

Fall 2001

Civil War and Reconstruction

History 524/611 Dr. Thomas C. Mackey

11-12:15 TTh 101B Gottschalk Hall

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Office Hours: 8-11 M-F, and by appointment.

Readings: Donald, et. al., The Civil War and Reconstruction.

Gienapp (ed.), The Civil War and Reconstruction: Documents.

Foner, Free Labor, Free Soil, Free Men.

Shaara, The Killer Angels.

Glatthaar, Forged in Battle.

Perman, Emancipation and Reconstruction.

In the middle of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln in his December 1, 1862, message to Congress said:

Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us . . .

We, too, cannot escape history. This course provides an in-depth examination of the "middle period" in nineteenth century American history from approximately 1840 to 1877. Divided into three sections, the first section of the course covers the 1840s and 1850s to 1861. The second part of the course is the war years of 1861-1865 while the third part of the course is the period of Reconstruction, 1863-1877. The social, economic, diplomatic, legal, constitutional, and military aspects of the period will be studied.

Course Requirements: This course meets the Historical Studies component of the General Education requirements and is approved for WR credit. Lectures on appropriate days with discussions of the readings highlight the major arguments and issues. Student questions are welcomed at all times and students are expected to participate in the discussions. Students are responsible for all material covered in the lectures, discussions, and readings. Students will complete a mid-term examination, a comprehensive final examination, a term research paper (style sheets will be provided), and an analytical book review. Graduate students are expected to read more widely and produce more written work than undergraduate students.

Due Dates: Students are expected to be complete all assignments on the dates listed on the course syllabus. No make-up examinations are given. Only those students with proven University-approved excuses may ask for a make-up.

Grading: Book review, 20%; mid-term, 25%; final exam, 25%; research paper, 30%. The final exam is Comprehensive. Caution--the grader is not a mind reader. All examinations, quizzes, and papers will be graded on what is

written, not on what the student subsequently decides she or he "really meant."

Term Paper: Term paper proposal; one (1) page, 250 words.

First paper up-date; two (2) pages, 500 words.

Second paper up-date; five (5) pages, 1250 words.

Book reviews will be marked and returned to students for rewriting and correction.

Term paper -- minimum of fifteen (15) text-length pages; twenty-five (25) text-length pages for graduate students that includes a historiographical section. All term papers must contain both footnotes and bibliography. Note: One letter grade will be deducted from the student's final paper grade for every page below the minimum text-length page requirement. For example, if the student produces a "C" paper but it is only 13 text-pages long, the paper's final grade will be an "F."

One-third of letter grade will be deducted from the student's final paper grade for every incorrect use of "its, it's, and it is" and for every run-on sentence in the student's final term paper. For example, if the student produces an "A" paper but the paper contains three incorrect uses of "its, it's or it is" and one run-on sentence, the paper's final grade will be a "B-." For more information, see the "Style Sheet."

Reading Assignment: Students should start reading Donald, Documents 1-12 in Gienapp, and Foner's book. A separate assignment sheet will be distributed explaining the analytical book review assignment. Although class lectures may fall behind the reading, remember that it is easier for the instructor to catch up to the reading than it is for the students to cram reading for the exams.

Important Dates:

Book review due, September 11.

Mid-term exam, October 4.

Last day to drop, October 11.

Research paper due, November 29.

Final examination, Tuesday, December 11, 2001, 11:30 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.

Plagiarism: Students must not plagiarize, which is the use of primary or secondary materials without proper citation in the footnotes, endnotes, or in the work. Plagiarism is theft of intellectual property and plagiarism results in the immediate failure of the assignment and/or worse