

History 526  
Spring 2006

### **Civil War and Reconstruction: Selected Topics**

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MW 3:30-4:15

This upper level lecture-seminar examines the American Civil War and Reconstruction in terms of nineteenth century nationalism and state formation. We do this in three ways: the making and unmaking of southern nationalism; the emergence of a Black nation-within-a-nation; and, the triumph of northern wage labor capitalism. The objectives are threefold. First, to encourage students to rethink familiar temporal and spatial categories. Second, to challenge conventional narratives concerning civil war origins, heroic military engagements, and regional reconstruction. Third, to situate the era within comparative and global frameworks of nationalist ideology, slavery and emancipation, and capitalist relations of production.

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#### *Required Books (at the UNCG Bookstore)*

Manisha Sinha, Counter-Revolution of Slavery  
Michael Perman, Major Problems (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)  
Armstead L. Robinson, Bitter Fruits of Bondage  
Steven Hahn, Nation Under our Feet  
Jeffrey Kerr-Ritchie, Freedpeople in the Tobacco South  
Richard White, New History of the American West

Those readings marked with an asterisk\* will be class-handouts. For those students wanting a narrative, the best single volume of the era is James M. McPherson, Ordeal by Fire (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2001).

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#### *Lecture and Discussion Schedule*

This class meets late. You are expected to use the time to read carefully Counter-Revolution of Slavery. There will be an in-class exam on it at our first meeting on Jan. 23.

Jan. 23	in-class exam
Jan. 25	lecture: <b>Teaching the Civil War</b>
Jan. 30	lecture: <b>Nineteenth Century Nationalism</b>
Feb. 1	discussion: Perman, chap. 15

## 1: Making and Unmaking Southern Nationalism, 1831-1863

Feb. 6 lecture: **The Roots of Nullification**  
Feb. 8 discussion: Sinha, chaps. 1, 2

Feb. 13 lecture: **Southern Nationalist Ideology**  
Feb. 15 discussion: Sinha, chap. 3

Feb. 20 lecture: **The 1850 Armistice**  
Feb. 22 discussion: Sinha, chaps. 4-8

Feb. 27 lecture: **Collapse of the Confederacy**  
Mar. 1 discussion: Robinson, chaps. 1-6  
Mar. 1 First paper due.

## 2: Nation-within-a-Nation, 1850s-1870s

Mar. 13 lecture: **The Nation that Slavery Made**  
Mar. 15 discussion: Hahn, chap. 1; Kerr-Ritchie, "Black Militias,"\*

Mar. 20 lecture: **Great American Slave Rebellion**  
Mar. 23 discussion: Hahn, chaps. 2, 3

Mar. 27 lecture: **Black Republicans**  
Mar. 29 discussion: Hahn, chaps. 4, 5; Kerr-Ritchie, chaps. 2, 3  
Mar. 29 Second paper due.

## 3: Northern Capitalist Hegemony, 1856-1876

Apr. 3 lecture: **The Four Free's**  
Apr. 5 discussion: Perman, chap. 2

Apr. 10 lecture: **Lincoln: From Unionist to Nationalist**  
Apr. 12 discussion: Perman, chap. 6

Apr. 17 lecture: **Republican Reconstruction**  
Apr. 19 discussion: Perman, chaps. 11, 13

Apr. 24 lecture: **Capitalist Transformation**  
Apr. 26 discussion: Kerr-Ritchie, chaps. 4, 5; White, 179-297

May 1 lecture: **'76 Centennial**  
May 4 discussion: Centennial Orations\*  
May 4 Third paper due.

*Exam & Papers*

1. Exam (in-class) on Jan. 23.
  2. First Paper (5 pages) due Mar. 1.
  3. Second Paper (5 pages) due Mar. 29.
  4. Third Paper (5 pages) due May 4.
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*Class Policies*

1. Late papers will not be accepted.
2. Papers sent via electronic mail will not be accepted.
3. Instructor reserves the right to drop a student either after 3 absences or consistently poor work.
4. Plagiarism will result in a failed grade and referral to the Office of Student Conduct.