U. S. Civil War and Reconstruction
History 4455  Spring 2020

Dr. Keith Bohannon, Dept. of History, University of West Georgia
Course meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:50-9:40 am in Pafford, Room 305
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10-11, 2-3; Fridays, 10-11 and by appointment
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Email: kbohanno@westga.edu  NOTE: I do not use Course Den to communicate with students, so please do not leave messages for me there.

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 utilize lectures, discussions, readings, and short films to address central issues such as why the war happened, why it resulted in Union victory and Confederate defeat, and how it transformed American society. The course also examines issues left unresolved at the end of the Civil War, most notably the question of how former slaves would fit into the social and political structure of the reunited nation. The written assignments are designed to 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 topics. 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- 20% of grade
Final Exam- 20% of grade
Response Papers (in class)- 25% of grade
Book reviews (4 total)- 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 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 reserve on Course Den. Your cumulative grade on the response papers will count for a quarter of your final grade, so it is important to come to class each week having read the material.

Book reviews- Students will write typed (12 point font), double-spaced critical reviews that are three to five pages in length on four of the assigned books (Dew, Levine, Manning and Ash). In order to receive a grade on these assignments, students must utilize the proper format (Kate Turabian, Manual for Writers) for footnotes or endnotes.

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 is deducted per day (including weekends, since papers can be submitted via email) for all assignments turned in after class time on the due date. If a student submits a paper via email and the instructor does not receive it, the student must provide proof (i.e. a copy of a sent email from your mailbox) that he/she submitted the assignment on a particular day.

Attendance & classroom etiquette- Regular classroom attendance is critical to earning a passing grade in this course. Attendance is 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 (including days when there is a response paper and discussion) 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 submit early drafts of assignments to the course instructor and/or go to the Writing Center in Room 1201, TLC. 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, Battle Cry of Freedom or Michael Fellman, et al., This Terrible War.

The assigned books are listed below. Additional readings have been placed on the class page on Course Den. 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
Dew, Charles B., Apostles of Disunion
Gallagher, Gary W., The Confederate War
Gienapp, William E. Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America
Levine, Bruce, Confederate Emancipation
Manning, Chandra, Troubled Refuge

Schedule of Assignments

Week One Jan 6-10 Introduction to the course

Week Two Jan 13-17 Background of the Civil War


Week Four Jan 27-31 Secession and Fort Sumter; The War in 1861 Book review due of Dew, Road to Disunion, on Friday, Jan. 31

Week Five Feb 3-7 Early Union Triumphs in the West; The Peninsula and the Seven Days; Confederate Counteroffensives in Maryland and Kentucky Reserve reading: Chapter 5 of McPherson, Antietam (posted on Course Den)

Week Six Feb 10-14 Background for Emancipation; Emancipation Completed Reading: Gienapp, Abraham Lincoln

Week Seven Feb 17-21 Fueling the War Efforts; The Search for Manpower, Money, and Material; Winter 1862-Spring 1863; Northern Frustration

Week Eight Feb 24-28 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 Feb 28

Week Nine March 2-6 Diplomacy in the North and South; Chickamauga & Chattanooga Campaigns & elevation of U.S. Grant; Wartime Reconstruction in the North Reading: Gallagher, Confederate War
Week Ten March 9-13  Atlanta Campaign: Sherman vs. Johnston & Hood; Overland Campaign: Grant vs. Lee; Sherman’s March  Book review of Levine, Confederate Emancipation

Spring Break, March 16-20


Week Twelve March 30-April 3  The Beginning of the End: Summer and Fall 1864; The Final Campaigns: Fall 1864 and Spring 1865  Book review of Manning, Troubled Refuge, due Friday, April 3

Week Thirteen April 6-10  Reconstruction

Week Fourteen April 13-17 Reconstruction  Book review of Ash, A Year in the South, due Friday, April 17

Week 15 April 20-24  Reconstruction and Remembering

Week 16 April 27- May 1  Reconstruction and Remembering Chapter 11 of Horwitz, Confederates in the Attic (on Course Den) due  Last day of class is Monday, April 27

Final Exam is Monday, May 4, 8-10 a.m. in Pafford, 305