HTST 493.25 - U.S. CIVIL WAR

Instructor: Dr. Frank Towers
Contact information: office, SS 610; email: ftowers@ucalgary.ca; office phone 220-6406
Office Hours: MWF 11:00 – 11:55 a.m., and by appointment.

Class meeting times: MWF at 10:00-10:50 a.m., room KNB 126

Course Description: This course considers the three decades spanning the political crisis associated with the Mexican War, 1846-48, the U.S. Civil War, 1861-65, and the resolution of the peace during Reconstruction, 1865-1877. Themes of the course include politics, slavery and emancipation, military history, and the social differences between North and South.

Course Requirements:
The course grade consists of the following criteria. Exam and paper formats are explained below. Also see schedule of assignments and class topics below for exam and paper due dates.

Assignment: Percent of course grade Due date
Mid-term exam 25% October 8
Research Paper (about 2,500 words) 30% November 29
Final exam 35% to be announced
Participation and attendance 10%

Grade Scale (from the U of C undergraduate calendar, 2008-09)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.</td>
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Mid-term: The mid-term exam will consist of a combination of short answer identifications and one essay. The mid-term exam covers all material up that date.
Final Exam: The final exam will consist of a combination of short answer identifications and essays. The final exam covers all material considered since the mid-term exam.

Research paper: See below.

Reading: Papers, exams, lectures, and class discussions all relate to the reading assigned for this course. Keeping up with the assigned reading is essential for earning a passing grade. Refer to the schedule of assignments below for the reading assignments for each week.

Makeups and legitimate excuses: Documentation of medical and family emergencies (death or illness) or university-related activities is required to make up exams and to receive full credit for late papers. Late paper policy: Papers turned in late without a valid excuse (see above) will receive a lower grade. Grades will be lowered one-half a grade (e.g. from a B+ to a B) for each day late, the weekend counts as two days. Papers must be submitted in person or through the Rd Box outside the History Department main office, SS 656.

Classroom etiquette: Please be courteous to the instructor and to your fellow students. Be present at 10:00, the beginning of class. Avoid side conversations. Turn off ringers on cell phones and pagers. Avoid surfing the web/reading email in class. Use the 50 minutes of class time as an opportunity to unplug from cyberspace. Extreme cases of disruptive behavior can lead to dismissal from class and the university.

Required Texts: Available for purchase, and on 2 hour reserve at McKimmie Library:
Drew Gilpin Faust, This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War (New York, 2008).
Bruce Levine, Confederate Emancipation: Southern Plans to Free and Arm Slaves During the Civil War (New York, 2006).

Schedule of Assignments and Lectures:

Week 1, Sept. 8-12: Sectionalism and the Early Republic, 1789-1840
Reading: Olsen, The American Civil War, ch. 1 (pp. 3-18).
Week 2, Sept. 15-19: Sectionalism and social order

Week 3, Sept. 22-26: Expansion and Crisis, 1846-1856

Week 4, Sept. 29- Oct. 2: Northern Challenge: Republicans and the Election of 1860

Week 5, Oct. 6-10: Southern secession, 1860-61, and first exam.

**October 8, First exam**
Reading:


Stephens, Alexander, “Cornerstone Speech” (March 21, 1861, Savannah, Georgia.)

**October 13, Thanksgiving, no class scheduled, university closed.**

Week 6, Oct. 14-17: Rising Confederate Fortunes, the war in 1861 and 1862


Week 8, Oct. 27- 31: A Modern War: Civilians, Soldiers, and Mass Killing

Week 9, Nov. 3-7: War Is Hell: Union Victory, 1864-1865

**Nov. 10, Fall convocation, reading days, no meeting scheduled.**
Week 10, Nov. 12-14: Emancipation
Reading: Levine, *Confederate Emancipation*, entire, pp. 1-164.

Week 11, Nov. 17-21: Reconstructing the South and Research paper
Research paper due November 21

Week 12, Nov. 24-28: Reconstructing the North

Week 13, Dec. 1-5: Redemption and the Lost Promise of Reconstruction

Final exam time and place to be announced

**Research paper**

**Due date:** Friday November 21, 2008. Papers must be turned in class, or dropped off in the Red Box in front of the History Department main office, Social Sciences 656.

