

History 214: The American Civil War and Reconstruction

Fall 2014

Sarah J. Purcell

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-9:50 ARH 124

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Office Hours: MW 10-12 and by appointment. I am here to help you learn this semester. Please come see me during office hours or make an appointment, so I can speak with you one-on-one. I have a changing schedule from week to week because I direct the Rosenfield Program, so it's often good to make an appointment—I can always make time for you.

Course Outline and Objectives:

No one can adequately understand American History without understanding the causes, progress, and monumental consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction. This course will examine American history from the mid 1840s to the late 1870s, with a primary focus on the Civil War. The Civil War as an historical subject is about much more than just a series of battles. In this course, we will focus on issues of race, gender, politics, and economics as well as important military matters. Our goal will be to understand how and why events happened as they did, whether the fundamental conflicts of the war were solved by Reconstruction, and why the Civil War has occupied such an important place in American history and imagination. We will consider the period from different perspectives-- North versus South, enlisted soldiers versus commanders, battlefield versus "home front"-- in order to explain events of enormous significance. We will also consider how the Civil War has been remembered, and forgotten, in the 150 years since it began.

Together we will investigate some of the most interesting questions in American history, and students should be ready to articulate and grapple with ideas (even the controversial and contested ones). Students in this course will learn not only about the subject of the Civil War and Reconstruction, but also about the very *process* of history. We will also be learning about and experimenting with some of the most exciting digital tools used in historical scholarship.

Required Books: (all books are also on 2-hour reserve at Burling Library)

Ambrose Bierce, *Civil War Stories* (Dover, 1994)

Lisa M. Brady, *War upon the Land* (U. Ga. Press, 2012)

William Craft and Ellen Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: The Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*, ed. Barbara McCaskill (U. of GA, 1999)

Drew Gilpin Faust, *Mothers of Invention* (UNC, 1996)

William Gienapp, ed. *The Civil War and Reconstruction: A Documentary Collection* (Norton,

2001)

James McPherson and James K. Hogue, *Ordeal by Fire*, 4th Ed. (McGraw-Hill, 2009)

Aaron Sheehan-Dean, *Concise Historical Atlas of the U.S. Civil War* (Oxford, 2009)

E-Reserve articles will be found on PioneerWeb under “Documents” and/or linked in the Library Catalog. Most reserve readings have live links on this syllabus, as well.

Professor Purcell will, from time to time, comment upon class matters and recommend supplemental readings on Twitter using #cwgrinnell14, and she encourages you to do the same. This is intended as a *public* extension of class discussion, so make sure you view Twitter use for this class as a public form of discourse. You may follow Prof. Purcell [@sarahjpurcell], or you may just follow the hashtag. If you have never used Twitter, this would be a good time to try it.

Student Responsibilities and Evaluation:

- This course will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, small-group work, and other in-class exercises. Students are expected to attend all classes having done the reading and ready to discuss it. Learning is a collaborative process, so speak up and share your ideas with your classmates!
- All assignments must be turned in on time and in good order. Papers must be double-spaced with normal fonts and margins. All citations must be in footnotes or endnotes in University of Chicago Style. Further assignments and guidelines for paper-writing will be handed out in class. Extensions (for sickness or other emergency) will not be granted unless they are approved by the instructor ahead of time. Late assignments will receive a deduction of one-half letter grade per day and will not be accepted more than two days late.
- Please familiarize yourself with Student Handbook guidelines about academic honesty at Grinnell, and abide by the rules.
- Please check your e-mail and P-web regularly, since I will post items of interest and use e-mail to make class announcements.
- Students in this course will write two 5-page papers based on course materials due on September 22 and November 10. The September 22 paper will have a mandatory revision due on October 15. A shorter article research writing assignment will be due September 5. Each student will work in a team to create a research poster (preceded by a bibliography), which will be showcased at our class poster session on December 5. Other written assignments, such as film response papers will be discussed in class and will count towards class participation. There will be an in-class final exam.
- Poor attendance in class will seriously hurt your grade. You cannot participate if you are not in class. If you must miss class for an activity or athletic event, please arrange your absence with me at least one week in advance. If you need to miss class because you are

sick, it is your responsibility to notify Prof. Purcell via email.

- Please silence and stow away your cell phone, and do not check e-mail or text messages during class. Focus on class work. If you are using a laptop or mobile device for class work, please keep your focus! I embrace the use of computers and mobile technology in this class, but when you use a device for something other than class work, you distract yourself AND those around you. Don't do it.
 - If you require accommodation for any diagnosed disability, please let me know during the first week of class. Grinnell College provides reasonable accommodations.
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Grading:

Grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

Article research assignment	5%
5-pp papers	15% each
Research Poster Bibliography	5%
Research Reflection Journal	5%
Research Poster	20%
Final Exam	15%
Class Participation	20%

Steady improvement over the course of the semester will be taken into account.

