

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

Fall 2012

Prof. Sarah Purcell

Website: <http://www.grinnell.edu/courses/his>

Monday & Friday 12:45-2:05

Mears 202

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Office Hours: Monday & Friday 9-11 and by appointment.

Please come and see me during office hours, or make an appointment, so I can meet you one-on-one. Call my office or e-mail me at any time. Because my schedule is somewhat unpredictable (because I direct the Rosenfield Program), 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 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 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.

### Books:

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

Andrew Delbanco, *The Abolitionist Imagination* (Harvard UP, 2012)

Adam Goodheart, *1861: The Civil War Awakening* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2011)

Paddy Griffith, *Battle Tactics of the Civil War* (Yale University Press, 1989)

Mark E. Neely, Jr., *The Civil War and the Limits of Destruction* (Harvard UP, 2007)

Nina Silber, *Gender & the Sectional Conflict* (UNC Press, 2008)

Joan Waugh & Gary W. Gallagher, eds. *Wars within a War* (UNC Press, 2009)

Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers...* 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. (U of Chicago Press, 2007) **recommended**

### Assignments:

For regular book discussions (beginning August 31), each member of the class must post one discussion question on the PioneerWeb discussion board for HIS314 by 7:00 pm on the evening before our book discussions—this will usually be Thursday night before our Friday discussion. Your first question is due at 7:00 p.m. on September 6.

Students will complete a series of assignments leading up to the final research paper. Preliminary topic selections are due October 15. On November 2, each student will turn in a paper proposal that outlines a proposed thesis and argument. On November 16, 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 20. 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.

All papers for this course must follow correct citation format using footnotes or endnotes in University of Chicago style. Consult your Turabian book for a guide. For more in-depth questions, you should consult *The University of Chicago Style Manual*, 16<sup>th</sup> ed., in Prof. Purcell's office or in the Library. 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:

Visual analysis paper & Presentation	15%
paper proposal	5%
bibliography	5%
primary source presentation	5%
research presentation	5%
class participation	15%
Research paper	50%

Please consult and follow the rules for Academic Honesty in the Grinnell College Student Handbook.

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

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 31

**Week Two:** The Civil War at 150 years  
Monday, September 3

**Tour "Civil War Era Drawings from the Becker Collection" Exhibit; Meet at Falconer Gallery**  
*Reading Due: Andrea G. Pearson, "Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper and Harper's Weekly: Innovation and Imitation in Nineteenth-Century American Pictorial Reporting," Journal of Popular Culture 23 (March 1990): 81-111 (on e-reserve in P-web)*

Friday, September 7

*Reading Due: Goodheart, 1861; Civil War Sesquicentennial blogs (skim: <http://cwmemory.com/>; <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/category/disunion/>; and [http://www.washingtonpost.com/2010/07/08/AFSEHBIC\\_page.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/2010/07/08/AFSEHBIC_page.html))*

**Week Three: Visual Culture and Visual Memory**

Monday, September 10

*Reading Due: Alan Trachtenburg, Reading American Photographs: Images as History, Mathew Brady to Walker Evans, (excerpt in P-Web); Holzer, "With Malice" in Wars within*

Friday, September 14

*Reading Due: Skim First Hand: Civil War Era Drawings from the Becker Collection (on reserve); Peter Burke, Eyewitnessing: The Uses of Images as Historical Evidence, Intro., Ch. 5 & 6 (in P-Web)*

**Due in class: one-page prospectus for Exhibit Oral Presentation and Visual Analysis paper**

**Week Four: War in a Transnational Context**

Monday, September 17: NO CLASS MEETING; work on reading and Exhibit Presentation

**Thursday, September 20 4:15 Gallery Talk: Sarah Purcell "Seeing Corpses: Death and Visual Culture during the U.S. Civil War"**

Friday, September 21

*Reading Due: Neely, The Civil War and the Limits of Destruction; 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)*

**Week Five: Military History**

Monday, September 24

*Reading Due: McPherson "My Enemies" and Glatthaar "Profile" in Wars within*

**Due in class: Visual Analysis paper**

Friday, September 28

*Reading Due: Griffith, Battle Tactics of the Civil War*

**Week Six: Race and Memory Monday, October 1**

*Reading Due: Gallman "In Your Hands" in Wars within*

**Tuesday, October 2, 4:15 Gallery Talk: Judith Bookbinder, curator of Civil War Era Drawings from the Becker Collection**

Friday, October 5

*Reading Due: Blight, Race and Reunion*

**Week Seven:** Gender and Memory Monday, October 8

*Reading Due:* McCurry, "Women Numerous," in Wars within; Caroline Janney, "Written in Stone: Gender, Race, and the Heyward Shepherd Memorial," Civil War History 52 (2006): 117-141 (available full-text through America: History and Life

<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=7&hid=111&sid=56dd9b87-4ec6-4b26-88a5-5f2cd149d7fd%40sessionmgr111>)

**Due in class: Final version of Visual Analysis paper**

**Wednesday, October 10 4:15-5:30 pm Our Class Presentations in Faulconer Gallery**

Friday, October 12

*Reading Due:* Silber, Gender and the Sectional Conflict

**Week Eight:** Interdisciplinary Debate

Monday, October 15

*Reading Due:* Cushman, "Walt Whitman's Real Wars" and Gallagher, "Hollywood" in Wars within

**Due in class: PRELIMINARY TOPIC for RESEARCH PAPER**

Friday, October 19

*Reading Due:* Delbanco, The Abolitionist Imagination

**Week Nine: FALL BREAK October 20-28**

**Week Ten:** Memory, Dead and Alive

Monday, October 29

*Reading Due:* Faust, "Battle over the Bodies," and Marten, "Not a Veteran," Reardon, "William T. Sherman," and Waugh, "The Nation's" in Wars within

Friday, November 2

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

*Recommended Reading: Turabian, chapters 5 & 6*

**Week Eleven:**

Monday, November 5 Small group proposal review *Recommended Reading: Turabian, chapter 7*

Friday, November 9 Small group proposal review

**Week Twelve:**

Monday, November 12 Writing Day no class meeting

Friday, November 16 **Due in class: Bibliographies** Source Presentations

**Week Thirteen:**

Monday, November 19 Source Presentations

Friday, November 23 THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Week Fourteen:**

Monday, November 26 Writing Day no class meeting

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

**Week Fifteen:**

Monday, December 3 Peer Review      *Recommended Reading: Turabian, Chapters 9-12*

Friday, December 7 Research Presentations

**Week Sixteen:**

Monday, December 10 Research Presentations

Friday, December 14 Research Presentations

**FINAL VERSION OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE** Thursday, December 20 2:00 pm  
Turn in at Ms. Purcell's office