

Master of American History and Government
Ashland University

AHG 504:
The Civil War and Reconstruction
Sunday, June 24 to Friday, June 29, 2007

Instructors: Mac Owens and Paul Moreno

1. Catalogue description and Course Content

This course will examine military aspects of the war, as well as political developments during it, including the political history of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural. The course also examines the post-war Amendments and the Reconstruction era.

2. Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- a. understand how the Civil War and Reconstruction have shaped the political and social consciousness of Americans down to our day.
- b. understand the social and political conditions that produced and sustained this conflict from the 1840s to 1865
- c. understand the causes that impelled individuals to take up arms for or against the United States, most importantly the arguments for and against secession.
- d. understand the political and military objectives of the United States and the Confederacy, the strategies of both sides, and how military strategy related to the political goals in the conduct of the war.
- e. understand how to analyze a military campaign, paying special attention to such factors as: a) the strategic objectives of the campaign; b) the plan and its implementation; c) operational factors including movements, combats, deception, intelligence, and logistics; and d) command relations.
- f. understand the political, economic and strategic factors affecting both sides in the conflict, including the fate of civil liberties in time of war.
- g. understand the role of emancipation as a political-military policy and its consequences for both the war and Reconstruction policy.
- h. understand the role of African-American soldiers in the war.

i. understand the social and political consequences of the war and Reconstruction

Requirements

Students will submit a 15 page research paper/essay on an approved topic. The paper is due NLT two weeks after the end of the course (July 13, 2007).

Required Texts

Michael Les Benedict, *The Fruits of Victory*, University Press of America, ISBN: 978-0819155573

David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001) ISBN: 978-0674008199

Dudley Taylor Cornish, *The Sable Arm: Black Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1987) ISBN: 0-7006-0328-X

Allen Guelzo, *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2004) ISBN: 978-0743299657

Richard M. McMurry, *Two Great Rebel Armies* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989) ISBN: 978-0807845691

James M. McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, ISBN: 978-0195168952

Michael Perman, *Emancipation and Reconstruction*, (Harlan-Davidson), ISBN: 978-0882959955

Kenneth Stampp, ed. *The Causes of the Civil War* (New York: Touchstone, 1991) ISBN: 978-0671751555

Directed Readings (Course Pack or "CP")

Supplemental Readings (Supplemental Pack or "SP")

Schedule

Sunday, 24 June

4:30 – 6:00 pm: Session 1 and Introduction The Legacy of the Civil War and Reconstruction (Professor Owens)

Focus: There are many ways of remembering the Civil War. We see these in movies, Civil War art, and questions concerning the display of the Confederate flag. How do these different ways of remembering the war affect our views of the contemporary United States?

Readings:

Blight, *Race and Reunion*

7:00 – 8:30 pm: Session 2 Institute Lecture

Monday, 25 June

9:00-10:30 am: Session 3 The Impending Crisis (Professor Owens)

Focus: There were many social, political, economic, and technological forces at work during the antebellum period. What were some of them and how did they contribute to the crisis that led to the dissolution of the Union?

Readings:

McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, pp. 3-201

10:45am-12:15pm Session 4 Causes of the War (Professor Moreno)

Focus: What were the causes that impelled southerners to break up the Union in 1860? Was the Civil War an “irrepressible conflict? Why or why not?

Readings:

McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, pp. 202-275

Stampp, *The Causes of the Civil War*

4:30-6:00 pm Session 5 The Rights and Wrongs of Secession (Professor Owens)

Focus: In 1776, Americans invoked the right of revolution as the basis of their separation from Britain. What was the basis of Southern secession? How did it differ from the claims advanced by the Americans in 1776? Why?

Did secession have to lead to war? Why couldn't the south have been allowed to secede peacefully, as Horace Greeley argued?

Readings:

McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, Chapter 9

Platform of the Alabama Democracy (CP 1)

<http://members.aol.com/jfepperson/aladem.html>.

Democratic Platform, 1860--Douglas Faction (CP 3)

http://members.aol.com/jfepperson/demo_d.html.

Democratic Platform, 1860--Breckinridge Faction (CP 5)

http://members.aol.com/jfepperson/demo_b.html.

Republican Platform, 1860 (CP 7)

<http://alpha.furman.edu/~benson/docs/repplat6.htm>.

The Justifying Cause of Secession (CP 11)

Declaration of Causes of Seceding States (CP 19)

<http://members.aol.com/jfepperson/reasons.html#SouthCarolina>.

Ordinances of Secession (CP 29)

<http://members.aol.com/jfepperson/ordnces.html#South%20Carolina>.