Course Schedule and Assignments:

Fri. (Aug 29) Course Introduction

Explore at least one scholarly blog about the Civil War from this list:

http://www.civilwarcenter.olemiss.edu/Research_blogs.shtml

Antebellum North and South

Mon. (Sep 1) Free Labor

Reading Due: McPherson, Ordeal, Ch. 1; Gienapp, "The North and South Contrasted," 1&2

Wed. (Sep 3) The Slave System

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 2; Gienapp, "The North and South Contrasted," 6-9 & 11

Fri. (Sep 5) Comparing Regions NO CLASS MEETING

Reading Due: Edward Pessen, "How Different from Each Other Were the Antebellum North and South?" The American Historical Review 85 (1980): 1119-1149;

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1853242> *e-reserve*; *Concise Atlas*, pp. xv, 4-9

Article Research Assignment Due 5:00 pm in P-Web

Mon. (Sep 8) Using New Tools for Historical Comparison

Reading Due: William G. Thomas and Edward W. Ayers, "An Overview: The Differences Slavery Made: A Close Analysis of Two American Communities," American Historical Review 108 (December 2003): 1299-1307;

<http://search.ebscohost.com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/login.aspx?direct=true&db=31h&AN=11754136&site=ehost-live>; *e-reserve*; AND read/explore the article itself online here: <http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/AHR/>

The Slavery Debate to 1850

Wed. (Sep 10) Abolition versus Pro-slavery

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 3; Gienapp, "The North and South Contrasted," 3&4, 10; documents distributed in class

The Crisis of the 1850s

Fri. (Sep 12) Legacies of Manifest Destiny

slide show and discussion on "the West"

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 4-5; Concise Atlas, pp. 2-3

Mon. (Sep 15) Legacies of Manifest Destiny continued

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 6-7; Gienapp, "The House Dividing," 1

Wed. (Sep 17) Slave Narratives and Abolition

Reading Due: William Craft and Ellen Craft, Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; Gienapp, "The North and South Contrasted," 12

Fri. (Sep 19) The Failure of Compromise

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 8; Gienapp, "The House Dividing," 2-13; Concise Atlas, pp. 10-11

War Ignites

Mon. (Sep 22) Secession as Revolution?

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 9; Gienapp, "The Road to War," 1-4; Concise Atlas, pp. 12-13

5-pp. paper due 5:00 pm in P-Web

Wed. (Sep 24) Ft. Sumter & First Conflicts

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 10; Gienapp, "The Road to War," 5&6; "The War Begins," 1-3

1861

Fri. (Sep 26) Mobilization: North and South

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 11-12; Gienapp, "The War Begins," 3-9; Concise Atlas, pp. 14-17, 20-21, 24-25

Mon. (Sep 29) Civil War Songs

Wed. (Oct 1) Fighting at Home, Appeals Abroad

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 13; Gienapp, "Diplomacy" 1-4; Concise Atlas, pp. 76-77

1862

Fri. (Oct 3) The Springtime of Northern Hope: Judging the Generals

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 14-15; Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1861-1862," 1-13; Concise Atlas, pp. 18-19, 26-35

Mon. (Oct 6) The Politics of Slavery & Emancipation

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch.16-17; "Union Politics, 1861-1862," 1-10; "Confederate Politics, 1861-1863," 1-5; "African Americans," 12-13; "Union Politics, 1863," 1 &2; Concise Atlas, pp. 40-45

Wed. (Oct 8) The Winter of Northern Discontent, How to Read a Battle Map

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 18, Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1861-1862," 14-16; Concise Atlas, pp. ix-xiii, 50-51, 54-55

Soldiers' Experiences and Identities

Fri. (Oct 10) What Did Soldiers Fight For?

*Reading Due: Bierce, "What I Saw of Shiloh"; Gienapp, "Common Soldiers" 1-11; Aaron Sheehan-Dean, "Everyman's War: Confederate Enlistment in Civil War Virginia," Civil War History 50 (2004): 5-26 *e-reserve*; Excerpt from McPherson "For Cause and Comrades" **distributed in class***

Mon. (Oct 13) Black Soldiers

*Reading Due: Dora L. Costa and Matthew E. Kahn, "Forging a New Identity: The Costs and Benefits of Diversity in Civil War Combat Units for Black Slaves and Freeman," Journal of Economic History 66 (December 2006): 936-962; <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4501109> *e-reserve*; Gienapp, "African Americans," 1-11*

