U. S. Civil War and Reconstruction  
History 5455  Fall 2017

Dr. Keith Bohannon, Dept. of History, University of West Georgia
Course meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:50-9:45 a.m. in Pafford, Room 208
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays- 10-11, 1:30-3:15 and by appointment
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Email: Kbohanno@westga.edu  NOTE: I do not use CourseDen 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- 15% of grade  
Final Exam- 15% of grade  
Response Papers (in class)- 25% of grade  
Book reviews (4)- 25% of grade  
Research Paper- 20%
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 CourseDen. 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 three of the assigned books (Dew, Levine and Ash) and one additional book. Students can choose the additional book, but it must be approved by the instructor. In order to receive a grade on these assignments, students must utilize the proper format (Kate Turabian, Manual for Writers) for footnotes or endnotes.

Research Paper- Each student will write a typed (twelve-point font), double-spaced research paper between thirteen and fifteen pages in length. The paper must examine at least six sources (at least two of them primary) bearing on a significant topic related to the Civil War. The paper must include footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography. Your paper should provide an argument that engages existing historiography.

Students need to set up meetings at some point during the first three weeks of class to decide on a topic and begin research. On Sept. 15 you will turn in an introduction and annotated bibliography of sources. The bibliography must include at least two primary sources. The introduction should explain the historical question being posed in the paper and your tentative answer to the question. The final version of the paper must be turned in by Nov. 27.
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 online reserve 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

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

Dew, Charles B., Apostles of Disunion

Gallagher, Gary W., The Confederate War

Gienapp, William E. Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America

Janney, Caroline, Remembering the Civil War

Levine, Bruce, Confederate Emancipation

Schedule of Assignments

Week One  Aug.- 7-11 Introduction to the course

Week Two  Aug. 14-18 Background of the Civil War

Compromise and Secession,” all from Michael Perman, *The Coming of the Civil War* (posted on CourseDen)

**Week Four** Aug. 28-Sept. 1  
Secession and Fort Sumter; The War in 1861  
*Book review due of Dew, Road to Disunion, on Friday, Sept. 1*

**Week Five** Sept. 4-8  
No class on Sept 4 (Labor Day)  
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 CourseDen)*

**Week Six** Sept. 11-15  
Background for Emancipation; Emancipation Completed  
*Reading: Gienapp, Abraham Lincoln  
Annotated bibliography and introduction for research paper due*

**Week Seven** Sept. 18-22  
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** Sept. 25-29  
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 Sept. 29*

**Week Nine** Oct 2-6  
Diplomacy in the North and South; Chickamauga & Chattanooga Campaigns & elevation of U.S. Grant; Wartime Reconstruction in the North  
*No class on Friday, Oct. 6 (Fall Break)*

**Week Ten** Oct. 9-13  
Atlanta Campaign: Sherman vs. Johnston & Hood; Overland Campaign: Grant vs. Lee; Sherman’s March  
*Book review of Levine, Confederate Emancipation*

**Week Eleven** Oct. 16-20  
The Northern Home Front; The Southern Home Front; Northern and Southern Women during the War  

**Week Twelve** Oct. 23-27  
The Beginning of the End: Summer and Fall 1864; The Final Campaigns: Fall 1864 and Spring 1865  
*Gallagher, Confederate War*

**Week Thirteen** Oct. 30-Nov. 3  
Reconstruction

**Week Fourteen** Nov. 6-10  
Reconstruction

**Week 15** Nov. 13-17  
Reconstruction and Remembering  
*Book review of Ash, A Year in the South, due Friday, Nov. 17*

**Nov. 20-24**  
Thanksgiving Break

**Week 16** Nov. 27-Dec. 1  
Reconstruction and Remembering  
*Research paper due Monday, Nov. 27  
Chapter 11 of Horwitz, Confederates in the Attic (on CourseDen)  
Last day of class is Friday, Dec. 1*

**Final Exam** is on Monday, Dec. 4, 8-10 a.m. in Pafford, 208