. 1865: The End and the Beginning

Mar. 23 – Victory and Defeat

- Docs, 299-300, 305-307
 - Gienapp, chap. 8
 - Gallagher, chaps. 3-4
 - * Richard E. Berringer, et al, “Why the South Lost,” in Why the South Lost the Civil War, 424-442.
-

Mar. 25 – Emancipation – **Research Paper Due at 5 p.m.**

- Docs, 224-228, 232-234
- * Barbara Fields, “Who Freed the Slaves?” in Geoffrey C. Ward, ed., The Civil War: An Illustrated History, 178-181.
- * James M. McPherson, “Who Freed the Slaves?” in Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War, 192-207.

Interlude: Research Discussions

Mar. 30 – Research Roundtable

Apr. 1 – Research Roundtable

Apr. 6 – Research Roundtable

Apr. 8 – Research Roundtable

8. The Politics of Reconstruction

(Nelson and Sheriff, chap. 13)

Apr. 13 – Presidential Reconstruction

- Docs, 317-321, 325-328, 339-342
- Thirteenth Amendment (handout)
- Edward Pollard, The Lost Cause (handout)

Apr. 15 – Congress and the Constitutional Revolution

- Docs, 333-334, 351-357
- Fourteenth, Fifteenth Amendments (handout)
- * Michael Les Benedict, “The Conservative Basis of Radical Reconstruction,” in Preserving the Constitution, 3-22.
- * Robert Kaczorowski, “To Begin the Nation Anew: Congress, Citizenship, and Civil Rights after the Civil War,” American Historical Review, 92 (Feb. 1987), 45-68. (Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1862782.pdf>)

Apr. 20 – Politics and Society in the Reconstructed South

- Docs, 377-384
- Keith, Introduction-Chap. 5

SPECIAL EVENT: Field Trip to Shiloh – April 18 OR April 25

9. The Retreat from Reconstruction

(Nelson and Sheriff, chap. 14)

Apr. 22 – Violent Redemption

- Docs, 393-395, 406-409
- Keith, Chap. 6-10

Apr. 27 – Political and Constitutional Compromise

- Docs, 413-417
 - Civil Rights Cases (handout)
 - Plessy v. Ferguson (handout)
 - * C. Vann Woodward, “The Forked Road to Reunion,” chapter 2, in Origins of the New South.
-

Apr. 29 – Summary and Conclusions – **Research Paper Due**

- James McPherson, "The Second American Revolution" (handout)

FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, May 5, 8:30 a.m.