Research Poster Topic Selection Due in class

Wed. (Oct 15) Spatial History and Black Soldiers

In-class GIS exercise

REVISED 5-pp. paper due 5:00 pm in P-Web

Battlefields and Home Fronts

Fri. (Oct 17) Northern Women, Politics, and Domesticity

*Reading Due: Wendy Hamand Venet, "The Emergence of a Suffragist: Mary Livermore, Civil War Activism, and the Moral Power of Women," Civil War History 48 (2002): 143-164; <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=31h&AN=7152989&site=ehost-live> *e-reserve*; Judith Giesberg, "Noble Union Girls," Civil War Times 49 (June 2010): 58-64 (America: History and Life) also available under another title here:*

<http://www.historynet.com/explosion-at-the-allegheny-arsenal.htm>

October 18-26 FALL BREAK

Mon. (Oct 27) Racial Violence in the North

*Reading Due: Michael J. Pfeifer, "The Northern United States and the Genesis of Racial Lynching: The Lynching of African Americans in the Civil War Era," Journal of American History 97 (December 2010): 621-635; <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40959936>
*e-reserve**

Wed. (Oct 29) Mothers of Invention

Reading Due: Faust, pp. xi-233; Reading Due: Gienapp, "The Confederate Home Front" 1-13; Concise Atlas, pp. 64-65

Fri. (Oct 31) War, Nature, Strategy

Reading Due: Brady, War upon the Land, pp. xii-48

Turning Points of 1863

Mon. (Nov 3) NO CLASS MEETING Resistance & Dissent

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 20-21; Gienapp, "The Union Home Front," 1-10; Concise Atlas, pp. 60-61

Research Poster Bibliography due 5:00 pm in P-Web

Wed. (Nov 5) Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chattanooga

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 19; Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1863," 1-9; Concise Atlas, pp. 56-59, 62-63, 66-67

Fri. (Nov 7) Gettysburg, Mapping, and Spatial Analysis

*Reading Due: Anne Kelly Knowles, et. al. "What Could Lee See at Gettysburg?" in Placing History: How Maps, Spatial Data, and GIS Are Changing Historical Scholarship ed. Anne Kelly Knowles (Redlands, CA: ESRI Press, 2008): 235-265. *e-reserve*

Mon. (Nov 10) Vicksburg as Turning Point

Reading Due: Brady, War upon the Land, pp. 49-71

5-Page Paper Due 5:00 pm in P-Web

1864

Wed. (Nov 12) The Meaning of Death

*Reading Due: The Gettysburg Address, Ordeal, pp. A-16-A-17; Walt Whitman, "The Wound Dresser"; Clara Barton excerpt **distributed in class**; Bierce, "One of the Missing"*

Fri. (Nov 14) Military Stalemate/ Political Battles

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 22-24; Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1864," 1-4; "Union

Politics, 1864," 1-13; Concise Atlas, pp. 68-75, 86-87

War's End

Mon. (Nov 17) Total War

Reading Due: Brady, War upon the Land, pp. 72-140

Wed. (Nov 19) The End of the Confederacy

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 25; Faust, pp. 234-257; Gienapp, "Confederate Politics, 1864-1865," 1-7; "The End of the War," 3&4, 11-16; Concise Atlas, pp. 78-85, 88-91

Fri. (Nov 21) The Death of Lincoln

Reading Due: Gienapp, "The End of the War," 5&9

Research Poster Draft Due 5:00 pm in P-Web

Reconstruction

Mon. (Nov 24) Peace & Reconstruction

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 26-29; Gienapp, "Presidential Reconstruction," 1-9; "Johnson's Clash with Congress," 1-8; "Congressional Reconstruction," 1-7; Concise Atlas, pp. 92-99

Wed. (Nov 26) Sex and Politics

*Reading Due: Martha Hodes, "The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics," Journal of the History of Sexuality 3 (1993): 402-417; <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3704014>
Laura F. Edwards, "The Disappearance of Susan Daniels and Henderson Cooper," Feminist Studies 22 (1996): 363-386; <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3178419>
*e-reserve**

Fri. (Nov 28) **THANKSGIVING BREAK NO CLASS MEETING**

Mon. (Dec 1) The Experience of Reconstruction

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 30-31; Gienapp, "Political Reconstruction in the South," 1-5, "Economic and Social Reconstruction," 1-11; Concise Atlas, pp. 100-103

Tuesday (Dec 2) Final Revised Research Poster Due 9:00 am in P-Web

Wed. (Dec 3) The End of Reconstruction

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 31-32; Gienapp, "Opposition and Northern Disillusionment," 1-3, 9&10; "The End of Reconstruction," 1-3; Concise Atlas, pp. 104-105

Fri. (Dec 5) RESEARCH POSTER SESSION

Mon. (Dec. 8) The New South?

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 33 & Epilogue

A New Birth of Freedom?

Wed. (Dec. 10) Looking Back and Looking Forward: Commemoration and the Future

Fri. (Dec. 12) Public Memory and the Civil War

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 FINAL EXAM 9:00 am