**Length:** Approximately 2,500 words, which usually comes out as ten typed or word-processed, double-spaced pages.


The paper should cover a topic related to the U.S. Civil War, its causes, or Reconstruction. The paper should be based upon both primary and secondary sources. The paper should not be just a report. It should make an argument of some kind. If unsure of how to do this, consider the standard practice of focusing on the causes, consequences, or specific nature of an event.

**Primary Sources:** Primary sources are materials either created by those directly involved in the event under investigation or at least created at the time in question and having direct bearing on the event. They might include diaries, letters, personal papers, newspapers, published writings, minutes of meetings, legislative debates, speeches, census data, and a host of similar materials.

To find primary sources begin by consulting secondary research. Read the notes and bibliographies of newer historical writing for clues to useful published primary sources.

**Secondary Sources:** these are after the fact accounts written by non-participants. For example,
the six books required for this course are examples of secondary sources written by historians. Use sources like these to put your primary sources in their historical context.

**Choosing a Topic:** If nothing readily presents itself read through Olsen, *The American Civil War* for subjects of interest, consult historical encyclopedias and dictionaries (see examples below), and see the instructor.

**Beginning the Research:** Look for secondary sources first, unless the primary source is obvious. To find useful secondary sources, consult some general research sources, such as historical encyclopedias and bibliographies, to insure that you get the BEST of the secondary material out there. A good historical encyclopedia will give you an overview of the topic as well as a list of standard books of interest. Annotated bibliographies will list newer books by topic and provide a brief description of each.

Reference librarians can help you to identify appropriate encyclopedias and annotated bibliographies such as the following:

Once you have found a couple of good books on your topic, you can expand your search in a number of directions:
1. Using the library’s on-line catalog, look up books you have already found and search the subject headings under which they are listed.
2. Browse the library shelf in the vicinity of books you have found for other books on the topic.
3. Search the footnotes and bibliography of these sources for other references of interest, including primary sources.

**Finding Articles:** You will also want to collect scholarly articles on your topic. In my view, the most expedient way to do this is to consult *America: History and Life*, an electronic index to U.S. history journals that is available through the library web page. Reference librarians can show you how to use this article index efficiently. Remember, though, that we may not subscribe to all of the journals it indexes, so collect citations selectively (choose articles in less obscure journals). Other helpful search engines available through the library web page are JSTOR, which provides online access to access in major historical journals, and WorldCat, an index of all published books.
The Web: The internet is a gateway to fantastic sources on the Civil War and a gateway to lousy sources that range from the trivial to outright falsehoods. First the good news. Every year more valuable historical sources are posted on web. For this course, much of our assigned reading comes from web sites that have posted primary sources on the Civil War.

The following web sites have a lot of good primary sources.
-- The University of Virginia, The Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War. http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/. Note that this is the web site companion to Ayers, In the Presence of Mine Enemies.
-- Northern Illinois University, Lincoln Net. http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu
-- The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Documenting the American South: The Southern Homefront, 1861-1865. http://docsouth.unc.edu/imls/topics.html

Now, the bad news. Not everything posted on the web is what it pretends to be. Anyone can put up a web site and claim to have posted a bona fide historical source, when if fact they have posted something they made up, or they have misrepresented the facts to suit their particular purpose. To distinguish good from bad use the same critical skills you would apply to a printed source. Ask, who wrote it? Do they provide documentation? That is, can I trace their research through their notes? How does a single web site match what else your research tells you about the Civil War? If in doubt, don’t trust one source. Find corroborating evidence.

Plagiarism occurs when an author, either deliberately or without the exercise of reasonable judgment, passes off the writing of another as his or her own. A plagiarized paper will automatically be failed and can also result in failure of the course and other penalties, as outlined in the University Calendar. Plagiarism can include, but is not limited to, using a few important words, merely rewording a sentence or paragraph, or using another author’s ideas, without providing a citation to the original source. To avoid plagiarizing another’s work, accurately reference all direct quotations (which should be enclosed in quotation marks) and paraphrases, ideas or information derived from another source, and all concepts that are not commonly known. Lack of references usually suggests plagiarized work, so when in doubt include a footnote. Plagiarism also occurs when an author submits work that is borrowed from another person, purchased, ghostwritten, submitted for credit in another course, or that has been extensively edited by a third party to the degree that it barely resembles the original.