**HTS 4823A/8803A and INTA 4803SG/8803SG**

**Military History of the Civil War**

5/27/12

Summer 2012

Tuesday - Thursday, 12:05 – 1:45 (optional session on Tuesdays to 3:00)

210 O’Keefe

Prof. Seymour Goodman, [seymour.goodman@cc.gatech.edu](mailto:seymour.goodman@cc.gatech.edu)

302 Habersham, 5-1461  
Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12, Thursday 2-3; and by appointment (easily made)

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12, Thursday 11-12; and by appointment (easily made)

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a background in large-scale military decision making and the history and transformation of the American military by analyzing events in the United States between 1860 and 1865 and projecting forward the revolutionary changes that helped define armed conflict for the next 100 years. We will study both sides over the duration of the struggle between them. The course will begin with a brief examination of the conditions that existed at the beginning of the most definitive conflict of the American experience, then shift into a comprehensive study of the changes that transpired during the war, to include:

* Strategy
  + National level strategies and their evolution over the course of the war
  + Theater level strategies and their evolution
  + Naval and maritime strategies and their evolution
  + The mobilization of two economies to fight the first large scale war of the industrial era
* Tactics
  + Command structures
  + Large scale tactical maneuvers
  + Field fortifications/siege
  + Brown-water navy
  + Combined operations
  + Asymmetric warfare
  + Critical infrastructure attacks
  + Command and control
* Logistics
  + Transportation
    - Railroad
    - Road
    - Water
  + Communications
  + Quartermaster
  + Commissary
  + Ordnance
  + Large-scale logistics bases
* Industrial era weapons
  + Procurement
  + Production
  + Distribution
  + Training and sustaining
* The creation and operation of industrial era technical and combat support branches for the two armies and navies:
  + Ordnance
  + Engineers
  + Medical
  + Signal
  + Aeronautics
  + Topographical services

Students will be encouraged to actively participate in discussion of the styles of the changes in warfare that occurred, with focus on the lasting transformations that defined armed conflict through the First World War and forecast principal lessons relevant through the present day. Individual term papers (5-10 pages) will be required, with topics appropriate for undergraduates and graduates, and selected to fit the interests of the students.

This course is planned for three credit hours to be delivered in two weekly class periods of 1.75 hours to reflect the shortened semester, supplemented by field trips. Excursions are intended to broaden the students’ knowledge of the conflict and to stimulate thought and discussion, and will include the Atlanta History Center’s collections and a full-day tour of the Chickamauga battlefield. A more general context of the Civil War will be provided by viewing episodes of the Ken Burns PBS documentary *The Civil War*, to be watched by the students individually and also available with discussion after each Tuesday class in the lecture hall.

The textbook for this course will be Herman Hattaway and Archer Jones’ *How The North Won: A Military History of the Civil War* (the 1991 paperback edition is available at the Engineer’s Bookstore or on Amazon), supplemented by Ken Burns’ *The Civil War* video series (free on Amazon Prime, and to be provided during an optional supplementary class session). Several optional readings will also be recommended over the semester, notably including chapters from Craig Symonds’ *The Civil War at Sea* (2009).

***A schedule of classes follows:***

Week of May 14 Orientation

Overview of the state of the military concepts, processes, and

organizations in the US in the mid-19th Century

The physical, political, and economic geographies of the US 1860-61

The industrial era and its influence on the Civil War

The starting line.

Read H&J Introduction, Chapter 1, Appendix A.

Watch Ken Burns *The Civil War* episode 1

Week of May 21 Background and timelines; the American Civil War as a metanarrative

Ft. Sumter to Ft. Donelson; Lincoln and McClelland

Discussion of term paper topics

Read H&J Chapters 2-4

Watch Burns *The Civil War* episode 2

Week of May 28 Site Visit to Atlanta History Center

(Wednesday, May 30, 3-5:30 pm; optional Jeff Shaara lecture 8 pm))

Building strategy, high command, organization and logistics

Naval/Maritime strategy and developments through the Spring of 1862

Read H&J Chapters 4-6; Symonds Chapters 1-2

Watch Burns *The Civil War* episode 3

Week of June 4 The war from Ft. Donelson to Antietam

Review status of term papers

Read H&J Chapters 7-8

Watch Burns *The Civil War* episode 4

Week of June 11 The War in Kentucky and Maryland, 1862

Industrial era weapons, transportation, communications, and aviation

Read H&J Chapters 9-10

Watch Burns *The Civil War* episode 5

Week of June 18 Union Offensives in Concert

Winter 1862-63 activities

Read H&J Chapters 11-12

Week of June 25 To Gettysburg and Vicksburg

The brown-water navy and remote field army operations

Read H&J Chapter 13; recommended Symonds Chapter 4

Watch Burns *The Civil War* episode 6

***Mid-term exam***

**Site visit to Chickamauga battlefield**

Saturday, June 30, all day starting 6:30 am.

Week of July 2 Chattanooga and the end of 1863

Strategy and Tactics for the next Century; partisan insurgency

as a prelude to modern asymmetric warfare

Read H&J Chapters 14-15

Watch Ken Burns *The Civil War* episode 7

Week of July 9 Warfare for the next Century; technical support services, C3

Simultaneous Advances in 1864

Medical care (Dr. Thorne Winter, MD)

Read H&J Chapters 16-17

Watch Burns *The Civil War* episode 8

Week of July 16 Georgia, Virginia and the defeat of the Confederacy

Warfare for the next century; logistics challenges, technological advances

Read H&J Chapter 18-19

Watch Burns *The Civil War* episode 9

***Term papers due***

Week of July 23 Warfare for the next century; towards total warfare,

What did and did not happen after Appomattox

Course Review and Reflections

Read H&J Chapter 20

Week of July 30 **Final Examination**

Undergraduate students’ final grades will be calculated as follows:

Class Participation 25%

Mid-term Exam 20%

Term Paper 25%

Final Exam 30%