

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
HIST 4072
FALL 2008
2:00PM-3:15PM (Room 101)

Instructor: Dr. George W. Justice (gjustice@uga.edu)

Class Meetings: Monday-Friday, 9:15-10:15

Office: 301B LeConte Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00-6:00 PM or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine various aspects of the American Civil War. Certain emphasis will be given to the southern perspective, but the national context is an important component of this course. Some of the topics will include the background to the conflict, various causes, secession, nationalism, slavery, and the impacts on southern culture and thought.

This is a lecture-oriented course, but discussions, questions, and other contributions are always encouraged and sometimes required. There will be certain sessions devoted specifically to selected readings/topics. Class participation will have an impact on the student's final grade. The class requires substantial reading and critical writing assignments.

CLASSROOM CULTURE AND RULES

In this era of multi-tasking and instant communication, all attention during the class period must be focused solely on the subject at hand. Notes may be taken using laptops or other methods as long as email, instant message, or any internet connections are turned off during the period.

Although discussions about the subjects covered are encouraged, private conversations or distractions are not permitted. There will be no talking, reading newspapers, or otherwise distracting activities allowed once class has begun. Blatant disregard of this policy could involve penalties affecting grades and even expulsion from the class. Please demonstrate common courtesies to others in the class.

The class is a learning environment in which respect for all must be maintained. Consequently, be prepared to begin each class on time and do not leave until you are dismissed unless it is demonstrably urgent. Otherwise, exceptions require prior approval.

Attendance will be monitored each day. Any student with more than 4 absences will drop a final letter grade with each additional. After 6 absences students will be dropped from the roll with a WF. There will be no make-up exams except in rare incidents in which excuses of a critical nature can be validated either by University administration or myself.

NOTE: There are no distinctions made between excused or unexcused absences.

(For exceptional circumstances, see me.) Any student having perfect attendance will automatically receive 5 bonus points on the final exam.

INCIDENTALS

Office hours are printed at the top of the syllabus. If you prefer to make a special appointment you may either email me or see me immediately following class to set up a time of mutual convenience. Please be informed of the University's policies on plagiarism and cheating—for more information on these and other related policies see the University website: http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm

In addition, I have designed this syllabus as a general guideline to this course—a roadmap of sorts, if you will. From time to time, however, it may become necessary to adjust and/or make substantive changes to the syllabus either due to unforeseen circumstances or in the instructional/learning interests of the class.

REQUIRED READINGS

This Terrible War (Longman Press) by Michael Fellman, Daniel E. Sutherland, and Lesley Gordon

Secession Debated: Georgia's Showdown in 1860 (Oxford University Press) by William W. Freehling and Craig M. Simpson

What This Cruel War is Over (Alfred A. Knopf) by Chandra Manning

Victims: A True Story of the Civil War (University of Tennessee Press) by Phillip Shaw Paludan

Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War (University of North Carolina Press) by Drew Faust Gilpin

Other selective readings may also be assigned periodically.

EVALUATIONS

This class will require a midterm and a final exam. In addition, quizzes on certain assigned readings may be given without notice.

Two written assignments will also be required. Emphasis will be placed on evaluating texts, making convincing arguments, and on formal writing skills. If you need help and/or advise on the mechanics or styles of formal writing, I urge you to consult the University Writing Center in Park Hall (the English Department), Room # 66. You may consult their website (<http://www.english.uga.edu/writingcenter>) Further instructions for these two papers will be forthcoming.

There will be three written assignments for this course. (First assignment 4-6 pages; second assignment 4-6 pages; final project 10-12 pages). More details and handouts for these assignments will be given in class. Due dates are listed below on the weekly schedule.

Grades will be assessed by the following criterion:

Midterm Exam=25%

Final Exam=25%

Quizzes on Readings=10%

First Writing Assignment=10%

Second Writing Assignment=10%

Final Writing Assignment=20%

Any late assignments will drop by one letter grade per day. Assignments 48 hours overdue will not be graded and will automatically receive an F. Make-up exams or quizzes must have at least a 24 hour prior approval and will be substantively different from regular exams and quizzes.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: August 19-21

Civil War Historiography

Week 2: August 26-28

Causes of the Civil War

Week 3: September 2-4 (*Secession Debated* assignment due September 4)

Secession

Week 4: September 9-11

The Confederacy and Nationalism

Week 5: September 16-18

Why They Fought

Week 6: September 23-25 (Book Review on *What This Cruel War is Over* due September 23)

Slavery and the Civil War

Week 7: September 30-October 2

Tactics/Strategies/Technology of the Civil War

Week 8: October 7-9 (Discussion of *Victims* October 7—possible quiz)

A South Divided

NOTE: No class October 9

Week 9: October 14-16 (Midterm Exam October 14)

Battles, Part I (1861-1862)

Week 10: October 21-23

Battles, Part II (1863)

Week 11: October 28-30

War's End (1864-1865)

Week 12: November 4-6

The Costs of War

Week 13: November 11-13 (Discussion of *Mothers of Invention* November 11—possible quiz)

Women and the Civil War

Week 14: November 18-20 (Secession Project Due November 18)

The Legacy of the Civil War

Week 15: December 2-4

Reconstruction

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 (3:30 PM-6:30 PM)