

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

Fall 2016

Prof. Sarah Purcell

Mears 217 Monday and Friday 10:00-11:50am

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Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 8-10, 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)

Catherine Clinton, *Civil War Stories* (1998)

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

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 (or available electronically in the Library catalog), as are required articles.

Student Responsibilities: 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 19. On October 7, students will submit a 5-page essay defining a research question for the longer paper. On October 28, each student will turn in a paper proposal that outlines a proposed thesis and argument. On November 11, students will turn in a bibliography and deliver an oral presentation about one, major primary source. The research paper is due November 28, 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*, 16th 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>

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. Grinnell College grants reasonable accommodations, and I will help you in any way possible.

Schedule and Assignments:

Week One: The Civil War in History and Memory

Friday, August 26

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/>; "Confederate Monuments and the Black Lives Matter Movement," *Public Art Dialogue Newsletter* <http://publicartdialogue.org/newsletter/fall-2015/confederate-monuments-and-black-lives-matter-movement>; "Whose Heritage? Public Symbols of the Confederacy," *Southern Poverty Law Center*, <https://www.splcenter.org/20160421/whose-heritage-public-symbols-confederacy>

Week Two: Race and Memory

Monday, August 29

Reading Due: David Blight, *Race and Reunion*

Friday, September 2 MEET IN BURLING basement computer room

Reading Due: Michelle A. Krowl, "'In the Spirit of Fraternity': The United States Government and the Burial of Confederate Dead at Arlington National Cemetery, 1864-1914," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 111 (2003): 151-186, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4250101>; *Craft of Research*, pp. 3-15, 31-33

Week Three: Reunion or Reconciliation?

Monday, September 5

Reading Due: Caroline Janney, *Remembering the Civil War*

Friday, September 9

Reading Due: Nina Silber, "Reunion and Reconciliation, Reviewed and Reconsidered," *Journal of American History* 103 (June 2016): 59-83 (distributed in class)

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

Monday, September 12

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); 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); 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/>

Friday, September 16 Research Workshop MEET IN BURLING basement computer room
Reading Due: *Craft of Research*, pp. 35-50

Week Five: Senses, Counting, and History

Monday, September 19

Reading Due: Mark M. Smith, *The Smell of Battle, The Taste of Siege*; Kevin M. Levin, "The Devil Himself Could Not Have Checked Them: Fighting with Black Soldiers at the Crater in Cold Harbor to the Crater, The End of the Overland Campaign," ed. Gary W. Gallagher and Caroline E. Janney, 264-282 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015).

Due In-class: Preliminary Research Paper topic selection

Friday, September 23

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); 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 Six: Civil War in International Context

Monday, September 26

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;
Aaron Sheehan-Dean, "Lex Talionis in the U.S. Civil War: Retaliation and the Limits of Atrocity," in The Civil War as a Global Conflict: Transnational Meanings of the American Civil War, Ed. David T. Gleeson and Simon Lewis, 172-189 (on P-Web).

Friday, September 29 Research Workshop MEET IN BURLING basement computer room
Reading Due: Craft of Research, pp. 51-119

Week Seven: Gender, War, and Narrative

Monday, October 3

Reading Due: Catherine Clinton, Civil War Stories

Friday, October 7 Research Workshop MEET IN BURLING basement computer room; Chris Jones will lead class through exercise on finding and using government documents as sources

Friday, October 7 5:00 pm Assignment Due: Research Question paper due in P-Web

Week Eight:

Monday, October 10 Reenactment & Memory

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 (on P-Web); Recommended reading: Craft of Research, pp. 120-170

Friday, October 14 Watch "Moving Midway" in class

Week Nine: FALL BREAK October 15-23

Week Ten:

Monday, October 24 Research Workshop, MEET IN BURLING basement computer room

Reading Due: Craft of Research, pp. 173-202

Friday, October 28

Due in class: RESEARCH PAPER FORMAL PROPOSAL

Week Eleven:

Monday, October 31 Small group proposal review

Friday, November 4 Small group proposal review

Week Twelve:

Monday, November 7 Writing Day no class meeting

Friday, November 11 **Assignment due in class: Bibliography**
Source Presentations

Week Thirteen:

Monday, November 14 Source Presentations or Library time

Friday, November 18 Writing Day: Professor Purcell will be in Burling for meetings

Week Fourteen:

Monday, November 21 Writing Day no class meeting

Friday, November 25 THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week Fifteen:

Monday, November 28 Writing Day no class meeting

Special deadline: Wednesday November 31: **NOON Research Papers Due**

Friday, December 2 Peer Review

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

Week Sixteen:

Monday, December 5 Research Presentations

Friday, December 9 Research Presentations

FINAL VERSION OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT NOON

Turn in at Ms. Purcell's office