

## History 314: U.S. Civil War in History and Memory

Fall 2015

Prof. Sarah Purcell

ARH 323

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10-11:30 am and Friday 1-3 pm, and by appointment

I expect to see you in my office this semester, and I look forward to talking with you. Call my office or e-mail me at any time. My schedule is somewhat unpredictable (because I direct the Rosenfield Program), so appointments are always a good idea. I can always make time for you, but you need to let me know you want to get together.

Students in this seminar will complete major research projects about the U.S. Civil War and/or its presence in public memory. The research paper is expected to be 20-30 pages long, based upon significant primary sources informed by context from the relevant scholarly secondary sources.

The Civil War was a major watershed event, and students will study a number of important recent trends and debates in its historiography before defining their own topics of research. We will consider new approaches to analyzing the military, economic, social, gender, and racial dimensions of the war as well as topics such as popular culture, geography, immigration, and transnational history. In addition to studying the war itself, students will also consider how Civil War commemorations continued to shape U.S. history and culture during Reconstruction and beyond. Historiography, history, and memory will all be subjects of our interest—in addition to the subject matters of Civil War and Reconstruction.

Students will hone a variety of skills over the course of the semester as they engage in the process of researching and writing history. While the main goal of this course is to produce an excellent research paper, students will also focus on the methods of historical research, writing, and revision. Peer review will enhance the cooperative nature of the process. We will also work on collaboration and oral communication skills throughout the semester.

### Required Books:

David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion* (Harvard UP, 2001)

Wayne C. Booth, et. al. *The Craft of Research*, Third Ed. (U. Chicago, 2008)

Don H. Doyle, *The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the American Civil War* (Basic Books, 2014)

Caroline E. Janney, *Remembering the Civil War* (UNC, 2013)

Megan Kate Nelson, *Ruin Nation: Destruction and the American Civil War* (U. Georgia, 2012)

Mark M. Smith, *The Smell of Battle, The Taste of Siege* (Oxford UP, 2014)

I definitely suggest you buy the books. Books are on reserve, as are required articles.

### Assignments:

For our class discussions, please be prepared at the beginning of class with at least TWO questions. This class is very collaborative, and everyone must be prepared to start off and to continue discussion. Listen carefully, and speak to one another. We will *certainly* disagree many times over the semester as we

debate primary and secondary sources, but keep in mind our common goal of advancing group knowledge. Be respectful and well prepared.

Students will complete a series of assignments leading up to the final research paper. Preliminary topic selections are due September 21. On October 9, students will submit a 5-page essay defining a research question for the longer paper. On October 30, each student will turn in a paper proposal that outlines a proposed thesis and argument. On November 13, students will turn in a bibliography and deliver an oral presentation about one, major primary source. The research paper is due November 30, and class presentations and peer review will follow. The final, revised version of the research paper is due December 15.

All papers for this course must follow correct citation format using footnotes or endnotes in University of Chicago style. Consult *The University of Chicago Style Manual*, 16<sup>th</sup> ed., in Prof. Purcell's office or in the Library or the Chicago Manual of Style Online (available through the library catalog) for help.

Extensions on written assignments for sickness or other emergency must be approved by Prof. Purcell in advance. Papers turned in late without an extension will receive a deduction of one-half letter grade per day. No extensions can be granted for the final research paper due date.

Grades will be assigned in the course according to the following formula:

Research question paper	7.5%
paper proposal	7.5%
bibliography	5%
primary source presentation	5%
research presentation	10%
class participation	15%
Research paper	50%

Consult and follow the rules for Academic Honesty in the Grinnell College Student Handbook and the college catalog. You may see the academic catalog policies on academic honesty here:

[http://catalog.grinnell.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2537#Honesty\\_in\\_Academic\\_Work](http://catalog.grinnell.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2537#Honesty_in_Academic_Work)

Attendance is essential. If you must miss class or an individual meeting due to illness or for another reason, please let me know in advance.

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

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## **Schedule and Assignments:**

### **Week One:** The Civil War in History and Memory

Friday, August 28

*Reading Due:* David Blight, "The Civil War Isn't Over" *The Atlantic*, (April 8, 2015):

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/04/the-civil-war-isnt-over/389847/>; Kevin Levin, "Why Did a Video about the Civil War and Slavery Go Viral?"

<http://cwmemory.com/2015/08/11/why-did-a-video-about-the-civil-war-and-slavery-go-viral/>

[BE SURE TO WATCH THE VIDEO—it's embedded in the blog post]; Ta-Nehisi Coates, "What This Cruel War Was Over," *The Atlantic*, (June 22, 2015):  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/06/what-this-cruel-war-was-over/396482/>

**Week Two:** The Civil War at 150 years: Where Does Scholarship Stand?

Monday, August 31

Reading Due: Earl J. Hess, "Where Do We Stand?" *Civil War History* 60 (December 2014): 371-403 <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=31h&AN=99464652&site=ehost-live> ; Editor's Note, *Journal of the Civil War Era* 4 (December 2014): 485-486 (Project Muse [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_the\\_civil\\_war\\_era/v004/4.4.editor.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_civil_war_era/v004/4.4.editor.html)) ; Gary W. Gallagher and Katheryn Shively Meier, "Coming to Terms with Civil War Military History," *Journal of the Civil War Era* 4 (December 2014): 487-508 (Project Muse [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_the\\_civil\\_war\\_era/v004/4.4.gallagher.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_civil_war_era/v004/4.4.gallagher.html)); *Craft of Research* , pp. 3-17, 31-33

