

CIVIL WAR, RECONSTRUCTION, AND REUNION

HIS 338
MHRA 2211
Time: M W 3:30-4:45

Dr. Mark Elliott
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Office Hours: TH 2:00-4:00
Or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Civil War and its aftermath marked a watershed in the social, ideological and political history of the nation, and its impact continues to be felt today. This course examines the American Civil War and its aftermath with an emphasis on the causes and consequences of the conflict between the North and South. It traces the development of an antagonism between contrasting social and ideological systems, assesses the strengths and weaknesses of these systems as they influenced the outcome of the war. The political history of the war as well as its impact on people's lives—both on the battlefield and the homefront—is given special emphasis. The contentious issues that caused the war were not resolved in 1865, and the class follows the continuation of the issues until 1896. During Reconstruction, the attempt to reconstruct Southern society on the principle of equal citizenship raised contentious issues about the meaning of free labor, democratic equality, and Federal authority over the states that are examined in detail. The course will conclude by examining the myths, legends, and ideological legacies of both the Civil War and Reconstruction.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students will establish a strong foundation of knowledge in the causes, conduct, and consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction.
- Students will be able to historically contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
- Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument.
- Students will be able identify common myths and false beliefs about the Civil War, and recognize the ideological purposes such myths and beliefs serve.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance:

A student who is not present when his/her name is called at the beginning of class, will be marked "absent." More than three absences will lower your *final grade* by one-third of a

grade for each subsequent absence (that is, your fourth absence will cause a “B” to become a “B-,” your fifth will make it a “C+,” your six will make it a “C,” etc.). Missing a total of 9 or more classes for any reason (one-third of the semester) will result in an automatic “F” for the course. No exceptions. Please use your 3 excused absences wisely and save them to cover all sick days, religious holidays, and personal emergencies. Students are responsible to complete on time all work assigned (or due) on days in which they are absent.

If you suffer from a chronic illness, or have special needs that make the attendance policy burdensome, you MUST inform the instructor in the first week of class, and provide proof of your condition to the Dean of Students. We will do our best to accommodate any legitimate, documented, special needs.

Participation:

You must take notes during class lectures and be attentive and awake during class. Sleeping in class will cause you to be marked “absent.” Cell phones should be muted or turned off and stored away. No talking, texting, twittering, e-mailing or internet surfing during class. No laptop computers may be used for note-taking.

Students are expected to complete the reading assignments in time to participate in class discussions. Your participation grade will be based on the overall *quality* of your contributions in the discussion sections—not the quantity of contributions you make. Please make your contributions informed, intelligent, and constructive.

Written Work:

There will be weekly in-class quizzes on the readings to encourage you to keep up with the reading. If you miss one of these quizzes, you must do a short paper as a replacement within a week, or else receive a zero for the assignment.

There will be one term paper of 1600-1850 words in length. You must write your term paper on one of three assigned topics. You will be assigned a topic by your Instructor. Paper due dates are as follows:

- Topic #1: September 24**
- Topic #2: October 22**
- Topic #3: November 28**

Late papers will be marked down one grade for each day they are late. An assignment sheet with the term paper topic questions will be distributed in class. You will be required to take your paper to the Writing Center at least 3 days in advance of the due date for help revising it before the due date. You will have the option of revising your paper a second time after it is graded.

In order to pass the course you must hand in all written work on time and complete all assignments.

Academic Integrity Policy:

All work submitted in your name must be your own original work for this class with proper citation or credit given to all sources. All papers will be turned in using the “Safe Assignment” function on Blackboard which automatically scans your paper for plagiarism. Each student should be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy, and the penalties for plagiarism. Refer to this address on the UNCG website for more details:

<http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/>

Grading Formula:

20% Class participation.
20% Quizzes and short papers
20% Midterm.
20% Term Paper
20% Final Exam.

Grading Scale

A 100	B+ 87	C+ 77	D+ 67	F 59 and below
A 93	B 83	C 73	D 63	
A- 90	B- 80	C- 70	D- 60	

REQUIRED READING (available at UNCG Bookstore):

Jonathan Daniel Wells, *A House Divided*
Charles Dew, *Apostles of Secession*
Chandra Manning, *What this Cruel War Was Over*
Albion Tourgée, *A Fool's Errand*
Alcott, *Hospital Sketches*
Horowitz, *Confederates in the Attic*

OPTIONAL FILMS (available as streaming media via blackboard):

John Brown's Holy War
Africans in America
The Civil War (Ken Burns)
Gods and Generals
Glory
Gettysburg
Gone with the Wind
Cold Mountain
Reconstruction
The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow

Week 1. INTRODUCTION: SLAVERY AND THE UNION

Reading: Pitcaithley, “‘A Cosmic Threat’: The National Park Service Addresses the Causes of the American Civil War.”

