

The American Civil War

History 6072

General Requirements:

Graduate students are not required to take exams or perform in-class writings. You are, however, expected to: 1) attend all class meetings and read all materials assigned to undergraduates; 2) meet on four occasions in seminar-style book discussions (dates to be determined); 3) prepare a professional-quality book review of a Civil War monograph and; 4) prepare a historiographical essay on an aspect or theme of Civil War history.

Seminar Meetings:

We will all meet on four occasions outside of the regularly scheduled class for in-depth discussions of the following titles. For each meeting, please prepare a two-page paper in which you assess the book's value and impact.

1. Stephen Berry, *All That Makes a Man: Love and Ambition in the Civil War South*
2. Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*
3. Harry S. Stout, *Upon the Altar of the Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War*
4. Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*

Book Review:

Please write a 750-word review of a Civil War-history monograph published by a university press within the last three years. Your review should briefly summarize the contents of the book before assessing its methodology, arguments, and style. Use the reviews of the *American Historical Review* or the *Journal of American History* as your guide.

Your chosen title must be approved by me. Please email me the author and title of your chosen book by February 20. Email me your reviews by March 6.

Historiographical Essay:

Using four or five books as the basis of your discussion, prepare an historiographical essay on a particular aspect of the American Civil War. Your essay should: assess each book's unique contributions; explore the five books' complementarities and contradictions; and provide a sense of the "state of the subfield" that includes an informed speculation on where the historiography appears to be heading. Essays are due before the final exam.

Grades:

- Participation: 20%
- Reaction papers: 20%
- Book Review: 20%
- Historiography paper: 40%