Friday, September 4 Historians Respond from "The Dark Side"

Reading Due: Megan Kate Nelson, "Civil War Military Historians Are Freaking Out," <http://www.megankatenelson.com/civil-war-military-historians-are-freaking-out/> ; Kevin Gannon, "Taking a Walk on the Civil War's 'Dark Side,'" <http://www.thetattooedprof.com/archives/276> ; Kathleen Logothetis Thompson, "Coming to Terms with Civil War Military History: A Response," <http://www.civildiscourse-historyblog.com/blog/2014/12/28/coming-to-terms-with-civil-war-military-history-a-response> ; Kevin Levin, "What Do We Need to Know About Traditional Military History," <http://cwmemory.com/2014/12/07/what-do-we-need-to-know-about-traditional-military-history/> ; Kevin Levin, "In Defense of Hess, Gallagher, and Meier," <http://cwmemory.com/2014/12/11/in-defense-of-hess-gallagher-and-meier/>

**Week Three:** Destruction and War

Monday, September 7

Reading Due: Megan Kate Nelson, *Ruin Nation: Destruction and the American Civil War*

Friday, September 11

Reading Due: J. David Hacker, "A Census-Based Count of the Civil War Dead," *Civil War History* 57 (December 2011): 307-348 <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=31h&AN=70149385&site=ehost-live>; Nicholas Marshall, "The Great Exaggeration: Death and the Civil War" *Journal of the Civil War Era* 4 (March 2014): 3-27 (Project Muse: [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_the\\_civil\\_war\\_era/v004/4.1.marshall.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_civil_war_era/v004/4.1.marshall.html)) ; J. David Hacker, "Has the Demographic Impact of Civil War Deaths Been Exaggerated?" *Civil War History* 60 (December 2014): 453-458 <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=31h&AN=99464657&site=ehost-live>

**Week Four:** Race and Memory

Monday, September 14

Reading Due: David Blight, *Race and Reunion*

Friday, September 18 Research Workshop MEET IN BURLING basement computer room

Reading Due: Craft of Research, pp. 35-50

**Week Five: Reunion or Reconciliation?**

Monday, September 21

Reading Due: Caroline Janney, Remembering the Civil War

PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION DUE IN CLASS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 4:00 pm at JRC Grill: Special meeting with Ron Cogswell '68, retired Chief Operating Officer and Member of the Board of Directors of the Civil War Preservation Trust, see:

<http://www.civilwar.org/>

Friday, September 25 Research Workshop MEET IN BURLING basement computer room

Reading Due: Craft of Research, pp. 51-82

**Week Six: Civil War in International Context**

Monday, September 28

Reading Due: W. Caleb McDaniel and Bethany L. Johnson "New Approaches to Internationalizing the History of the Civil War: An Introduction" *The Journal of the Civil War Era* 2 (June 2012): 145-150 [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_the\\_civil\\_war\\_era/v002/2.2.mcdaniel.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_civil_war_era/v002/2.2.mcdaniel.html); Don H. Doyle, *The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the American Civil War*

Friday, October 2 Research Workshop MEET IN BURLING basement computer room

Reading Due: Craft of Research, pp. 83-119

**Week Seven: Gender, Capitalism, War**

Monday, October 5

Reading Due: Edward Baptist: "'Cuffy,' 'Fancy Maids,' and 'One-Eyed Men,': Rape, Commodification, and the Domestic Slave Trade in the United States," *American Historical Review* 106 (December 2001): 1619-1650 (J-STOR <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2692741>); Nina Silber, *Gender and the Sectional Conflict* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008), Chapter 3

Friday, October 9 Research Workshop MEET IN BURLING basement computer room

**Friday, October 9 5:00 pm Assignment Due: Research Question paper due in P-Web**

**Week Eight:**

Monday, October 12 Reenactment

Reading Due: Christopher Bates, "'Oh, I'm a Good Ol' Rebel': Reenactment, Racism, and the Lost Cause," in *The Civil War in Popular Culture: Memory and Meaning*, ed. Lawrence A. Kreiser Jr. and Randal Allred (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2014), 191-221; Recommended reading: Craft of Research, pp. 120-170

Friday, October 16 Watch "Moving Midway" in class

**Week Nine: FALL BREAK October 17-25**

**Week Ten: Senses and History**

Monday, October 26

*Reading Due: Mark M. Smith, The Smell of Battle, The Taste of Siege; Craft of Research, pp. 173-202*

Friday, October 30

**Due in class: RESEARCH PAPER FORMAL PROPOSAL**

**Week Eleven:**

Monday, November 2 Small group proposal review

Friday, November 6 Small group proposal review

**Week Twelve:**

Monday, November 9 Writing Day no class meeting

Friday, November 13 **Assignment due in class: Bibliography**  
Source Presentations

**Week Thirteen:**

Monday, November 16 Source Presentations or Library time

Friday, November 20 Writing Day: Professor Purcell will be in Burling for meetings

**Week Fourteen:**

Monday, November 23 Writing Day no class meeting

Friday, November 26 THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Week Fifteen:**

Monday, November 30 **In Class: Research Papers Due**

Friday, December 4 Peer Review

*Reading Due: Craft of Research, pp. 203-210 & 249-269*

**Week Sixteen:**

Monday, December 7 Research Presentations

Friday, December 11 Research Presentations

**FINAL VERSION OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT NOON**

Turn in at Ms. Purcell's office