Aug. 20. The Civil War Today

Aug. 22. Discussion: the causes of the Civil War

Week 2. ABOLITIONISM AND BLACK RESISTANCE TO SLAVERY

Reading: Wells, *A House Divided*, 1-54.
Blackboard Documents: Douglass, “What to the Slave is the 4th of July?” Excerpts from Hinton Helper, *The Impending Crisis of the South*, George Fitzhugh on slavery,

Film: Africans in America, Part 4.

Aug. 27 Abolitionism, Expansionism, and the Mexican-American War

Aug. 29 Discussion: Antislavery and Proslavery Arguments

Week 3. THE TUMULTUOUS 1850s

Reading: Wells, *A House Divided*, 55-83.
Blackboard Documents: Dred Scott Decision, Lincoln’s “House Divided” Speech

Film: John Brown’s Holy War

Sept. 3 **LABOR DAY (NO CLASS)**

Sept. 5 The Politics of the 1850s

***Sept. 7** Tony Horowitz, Jackson Library 1st Floor Reading Room. 4 PM

Week 4. THE CRISIS OF SECESSION

Reading: *Apostles of Disunion*, all.
Blackboard Document: Stephen’s “Cornerstone Speech.”

Sept. 10 The Dred Scot Decision and the slide towards war.

Sept. 12 Discussion: Understanding Secession

Week 5. WAGING WAR

Reading: Wells, *A House Divided*, 84-138.
Manning, *What this Cruel War Was Over*, 3-80.

Sept. 17 The Early War: Strategies and Goals

Sept. 19 Discussion: Mobilizing Citizens for War

Week 6. EMANCIPATION

Reading: Wells, *A House Divided*, 139-162.
Manning, *What this Cruel War Was Over*, 81-145.

Film: Gods and Generals

Sept. 24 The Road to Emancipation [Term Paper Topic #1 Due]
Sept. 26 Discussion: Was the Emancipation Proclamation a turning point?

Week 7. THE FALTERING CONFEDERACY

Reading: Alcott, *Hospital Sketches*, all.

Film: Cold Mountain

Oct. 1 The Homefront: North and South
Oct. 3 Discussion: Women and the War

Week 8. THE POLITICAL WAR

Film: Gettysburg

Reading: Wells, *A House Divided*, 163-192.

Oct. 8 Chancellorsville to Gettysburg
Oct. 10 **Midterm Exam**

Week 9. TURNING POINTS

Reading: Wells, *A House Divided*, 193-240.
Blackboard Documents: Neely, "Was the Civil War a Total War?"

Oct. 15 **FALL BREAK (NO CLASS)**
Oct. 17 Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and the Road to Petersburg

Week 10. UNION VICTORY

Reading: Wells, *A House Divided*, 241-263.
Manning, *What this Cruel War Was Over*, 146-221.
Blackboard Documents: Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address.

Oct. 22 Lincoln's Re-election. [Term Paper Topic #2 Due]
Oct. 24 Sherman's March to the Sea; the Confederate Collapse

Film: Glory

Week 11. RADICAL RECONSTRUCTION

Reading: Wells, *A House Divided*, 264-293.
Blackboard Documents: Jourdan Anderson's Letter, Dana's "Grasp of War" speech, Civil Rights Act of 1866, Johnson's Veto Message.

Film: Reconstruction

Oct. 29 Andrew Johnson and the Problem of Reconstruction
Oct. 31 The Radicals Take Charge

Week 12. CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION

Reading: Albion Tourgée, *A Fool's Errand*, 1-250.

Film: Reconstruction

Nov. 5 The Grant Administration and Reconstruction
Nov. 7 Northernizing the South; Reconstructing the North

Week 13. THE COLLAPSE OF RECONSTRUCTION

Reading: Tourgée, *A Fool's Errand*, 251-404

Nov. 12 The Collapse of Reconstruction
Nov. 14 The Compromise of 1877

Week 14. LIFE AFTER RECONSTRUCTION

Reading: Wells, *A House Divided*, 294-343.

Film: The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow

Nov. 19 Reconstruction and the "New South"
Nov. 21 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Week 15. THE RISE OF SEGREGATION

Reading: Horowitz, *Confederates in the Attic*, 3-145.

Film: Gone with the Wind

Nov. 26 The Triumph of Jim Crow Segregation

Nov. 28 Race and Reconstruction in Historical Perspective [Term Paper
Topic #3 Due].

Week 16. THE MEMORY OF THE CIVIL WAR

Reading: Horowitz, *Confederates in the Attic*, 209-391.

Dec. 3 The Civil War in Contemporary Culture.

Week 17. FINAL EXAM

Dec 7 (FRIDAY) Final Exam, 3:30-6:30.