

**History 214: The American Civil War and Reconstruction**  
Spring 2013  
**Sarah J. Purcell**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50

ARH 120

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Office Hours: MW 8-10 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.

**Required Books:**

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

Gabor S. Boritt, ed. *The Gettysburg Nobody Knows* (Oxford University Press, 1997)

John Ernest, ed. *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: Or, The Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery* (2000)

Drew Gilpin Faust, *Mothers of Invention* (Vintage, 1997)

Eric Foner, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* (2010)

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 and/or linked in the Library Catalog

**Student Responsibilities and Evaluation:**

This course will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, small-group work, and other in-class exercises. From time to time you will need to meet with a small group or to view a film outside of class. 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 class-mates!

All assignments must be turned in on-time and in good order. Papers must be typed, 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 regularly, since I will use e-mail to make class announcements.

Students in this course will write one 3-page paper and one 5-page paper (which will be revised) based on course materials. A shorter article research writing assignment will be due January 30. All students will also write a 10-page term paper encompassing research in primary and secondary sources, due on May 1. Other written assignments, such as film response papers will be discussed in class and will count towards class participation. There will be a take-home midterm exam and a take-home final exam.

Please note: poor attendance will seriously hurt your grade in this class. 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.

Please turn off your cell phone, and do not check e-mail or text messages during class.

If require accommodation for any diagnosed disability, please let me know during the first week of class.

**Grading:**

Grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

Research assn	3%
5-page draft	5%
5-page paper	10%
3-page paper	7%
Midterm	20%
Final exam	20%
10-page paper	20%
Class Partic.	15%

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

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### **Course Schedule and Assignments:**

Mon. (Jan 21) No Class meeting—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Please feel free to watch the presidential inauguration in JRC 101

Attend the MLK, Jr. event with Grace Lee Boggs at 4:15 in JRC 101

Wed. (Jan 23) Civil War Memory and History: Does 150 Years Matter?

*Reading Due: "Historians' Forum: The American Civil War's Centennial vs. the Sesquicentennial" Civil War History 57 (December 2011): 380-402; Lincoln and Emancipation Op-Ed pieces (posted under "documents" in P-Web)*

### **Antebellum North and South**

Fri. (Jan 25) Free Labor

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

Mon. (Jan 28) The Slave System

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

Wed. (Jan 30) Comparing Regions

*Reading Due: Edward Pessen, "How Different from Each Other Were the Antebellum North and South?" The American Historical Review 85 (1980): 1119-1149; \*J-STOR & e-reserve\*; Concise Atlas, pp. xv, 4-9*

### **ARTICLE RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS**

### **The Slavery Debate to 1850**

Fri. (Feb 1) Abolition versus Pro-slavery

*Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 3; Gienapp, "The North and South Contrasted," 3&4, 10; The Fiery Trial, pp. xv-62; **documents distributed in class***

Mon. (Feb 4) Slave narratives and Anti-slavery

*Reading Due: John Ernest, editor, Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom, Or, The Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery; Gienapp, "The North and South Contrasted," 12*

### **The Crisis of the 1850s**

Wed. (Feb 6) Legacies of Manifest Destiny

\*slide show and discussion on "the West"\*

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

Fri. (Feb. 8) Legacies of Manifest Destiny continued

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

Mon. (Feb. 11) The Failure of Compromise

*Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 8; Gienapp, "The House Dividing," 2-13; Fiery Trial, pp. 63-131; Concise Atlas, pp. 10-11*

### **War Ignites**

Wed. (Feb. 13) Secession as Revolution?

*Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 9; Gienapp, "The Road to War," 1-4; Fiery Trial, pp. 132-165; Concise Atlas, pp. 12-13*

Fri. (Feb. 15) Ft. Sumter & First Conflicts

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

### **5-PP. PAPER DUE AT 4:30 PM in PioneerWeb (P-Web)**

Mon. (Feb 18) 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*

### **1861**

Wed. (Feb 20) Civil War Songs

Fri. (Feb 22) Fighting at Home, Appeals Abroad

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

Mon. (Feb 25) The Springtime of Northern Hope: Judging the Generals

*Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 14-15; Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1861-1862," 1-10; Concise Atlas, pp. 18-19, 26-35*

### **1862**

Wed. (Feb 27) 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*

Fri. (Mar 1) Lincoln & Emancipation

*Reading Due: Fiery Trial, pp. 166-289*

Mon. (Mar 4) The Winter of Northern Discontent, How to Read a Battle Map

*Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 18, Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1861-1862," 11-16; Concise Atlas, pp. ix-xiii, 50-51, 54-55*

### **Soldiers' Experiences and Identities**

Wed. (Mar 6) What Did Soldiers Fight For?

*Reading Due: Bierce, "What I Saw at 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**

Fri. (Mar 8) No class meeting **REVISED 5-PP. PAPER DUE at 4:30 p.m. in P-Web**

Mon. (Mar 11) 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 Freemen,” Journal of Economic History 66 (December 2006): 936-962 \*e-reserve\*; Gienapp, “African Americans,” 1-11*

### **Battlefields and Home Fronts**

Wed. (Mar. 13) 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 \*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>*

Fri. (Mar. 15) Civil War Term Paper—How to find additional sources

**MID-TERM EXAM DUE at 4:30 p.m. in P-Web (visual material may be delivered to Prof. Purcell’s office, Macy House room 201)**

### **March 16-March 31 SPRING BREAK**

Mon. (Apr. 1) Mothers of Invention

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

### **Turning Points of 1863**

Wed. (Apr. 3) 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. (Apr. 5) No class Meeting Work on your reading and paper for next week.

Mon. (Apr. 8) Resistance & Dissent

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

Wed. (Apr 10) Discuss Boritt, *The Gettysburg Nobody Knows*

**3-PP. PAPER DUE IN CLASS (NOTE: This paper is not due in P-Web!)**

## 1864

Fri. (Apr 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"*

Mon. (Apr 15) 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

Wed. (Apr 17) "A Fitting and Necessary Conclusion"

*Reading Due: Fiery Trial, pp. 290-345*

Fri. (Apr 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*

Mon. (Apr 22) The Death of Lincoln

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

## Reconstruction

Wed. (Apr 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*

Fri. (Apr 26) Sex and Politics

*Reading Due: Martha Hodes, "The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics," Journal of the History of Sexuality 3 (1993): 402-417; Laura F. Edwards, "The Disappearance of Susan Daniels and Henderson Cooper," Feminist Studies 22 (1996): 363-386 \*e-reserve\**

Mon. (Apr 29) 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*

Wed. (May 1) The KKK and Public Culture

View "Birth of a Nation"

**TERM PAPER DUE at 4:30 p.m. in P-Web**

Fri. (May 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*

Mon. (May 6) The New South?

*Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 33 & Epilogue*

**A New Birth of Freedom?**

Wed. (May 8) Looking Back and Looking Forward: Commemoration and the Future

Fri. (May 10) Public Memory and the Civil War

**TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE at NOON Wednesday, MAY 15 in P-Web**