

THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

HIST 2332

University of Texas at Dallas

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Fall 2016
Aug 22 – Dec 7
TTh, 11:30am – 12:45pm
FN 2.104

Course Description

The Civil War killed more Americans than any event in the nation's history. Reconstruction redistributed unprecedented levels of wealth and required a redefinition of freedom and redesign of nearly every national institution. This course explores the history and memory of this transformational era of American history.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will evaluate key questions in the history of the Civil War and Reconstruction.
2. Students will create an original historical argument based on primary sources.
3. Students will demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.

Grading

<u>Assignments</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>	
		100-93	A
Attendance and Participation	10%	92- 90	A-
Paper 1	10%	89-88	B+
Paper 2	10%	87-83	B
Paper 3	10%	82-80	B-
Midterm	20%	79-78	C+
Final Exam	40%	77-70	C
		69-	F

Readings

Weekly course readings will be drawn from the free and online, American history textbook [*The American Yawp*](#), as well as primary sources that will be made available online. Please purchase these additional readings.

[Thomas Dew, *Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War* \(Virginia: 2002\)](#)

[Victoria Bynum, *Free State of Jones: Mississippi's Longest Civil War* \(North Carolina: 2003\)](#)

Free State of Jones (film), available September 20, 2016

[Tony Horowitz, *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* \(Vintage: 1999\)](#)

Technology

All electronic communication must take place through official UT Dallas email accounts. Our course will rely on eLearning. If you experience any issues with any UT Dallas technology, contact the UT Dallas Information Resources Help Desk: assist@utdallas.edu or call 972-883-2911.

AccessAbility Services

It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable disability-related accommodations and/or services for students with documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required (see <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess>).

Academic Honesty

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Academic dishonesty includes, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and collaboration/collusion. Consequences for academic dishonesty will include an automatic failing grade for the class as well as additional discipline to be administered by the university. Additional information related to academic dishonesty and tips on how to avoid dishonesty may be found here: <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/maintain/>

Other university policies and procedures relevant to this course can be found at:
<http://provost.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>

Course Requirements & Evaluations

Attendance and Participation = 10%

Attendance: Attendance is required. In case of extreme circumstances, email an explanation as soon as possible. Provide documentation for excused absences. When you attend class, be sure to participate. I would like to hear your voice at least once every week and see you in my office at least once during the semester.

Reflection Papers = 30% (3 total)

Historians answer questions. You will use three books (and one film) to answer three historical questions. Your answers will come in the form of essays (1,000 – 1,500 words each) that will be worth a total of 30% of your grad (10% each). You may **only** use assigned materials to write these papers. The use of any other resources is cheating and will result in an automatic failing grade for the class. There will be no exceptions.

Paper 1: Why did the South secede?

Paper 2: Do differences between the monograph and the film create alternate histories?

Paper 3: Why are Americans obsessed with the Civil War?

Midterm = 20%

Your midterm exam consists of short essay questions. These questions are drawn directly from the discussion questions that frame our class discussions. Attending class, taking good notes, and participating in discussions is the only way to prepare for this exam.

At the time of the midterm, you will also be asked to produce 15 brief source annotations in preparation for your final exam. More information on this assignment will be provided in class.

Final Exam = 40%

Your final exam includes two components:

1. Like the midterm, you will answer several short essay questions drawn from the weekly discussion questions.
2. You will also be required to answer the final exam question with a well-structured, coherent essay that draws upon several primary sources. Be sure to have an identifiable thesis, clear arguments and relevant supporting evidence. For this essay, you are encouraged to only consult your course notes and the documents we have read in class. This paper should be between 1,800 – 2,500 words. The question is “Who won the Civil War?”

* Students may produce an alternative research project instead of the final essay.

*** Descriptions and timelines may change at Professor Wright’s discretion ***

Course Schedule

WEEK 1	Aug 23, 25	INTRODUCTIONS	AY: 3-4 and PS1
WEEK 2	Aug 30, Sept 1	RACE AND THE UNITED STATES	AY: 5-7 and PS2
WEEK 3	Sept 6, 8	MARKETS	AY: 8,11 and PS3
WEEK 4	Sept 13, 15	IDEAS	AY: 9-10 and PS4 * Dew essay due midnight, 9/16
WEEK 5	Sept 20, 22	GROWTH AND SECESSION	AY: 12-13 and PS5
WEEK 6	Sept 27, 29	THE CONFEDERATE STATES	PS6
WEEK 7	Oct 4, 6	REVIEW AND MIDTERM	
WEEK 8	Oct 11, 13	WAR FOR UNION	AY: 14 and PS7
WEEK 9	Oct 18, 20	WAR FOR EMANCIPATION	PS8 * Bynum essay due midnight, 10/21
WEEK 10	OCT 25, 27	THE AFTERMATH	AY: 15 and PS9
WEEK 11	NOV 1, 3	FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM	PS10
WEEK 12	NOV 10, *	REUNION AND RECONCILIATION	PS11 <i>* no class Nov 12</i>
WEEK 13	NOV 15, 17	WAR FOR MEMORY	PS12 * Horwitz essay due midnight, 11/18
WEEK 14	NO CLASS	FALL BREAK	
WEEK 15	NOV 29, DEC 1	REVIEW AND IN-CLASS FINAL	
WEEK 16	DEC 6	FINAL ESSAY PREP	

Final essay: Who won the Civil War?

* due on the date of the university scheduled final exam (available Sept 7)