

History 225
T/TR 2:00-3:15

Spring '93
McKnight(Off. Hrs. TBA)

Civil War and Reconstruction

Texts for the course: James McPherson, Ordeal by Fire, Vol. II; James McPherson, Reconstruction, Vol. III; Gabor Boritt(ed.), Why the Confederacy Lost; Gerald Linderman, Embattled Courage.

Purpose and Performance: The focus of this course is on the Civil War, described by Lincoln as "Our Fiery Trial," and the immediate postwar period, the era of Reconstruction. The story of Reconstruction defines in great measure what this "fiery trial" was all about.

One cautionary note so as not to misrepresent the course. The instructor has no expertise in military history. He has no enthusiasm for military minutiae or what might be described as the "What-did-Robert-E.-Lee-have-for-breakfast-on-the-third-day-at-Gettysburg" school of military history. On the other hand, he rejects the opposing school of thought that prefers to discuss the history of the Civil War without mentioning the "unpleasant facts" about the actual fighting. The expectation is that the assigned readings will provide a good interpretative overview of the military side of the war and its impact on politics, diplomacy, economics, and the ultimate outcome. (The essays in Boritt's book are the very best I've seen at doing just this).

Class format: The course will be a mix of traditional lecture, discussion based on assigned readings, excerpts from Ken Burns' film series on the Civil War, and a field trip to Gettysburg.

Grades and all that: The grade in this course will be roughly based in the following manner:

Two hourly exams . . .	25% each
Final exam	30%
Book Report(Linderman). . .	10%
Biographical Profile . . .	10%

Informed class discussion will definitely count toward the final grade in the course.

Policy Statement: You are expected to take tests and turn in assigned written work on the dates that appear in the syllabus. In the event of an emergency you must notify the instructor before the scheduled time of the exam of other assigned work with a specific due date. The instructor reserves the right to determine the nature of any make-up work or whether he will grade down the late assignment.

Attendance: The instructor will take attendance each period. If you have more than two unexcused absences the instructor reserves the right to take this into account when computing the final grade in the course.

January 26th . . . Orientation/Housekeeping Chores. . . .

January 28th . . . Outbreak of War/Causation

Class: Go over the historiography of causation of the Civil War.

Readings: McPherson, Ordeal by Fire, Vol. II (hereafter cited as Text), read Lincoln's "First Inaugural Address," in Appendix.

Feb. 2/4th . . . The Early War/Question of Confederate Nationalism

Readings: Text, pp. 153-203; Read also the Introduction from Boritt; and J. Davis Inaugural and speech by Alexander Stephens.

Feb. 9/11th . . . Union War Effort--Early Stages

Readings: Boritt, McPherson, "American Victory, American Defeat:" and Text, pp. 203-222.

February 16th . . . Lincoln and His Generals

Readings: Text, Chpts. 14 & 15; Read also, Boritt, A. Jones, "Military Means, Political Ends"

Feb. 18/23rd . . . Evolution of a Two-Aim War: Toward the
Emancipation Proclamation . . .

Readings: Text, Chpts. 16 & 17; Read also Lincoln's
"Emancipation Proclamation," in Appendix; and Ira Berlin's
piece in Washington Post entitled: "How the Slaves Freed
Themselves," copies on Library Reserve

Class: Excerpts from Burns' "Forever Free, 1862,"
on the battle of Antietam.

February 25th . . . War Behind the Lines

Class: Quest speaker on women and the war (tentative
and subject to change).

March 2nd . . . Men at Arms--Seeing the Elephant

Class: Book report on Linderman's Embattled Courage
due in class.

March 4th . . . First Hourly Exam

March 16th . . . Toward Gettysburg--A Second Turning
Point

Readings: Text, Chpts. 18 & 19

March 18th . . . The Battle for the Universe

Class: Burns' film "The Three Days of Gettysburg"

Readings: Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," in Appendix

March 23/25th . . . Politics of War/ Lincoln & Black
Freedom

Readings: Text, Chpts. 20 & 22; Read also Boritt,
J. Glathaar, "Black Glory"

- March 30/ Rise and Fall of the CSA
April 1st
Readings: Text, Chpts. 23 & 24; Read also Boritt,
G. Gallagher, "Upon Their Success "
- April 6/8th . . . The Day They Tore Old Dixie Down--The Road
To Appomatox
Readings: Text, Chpt. 25; Read also Boritt, R.
Mitchell, "The Perseverance of the Soldiers:" and Lincoln's
"Second Inaugural Address," in Appendix
- April 13th . . . Lincoln Assassination--Myths, Realities and
Reassessment
Readings: William Hanchett, "Lincoln's Murder: The
Single Conspiracy Theory," on Library Reserve
- April 15th . . . Second Hourly Exam