Speech of Alexander H. Stephens, The 'Cornerstone' Speech (CP 37)

Mayor Wood's Recommendation of the Secession of New York City (CP 43)

Lincoln: First Inaugural Address (CP 47)

Lincoln: July 4, 1861 Message to Congress in Special Session (CP 53)

Lincoln: August 22, 1862 letter to Horace Greeley (CP 61)

Lincoln: Proclamation Calling Militia and Convening Congress (CP 63)

Lincoln: April 15, 1861 Letter to Reverdy Jackson (CP 65)

Lincoln: April 24, 1861 Letter to Winfield Scott (CP 67)

Tuesday, 26 June

9:00-10:30 am Session 6 Influences on the Combatants/Union and Confederate Strategy (Professor Owens)

Focus: What impact did Napoleon and the French military tradition have on the two sides? How about technology? How critical was America's own military tradition? What were the goals of Union and Confederate strategies? What were the obstacles that both sides faced?

Readings:

Jones, "The European Inheritance;" (SP)

Epstein, "The Transformation of War;" (SP)
McMurray, *Two Great Rebel Armies*

10:45am-12:15 pm Session 7 Civil War Diplomacy (Professor Moreno)

Focus: the founders believed that a strong union was necessary for republican government to succeed in America. President Lincoln needed to prevent European powers from exploiting the rebellion to discredit republican government and expand their power in the Western Hemisphere. How did his administration keep the great powers at bay? What were the conflicting views among and within the great powers (especially Great Britain) about the American Civil War? What problems of international law did the unclear "nature of the war" present?

Readings:

McPherson, ch. 18.

Norman Graebner, "Northern Diplomacy and European Neutrality," in *Why the North Won the Civil War*, 55-78. (SP)

Henry Blumenthal, "Confederate Diplomacy: Popular Notions and International Realities," *Journal of Southern History* 32 (1966), 151-71. (SP)

Max Beloff, "Great Britain and the American Civil War," *History* 37 (1952), 40-48. (SP)

Josiah Herndon, "British Sympathies," *Journal of Southern History* 33 (1967), 356-67. (SP)

4:30-6:00 pm Session 8 From Limited to Total War: 1861-1863 (Professor Owens)

Focus: Although there were many bloody battles in 1861-62, most historians argue that the objectives of the war were still limited. What were these objectives and how did they affect the conduct of the war? The intensity of the war increased substantially in 1863. What conditions changed to bring about this situation?

Readings:

McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, pp. 276-674

Wednesday, 27 June

9:00-10:45 am Session 9 Domestic Politics in the North (Professor Moreno)

Focus: Victory in the Civil War required Lincoln to maintain the unity and dominance of the Republican party. The war also facilitated monumental changes

in national policy, reviving the Federalist-Whig agenda of national mercantilism. How did Lincoln and the Republicans maintain public support for their policies? What opposition challenged them? How did the American political economy develop during the war?

Readings:

McPherson, chap. 14

Eric L. McKittrick, "Party Politics in the Union and Confederate War Effort," in *The American Party Systems*, ed. Chambers and Burnham (1967), 117-51. (SP)

Philip S. Paludan, "The American Civil War Considered as a Crisis in Law and Order," *American Historical Review* 77 (1972). (not available at this time)

10:45am-12:15 pm Session 10 Civil Liberties, North and South (Professor Owens)

Focus: Lincoln claimed to be fighting a war that would lead to "a new birth of freedom," yet some claim he violated civil liberties on an unprecedented scale. How can a war for liberty be reconciled with such violations of civil liberties?

Were the steps he took during the war constitutional? Why or why not? Was he ever a "dictator" as Clinton Rossiter has claimed?

Compare and contrast Taney's opinion ex parte Merryman and Lincoln's apologia in his letter to Erastus Corner and the New York Democrats.

Readings:

McPherson, Chapter 20, pp. 591-625

Lincoln, Suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus (CP 69)

Taney, "Ex Parte Merryman" from Edward McPherson, *The Political History of the United States of America during the Great Rebellion, 1860-1865* (CP 71)

Lincoln: Letter to Erastus Corning and Others (CP 81)

Fehrenbacher, "Lincoln and the Constitution" (CP 87)

4:30-6:00 pm Session 11 Domestic Politics in the South (Professor Moreno)

Focus: The Confederate States seceded in order to preserve slavery and state sovereignty. Yet they immediately faced the need to establish a strong central government to sustain a modern war. This war threatened the very principles and institutions to which the new regime was dedicated. How did the Confederate leaders establish a new federal constitution and state governments? What domestic political problems did they encounter as they tried to carry on the war?

Readings:

McPherson, chaps. 14 and 23

Richard F. Bense, "Southern Leviathan: The Development of Central State Authority in the CSA," *Studies in American Political Development* 2 (1986), 68-136. (SP)

David Donald, "Died of Democracy," in *Why the North Won the Civil War*, ed. Donald (New York, 1960), 79-90. (SP)

David M. Potter, "Jefferson Davis and the Political Factors in Confederate Defeat," *ibid.*, 91-112. (SP)

Alexander H. Stephens, Cornerstone Speech (CP 37)

The Constitution of the Confederate States of America (CP 97)

Thursday, 28 June

9:00-10:30 am Session 12 Total War/War Termination 1863-1865 (Professor Owens)

Focus: Historians argue that the conduct of the Civil War after 1863 adumbrates the total wars of the 20th century. How valid is this argument?

