

U. S. Civil War and Reconstruction History 4455 Fall 2010

Dr. Keith Bohannon, Dept. of History, University of West Georgia

Course meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00-9:50 am in Pafford, Room 206

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays- 10-11, 2-4:30; Fridays, 10-11 and by appointment

Office: TLC, Third Floor, Room 3247

Office phone: 678-839-6045

Email: Kbohanno@westga.edu

COURSE GOALS/LEARNING OUTCOME: This course is designed to achieve several learning outcomes. Students will be responsible for demonstrating an understanding of the origins, scope and consequences of the American Civil War, the bloodiest conflict in United States history. We will utilize lectures, discussions, readings, and short films to address central issues such as why the war happened, why the North won/Confederacy lost, and how the war affected various elements of American society. The course will also examine issues left unresolved at the end of the Civil War, most notably the question of where former slaves would fit into the social and political structure of the reunited nation. The written assignments in the class will also hopefully hone students' writing and critical thinking skills.

This is not a course devoted exclusively to battles and generals, although a considerable portion of class time will be devoted to military affairs. It is impossible to understand the broad impact of the conflict without knowing how key battles and campaigns shaped attitudes and actions on the home front.

REQUIREMENTS

Mid-term- 25% of grade

Final Exam- 25% of grade

Response Papers (in class)- 25% of grade

Book reviews (2)- 25% of grade

There is no extra credit given in this course.

Mid-term and final exam- These will be in-class essay tests based on material from the lectures & assigned readings.

Response papers- There will be a number of unscheduled response papers written in class throughout the semester in response to assigned readings. These assigned readings include the books listed below and essays and articles placed on electronic reserve. Your cumulative grade on the response papers will count for a quarter of your final grade, so it is important to come to class having read the material.

Book reviews- Students will be required to write typed (12 point font), double-spaced critical reviews that are three to five pages in length on two of the assigned books (Grimsley and Ash). In order to receive a grade on these assignments, students must utilize the proper format for footnotes or endnotes (Kate Turabian, *Manual for Writers*). Sample citations for Turabian can be found at <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian.html>

Makeup Exams and Late Assignments- Makeup exams will be given only under emergency circumstances. Students needing to make up an assignment must have written documentation explaining their absence. You will have one week from the time you return to class to make up an assignment.

One letter grade will be deducted per day (including weekends) for all assignments turned in after class time on the due date.

Attendance & classroom etiquette- Regular classroom attendance is critical to earning a passing grade in this course. Attendance will be taken on a daily basis and weighed at the end of the semester in assigning course grades. If a student misses class, it is his/her responsibility to find out what was missed.

Students who need to leave during class must provide an excuse to the instructor before the class begins. Anyone who leaves during class without providing an excuse will be marked absent and receive a zero on any assignment given that day, even if the student has completed the assignment.

Cheating- Cheating in any form (including plagiarism- presenting someone else's words as your own without properly citing them) will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F on the assignment and possibly an F in the course.

Writing Center- Students who need assistance with writing are encouraged to see the instructor during his office hours and/or go to the Writing Center on campus. The website for the Center is:
<http://www.westga.edu/~writing/>

Reading Assignments-

There is no textbook for this course. Students who wish to utilize a textbook are encouraged to use James McPherson, Ordeal by Fire or Battle Cry of Freedom or Michael Fellman, et al., This Terrible War.

The assigned books are listed below. Additional readings have been placed on online reserve on the UWG Library website. A handout will be given to you in class explaining how to access the online reserves. All assigned readings must be completed prior to the discussion dates given in the lecture schedule.

Ash, Stephen V., A Year in the South, 1865

Berlin, Ira, and others, eds., Free At Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War

Dew, Charles B., The Road to Disunion

Gallagher, Gary W., The Confederate War

Grimsley, Mark, The Hard Hand of War: Union Military Policy toward Southern civilians

Neely, Mark, The Last Best Hope of Earth

Schedule of Assignments

Week One August 13 Introduction to the course

Week Two August 16-20 Background of the Civil War

Week Three August 23-27 Election of Lincoln and Secession of the Lower South **Reserve readings:** Henry Wilson, "A Slave Power Conspiracy;" Alexander Stephens, "A Need for Justification;" Eric Foner, "Cultural and Ideological Origins;" Eugene Genovese, "Southern Slaveholders Against the World;" David M. Potter, "Why the Republicans Rejected Both Compromise and Secession," all from Michael Perman, The Coming of the Civil War

Week Four August 30-September 3 Secession and Fort Sumter; The War in 1861 **Reading: Dew, Road to Disunion**

Week Five September 6-10 **No class on Sept. 6 (Labor Day)** Early Union Triumphs in the West; The Peninsula and the Seven Days; Confederate Counteroffensives in Maryland and Kentucky **Reserve reading: Gallagher, "The Net Result of the Campaign Was in Our Favor"**

Week Six September 13-17 Background for Emancipation; Emancipation Completed
Reading: Neely, Last Best Hope of Earth

Week Seven September 20-24 Fueling the War Efforts; The Search for Manpower, Money, and Material; Winter 1862-Spring 1863; Northern Frustration **Reading: Berlin, Free At Last Note: Read the following pages of Berlin: Chapter 1: pp. 1-50, 56-75; Chapter 2: pp. 95-113, 129-152, 164-165; Chapter 3: 167-182; Chapter 4: 241-251; Chapter 6 435-437, 445-451; 460-463; 473-474; 496-505**

Week Eight September 27-Oct. 1 African-Americans in Wartime; Freedpeople and Soldiers; Behind the Lines; Prisoners of War; Union Victories in the East and West (Gettysburg and Vicksburg) **Midterm on Oct. 1**

Week Nine Oct. 4-Oct. 8 Diplomacy in the North and South; Chickamauga & Chattanooga Campaigns & elevation of U.S. Grant; Wartime Reconstruction in the North

Week Ten October 11-15 **No class on Oct 15 (Fall Break)** Atlanta Campaign: Sherman vs. Johnston & Hood; Overland Campaign: Grant vs. Lee; Sherman's March **Book Review of Grimsley, The Hard Hand of War, due Wednesday, Oct 13**

Week Eleven October 18-22 **No class on Friday, Oct. 22** The Northern Home Front; The Southern Home Front; Northern and Southern Women during the War **Reserve readings: Faust, "Altars of Sacrifice;" Paludan, "The Scars of War;" Cashin, "Deserters, Civilians, and Draft Resistance in the North"**

Week Twelve Oct. 25-29 The Beginning of the End: Summer and Fall 1864; The Final Campaigns: Fall 1864 and Spring 1865 **Gallagher, Confederate War, due on Oct. 29**

Week Thirteen November 1-5 Reconstruction **No class on Friday, Nov. 5**

Week Fourteen November 8-12 Reconstruction **Book review of Ash, A Year in the South, due Friday, November 12**

Week Fifteen November 15-19 Reconstruction **Reserve readings: Bryant, "We Have No Chance for Justice before the Courts;" Foner, "Was Reconstruction a Splendid Failure?"**

Week Sixteen November 22-26 **No class on Nov 24 or 26 (Thanksgiving Break)**

Week Seventeen Nov 29-Dec 3 **Last day of class is Friday, Dec. 3** Reserve readings: Horwitz, Confederates in the Attic; Foster, Ghosts of the Confederacy

Final Exam is on Monday, Dec. 6, 8-10 am in Pafford, 206