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HIST 435-01, The Civil War and Reconstruction Era, Fall 2006

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History 435
The Civil War and Reconstruction Era – Fall 2006
TR, 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Timothy S. Huebner

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Course Description and Objectives:

This course focuses on the political, constitutional, social, and cultural developments surrounding the American 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 will be taught as a seminar. This means that it is vital that students attend class, read the assignments, think about the material, and participate in discussions.

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:

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.

Paul D. Escott, After Secession: Jefferson Davis and the Failure of Confederate Nationalism.

Joseph T. Glatthaar, Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers.

James Alex Baggett, The Scalawags: Southern Dissenters in the Civil War and 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%
- Class 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 holiday plans in accordance with this 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 will be accepted. Late research papers will be accepted one **day** (not one class period) after the due date, with a one letter-grade penalty. 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 critique 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: The Impending Crisis

1. Antebellum America

Aug. 24 – Introduction to course/America to 1848

Aug. 29 – North and South

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

Aug. 31 – Slaves, Slavery, Free Blacks

- Docs, 21-25

2. The 1850s: Political and Constitutional Crisis

Sept. 5 – Crisis and Compromise

- Levine, chaps. 5-8

- Docs, 27-28, 31-33

Sept. 7 – Kansas Nebraska 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.
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Sept. 12 – Dred Scott and John Brown

- Docs, 41-43, 47-53
 - * 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.
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3. Secession and the Outbreak of War

Sept. 14 – The Election of 1860 and the Secession Winter

- Levine, chap. 10
- Gienapp, chaps. 1-3
- Docs, 58-65
- “Proposed 13th Amendment” (handout)

Sept. 19 – No class (Prof. Huebner out of town)

Sept. 21 – The Secession Spring

- Escott, preface and chap. 1
 - Docs, 71-74
 - * Arthur Bestor, “The American Civil War as a Constitutional Crisis,” American Historical Review, 69 (1964), 327-352.
 - * Bertram Wyatt-Brown, “Shameful Submission and Honorable Secession,” chapter 8, in The Shaping of Southern Culture.
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Part II. The War

4. The Battlefield: 1861-1864

Sept. 26 – The Battle Joined, 1861-1862

- Gienapp, chaps. 4-5
- Docs, 83-84, 86-91, 99-101, 125-126

Sept. 28 – The War Transformed, 1863-1864

- Docs, 165-166, 149-151, 159-162
- * James M. McPherson, “How the Confederacy Almost Won,” chapter 9 in Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War.

5. Society and Politics in Wartime

Oct. 3 – The Confederate Nation

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

Oct. 5 – The Divided South

- Escott, chaps. 3-6
- Baggett, intro-chap. 3
- Docs, 131-138

Oct. 10 – The Union at War

- Gienapp, chaps. 6-7
- Glatthaar, preface-chap. 2
- Docs, 170-175, 180-185

Oct. 12 – Mid-term Examination

Oct. 17 – Fall Break

6. The Soldier and the Civilian

Oct. 19 – African-American Soldiers

- Glatthaar, chaps. 3-9
- Docs, 223-227

Oct. 24 – Soldiers and the Homefront

- Docs, 235-241
- * Gerald Linderman, “Courage and Civilian Society,” chap. 5, in Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War.

Oct. 26 – Women and Children

- “Southern Nurse Criticizes Southern Women” (handout)
- Excerpt from Civil War Diary of Sarah Morgan (handout)
- * James Marten, “We Live Years in As Many Days: The War Comes to Children,” chap. 4, in The Children’s Civil War.

Part III. The Reconstructed Union

7. The War’s End

Oct. 31 – Appomattox and Assassination

- Gienapp, chap. 8
- Escott, chaps. 7-9
- “The Confederacy Debates Emancipation” (handout)
- Docs, 299-300, 305-306

Nov. 2 – The Defeated South - **Research Paper Due by 5 p.m.**

- Pollard, “The Lost Cause” (handout)
- Docs, 307, 311-313
- * Richard E. Berringer, et al, “Why the South Lost,” chapter 17, in Why the South Lost the Civil War.

Nov. 7 – Emancipation

- Docs, 232-234
- Thirteenth Amendment (handout)
- * James M. McPherson, “Who Freed the Slaves?” chapter 13 in Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War.

8. The Politics of Reconstruction

Nov. 9 – Lincoln, Johnson, and Reconstruction

- Baggett, chaps. 4-5
- Docs, 317-321, 325-328, 339-342
- * James Gilbert Ryan, “The Memphis Riots of 1866: Terror in a Black Community During Reconstruction,” Journal of Negro History, 62 (1977), 243-257.

Nov. 14 – Congress and the Constitutional Revolution

- Docs, 333-334, 351-357
- Fourteenth, Fifteenth Amendments (handout)
- * James M. McPherson, “Liberty and Power in the Second American Revolution,” chapter 7 in Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution.

Nov. 16 – No class (Prof. Huebner out of town)

Nov. 21 – Politics and Society in the Reconstructed South

- Baggett, chaps. 6-10
- Docs, 377-384

Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving Break

9. The Retreat from Reconstruction

Nov. 28 – Redemption and Reunion

- Docs, 393-395, 406-410, 413-415
- * C. Vann Woodward, “The Forked Road to Reunion,” chapter 2 in Origins of the New South.

Nov. 30 – The Supreme Court and Reconstruction

- Civil Rights Cases, Plessy v. Ferguson (handouts)
- * Michael Ross, “Justice Miller’s Reconstruction: The Slaughterhouse Cases, Health Codes, and Civil Rights in New Orleans, 1861-1863,” Journal of Southern History, 64 (1998), 649-676.

Dec. 5 – Summary and Conclusions – **Research Paper Due**

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

FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, December 12, 5:30 p.m.