In retrospect, most of us conclude that Union victory was assured by at least the fall of 1864 when Sherman captured Atlanta most likely assuring Lincoln's reelection. Why did the Confederacy continue to resist? Why did they give up when they did? Could resistance have continued? Did it in fact continue during Reconstruction?

Readings:

McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, pp. 675-688, 718-852

10:45am-12:15 pm Session 13 Reconstruction I: Lincoln, Johnson, and Restoration (Professor Moreno)

Focus: How did the uncertain "nature of the war" shape the problem of defining "reconstruction"? What were the fundamental theories available? How did Lincoln and Congress differ in their views of postwar policy on both substantive and procedural grounds?

Readings:

McPherson, 698-717, 838-44

Benedict, *The Fruits of Victory*,

Part I, chapters 1-2; Part II, chapters 1-4

Perman, *Emancipation and Reconstruction*, Chapter 1

2:00-3:30 pm Session 14 Reconstruction II: Moderate Congressional Reconstruction (Professor Moreno)

Focus: What was the principal reason for and elements of congressional reconstruction policy up to the Fourteenth Amendment? How did they define the extent and limits of “civil rights”?

Readings:

Benedict, *The Fruits of Victory*, Part I, chapter 3; Part II: chapters 5-10
Perman, *Emancipation and Reconstruction*, Chapter 2

3:30-6:00 pm Optional Session to watch the Movie: *Glory*

Friday, 29 June

9:00-10:30am Session 15 Emancipation/Black Troops (Professor Owens)

Focus: The Emancipation Proclamation did not free a single slave under the authority of the Federal government, e.g. the border states of Maryland, Kentucky, Delaware, or Missouri. What did it accomplish?

On emancipation, Lincoln moved too slowly for the radicals and abolitionists and too fast for the Democrats. How would you assess Lincoln's actions?

How do you respond to the charge that recruiting black troops only raised the stakes and hardened the position of the Confederacy? What was the effect of black recruitment? Was the outcome primarily positive or negative?

Readings:

Allen Guelzo, *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation*

Dudley Taylor Cornish, *The Sable Arm*

Lincoln, "Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation" (CP 109)

Lincoln: Annual Message to Congress (1862) (CP 111)

Lincoln: January 1, 1863 Final Emancipation Proclamation (CP 125)

Lincoln: March 26, 1863 Letter to Governor Andrew Johnson (CP 127)

Lincoln: August 5, 1863 Letter to General N.P. Banks (CP 129)

Lincoln: August 26, 1863 Letter to James C. Conkling (CP 131)

Lincoln: March 13, 1864 Letter to Governor Michael Hahn (CP 135)

Lincoln: October 10, 1864 Letter to Henry W. Hoffman (CP 137)

Lincoln, "Order of Retaliation" (CP 139)
Lincoln, "To Stephen A. Hulburt" (CP 141)
Lincoln, "To Nathaniel Banks" (CP 143)
Lincoln: Annual Message to Congress (1864) (CP 145)
Frederick Douglass, "Condition of the Country" (February 1863) (CP 157)
Douglass, "Men of Color, To Arms!" (Mar 1863) (CP 159)
Douglass, "Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln" (CP 161)
Fehrenbacher, "Only His Stepchildren: Lincoln and the Negro" (CP 167)

10:45am -12:15pm Session 16 Reconstruction III: Radical Congressional Reconstruction (Professor Moreno)

Focus: What caused Congress to turn to a more radical Reconstruction policy? How "radical" was Radical Reconstruction? What did it do and fail to do?

Readings:

Benedict, *The Fruits of Victory*,
Part I, Chapters 4-7; Part II: Chapters 11-21

2:00-3:30 pm Session 17 Reconstruction IV: Restoration and the Court (Professor Moreno)

Focus: How did the "redemption" of the former Confederate states come about? How faithfully did the Supreme Court interpret the Reconstruction amendments and statutes? How did its interpretation change over time, and reflect changing attitudes about race and federal power in the late 19th century?

Readings:

Benedict, "Preserving Federalism: The Conservative Basis of Radical Reconstruction," *Journal of American History* 61 (1974), 65-90 (CP 179).

Benedict, "Preserving Federalism: Reconstruction and the Waite Court," *Supreme Court Review* 1978, 39-79 (CP 207).

Slaughterhouse Cases, 83 U.S. 36 (1873). (CP 251)

Civil Rights Cases, 109 U.S. 3 (1883). (CP 255)

Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 U.S. 537 (1896) (CP 261)