

## HTS 3009 -- THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

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Spring Semester 2011  
M, W, F, 12 noon

This course will focus one of the most critical periods in the history of the United States that culminated in a devastating Civil War from 1861 through 1865. That conflict cost more lives than all other wars in American history combined prior to Vietnam, and it has contributed to profound and continuing transformations in American life during nearly a century and a half since it ended.

The first third of the course will focus on the sectional conflicts that helped cause the Civil War. Most of the remaining two-thirds of the course will focus on the four years of the war itself, evaluating the war within the narrative and analytical perspectives of recent scholarship. The final week of the course will briefly consider the crucial aftermath of the Civil War known as Reconstruction, as well as the issues that the Civil War continues to raise for us today.

Evaluation in the course will be based on three mid-term essay exams (indicated below in the "Reading Assignments and Exam Schedule"), on an analytical book review or similar project approved in advance with the instructor, and on a final comprehensive essay exam. The exams will be based on both the readings and on the lecture/discussions.

Please note that the first exam in the class will come very early--on Wednesday, January 26--the middle of the third week of the course!

That first exam will be largely based upon the students' reading of the Jeanette Keith's lively overview of the history of the American South from 1607 to 1877. Starting with this two week "crash course" in Southern history will help insure that all students begin the class with a knowledge of some of the most important elements in the history of the American South, within which the events and issues of the Civil War period can best be understood.

The three required books, all of which will be read in full, are:

Jeanette Keith, The South: A Concise History, Vol. 1  
James M. McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era  
Michael P. Johnson, ed., Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War

The class sessions will combine both lecture and discussion. Since the required readings provide only a taste of the truly staggering range of writing about the issues connected with the Civil War, each student will also be required, in consultation with the professor, to do an analytical book review or special project.

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NOTE WELL: Students are expected to attend class regularly, come on time at the scheduled beginning of each class (no later than 12:05 p.m.), and be ready to participate actively in discussions on the assigned readings.

Class roll will be taken after the first week. Missing six (6) or more unexcused class sessions (the equivalent of 2 full weeks of the course) may be grounds for a reduction in the student's overall course grade by as much as one full grade level (10 points).

Throughout the course, it is expected that all students will adhere to the Georgia Tech Honor Code.

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### READING ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAM SCHEDULE:

NOTE: Students are expected, as a minimum, to begin reading the assignments by the start of the date indicated and to finish reading those assignments before the beginning of the next assignment. Students hoping to earn an "A" in the class should try to finish their reading in advance of the schedule below in order to allow sufficient time for proper review before the exams.

January 10--begin Jeanette Keith, The South, introduction and chapter 1 (pp. 1-52)

January 12--begin Keith, chapter 2 (pp. 53-98)

January 14--begin Keith, chapter 3 (pp. 99-141)

NO CLASS--Monday, January 17--Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebrated

January 19--begin Keith, chapter 4 (pp. 142-183)

January 21--begin Keith, chapter 5 (pp. 184-215)

January 24--Review for Exam #1

EXAM #1--Wednesday, January 26

\*January 26--begin James McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom, prologue and chapter 1 (pp. 3-46)

January 28--begin McPherson, chapter 2 (pp. 47-77)

January 31--begin Lincoln, chapter 1 (pp. 1-36) and McPherson, chapter 3 (pp. 78-116)

February 2--begin Lincoln, chapter 2 (pp. 37-59) and McPherson, chapter 4 (pp. 117-144)

February 4--begin McPherson, chapter 5 (pp. 145-169)

February 7--begin Lincoln, chapter 3 (pp. 60-95)

February 9--begin McPherson, chapter 6 (pp. 170-201)

February 11--begin Lincoln, chapter 4 (pp. 96-115) and McPherson, chapter 7 (pp. 202-233)

February 14--begin Lincoln, chapter 5 (pp. 116-146)  
 February 16--begin McPherson, chapter 8 (pp. 234-275)  
 February 18--begin McPherson, Chapter 9 (pp. 276-307)  
 February 21--Review for Exam #2

EXAM #2--Wednesday, February 23

\*February 23--begin McPherson, chapter 10 (pp. 308-338)  
 February 25--begin McPherson, chapter 11 (pp. 339-368)  
 February 28--begin Lincoln, chapter 6 (pp. 147-178) and McPherson, chapter 12  
 (pp. 369-391)  
 March 2--begin Lincoln, chapter 7 (pp. 179-218)  
 March 4--begin McPherson, chapter 13 (pp. 392-427)  
 March 7--begin McPherson, chapter 14 (pp. 428-453)  
 March 9--begin McPherson, chapter 15 (pp. 454-489)  
 March 11--begin Lincoln, chapter 8 (pp. 220-263)  
 March 14--begin McPherson, chapter 16 (pp. 490-510)  
 March 16--begin McPherson, chapter 17 (pp. 511-545)  
 March 18--begin McPherson, chapter 18 (pp. 546-567)

NO CLASS--March 21--25--Georgia Tech Spring Break--  
 work on Book Reviews

March 28--begin McPherson, chapter 19 (pp. 568-590)  
 March 30--begin McPherson, chapter 20 (pp. 591-625)  
 April 1--begin McPherson, chapter 21 (pp. 626-665)  
 April 4--Review for Exam #3

EXAM #3--Wednesday, April 6

\*April 6--begin McPherson, chapter 22 (pp. 666-688)  
 April 8--begin McPherson, chapter 23 (pp. 689-717)  
 April 11--work on Book Reviews

BOOK REVIEWS due--Wednesday, April 13

\*April 13--begin Lincoln, chapter 9 (pp. 264-306)  
 April 15--begin McPherson, chapter 24 (pp. 718-750)

April 18--begin McPherson, chapter 25 (pp. 751-773)  
April 20--begin McPherson, chapter 26 (pp. 774-806)  
April 22--begin McPherson, chapter 27 (pp. 807-830)  
April 25--begin McPherson, chapter 28 (pp. 831-852) and epilogue (pp. 853-862)  
April 27--begin Lincoln, chapter 10 (pp. 307-329) and review Keith, chapter 5  
(pp. 184-214)  
April 29--review for the Final Exam

FINAL EXAM-- Monday, May 2, 11:30 a.m.