

University of Detroit Mercy

HIS 451

Summer Session I 1998

Instructor: Roy E. Finkenbine

Office: Briggs 322

Office Hours: 10:00-10:50 a.m. Monday-Thursday

Available before or after class by appointment

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Civil War and Reconstruction

This course is an examination of the division and reunion of the United States between 1861 and 1877. Topics explored include the causes of the war; the political, military, economic, and social aspects of the war years; and the successes and failures of Reconstruction. In addition to the mastery of content, the objectives of this course include the enhancement of skills in critical thinking, written and oral expression, and the use of primary sources.

Format: We will use lectures, discussions, films, and other methods to explore this period of U.S. history. You are expected to participate in class by attending regularly, listening carefully, taking notes, asking pertinent questions, and contributing to class discussion.

Required Texts: You are required to purchase the following books, which are available at the University Bookstore:

Brooks D. Simpson, *America's Civil War* (Harlan Davidson, 1996).

Phillip Shaw Paludan, *Victims: A True Story of the Civil War* (University of Tennessee Press, 1981).

Michael Perman, *Emancipation and Reconstruction, 1862-1879* (Harlan Davidson, 1987).

Evaluation: You will be evaluated on the basis of two exams (50%--25% each), two papers (40%--20% each), and class participation (10%). The instructor reserves the right to exercise some discretion in assigning final grades.

Both exams will consist of essay and identification questions. The former will require you to develop analytical responses to broad questions. The final exam is *not* comprehensive. A study guide listing key terms and possible essay questions will be distributed during the week prior to each exam. Makeup exams will be given only at the discretion of the instructor.

You are to write two 5-7 page typed papers. The first will be an in-depth review of *Victims*. The second will be an interpretive investigation of a specific historical issue based on the data sets in the on-line archives of the *Valley of the Shadow* project (<http://www.jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vshadow2/>). Late papers will be penalized one letter grade, plus an additional letter grade for each week past the due date. Separate handouts will explain each of these paper assignments in more detail.

Your participation score will be based on your contribution to class discussion and the regularity of your attendance.

Extra Credit: You may earn up to five points extra credit added to your final grade by attending and writing a 2-3 page reaction paper on “Civil War Remembrance,” a series of events scheduled for May 24-25 at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard in Dearborn. Learn what was involved in firing a musket. See how soldiers fought, camped, dressed, ate, and amused themselves during the war. Call (313) 271-1620 for further details.

Attendance: Regular attendance in class is both expected and required. The instructor will take roll at the beginning of each class during the first few weeks in order to learn your names and faces. After that, an attendance sheet will be circulated in each class. It is your responsibility to sign your name on the attendance sheet and to notify the instructor and provide documentation of any medical, funeral, legal, athletic, or other excused absences. You are allowed one unexcused absence. Additional unexcused absences will negatively affect your participation grade.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating in any form (including *plagiarism*) is not permitted and may result in failure in the course. It may also be grounds for further university disciplinary action. Plagiarism consists of “submitting the words or style of another author or source without acknowledgment or formal documentation. Plagiarism occurs when specific phrases or entire passages, whether a sentence, paragraph, or longer excerpt, are incorporated into one’s own writing without quotation marks or documentation. One also plagiarizes by paraphrasing the work of another, that is retaining another writer’s ideas and structure, without documentation.” (UDM Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty).

Academic Support Services: Those of you with learning difficulties, especially those with previously identified disabilities which might require accommodations, are urged to identify yourselves to the instructor as soon as possible. A variety of academic support services are available to you free of charge. This includes the writing center in Briggs 27 and tutorial assistance at the learning center in Briggs 16. Duplicate services are available in room G-1 of Marian Hall on the Outer Drive campus.

Calendar: Every effort will be made to adhere to the following schedule:

- May 5 Introduction to the Course
The Causes of the Civil War
- May 7 The Growth of Sectionalism, 1787-1860
No Reading Assigned
- May 12 The Election of 1860 and the Secession Crisis
Reading: *America's Civil War*, Introduction and chap. 1
- May 14 Mobilizing for War
Readings: *America's Civil War*, chap. 2
Williamson Murray, "What Took the North So Long" (handout)
- May 19 Union and Confederate Offensives of 1862
Reading: *America's Civil War*, chap. 3
- May 21 Emancipation Policy and Black Enlistment
Reading: *America's Civil War*, chaps. 4 and 5 (pp. 120-129)
- May 26 **Midterm Exam**
- May 28 Union and Confederate Offensives of 1863
Reading: *America's Civil War*, chap. 5 (pp. 100-120)
- June 2 The Home Front: Disaffection North and South
Readings: *America's Civil War*, chap. 6
Victims (entire)
First Paper Due
- June 4 Union Offensives of 1864-65 and the Collapse of the Confederacy
America's Civil War, chaps. 7-8 and Conclusion
- June 9 Wartime and Presidential Reconstruction
Emancipation and Reconstruction, Introduction and chap. 1
- June 11 Radical Reconstruction
Emancipation and Reconstruction, chap. 2
Second Paper Due
- June 16 The Abandonment of Reconstruction
Emancipation and Reconstruction, chap. 3

June 18

Final Exam