

History 225
McKnight

Spring 1991

Requirements for Optional Paper

The Civil War is rich in first-rank biographies. If you wish to do the optional paper, you will select one of these biographies with the instructor's approval, read the biography, and write a paper of 8-10 pages relating the life experience of the figure you read about to the larger patterns and issues of the period. If you wish to read a book on the Civil War or Reconstruction other than a biography this is negotiable. Simply clear your choice with the instructor.

The paper will receive a grade from 0 to 10 points. That number will be added to the final average of your three exam grades. Therefore, a student who made 76 on the first exam, 77 on the second exam, and 78 on the third exam would have a 77 average and receive a C+ for the course. If that same student also wrote an optional paper and received 8 points as a grade for the paper, the final grade would be raised from 77 to 85 and receive a B as his or her final grade even though he or she never made a B on any of the exams. You have much to gain by attempting the optional paper.

The paper will be due in class by May 1st.