

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

Fall 2018

Prof. Sarah Purcell

Mears 202 M, W, F 3:00-3:50 pm

Office: Macy House 201 Phone: 269-3091 E-mail: PURCELL@grinnell.edu

Office Hours: M, W, F 1:15-2:45, and by appointment

I expect to see you in my office this semester because we need to get to know one another and I can help you. I look forward to talking with you. Call my office or e-mail me at any time. I can always make time for you, so 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 writing, collaboration, and oral communication skills throughout the semester.

Our class will also work on a collective project on monuments, and make a proposal to Grinnell College about constructing an abolitionist monument on our campus. Students may also exercise the option to focus the final paper assignment on the monument project.

Required Books:

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

Robert J. Cook, *Civil War Memories* (Johns Hopkins UP, 2017)

Chandra Manning, *Troubled Refuge* (Vintage, 2017)

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

I definitely suggest you acquire your own copy of 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 (and even current events), but keep in mind our common goal of advancing group knowledge. Be respectful and well prepared.

Each student will keep a course journal, which will be a place to contemplate discussion/research questions, contribute ideas and writing about the collective monument project, and to reflect on other matters related to class. Professor Purcell will issue specific prompts for journal entries, and you are free to write anything that interests you as the course progresses.

Students will complete a series of assignments leading up to the final research paper. Preliminary topic selections are due September 26. On October 12, students will submit a 5-page essay defining a research question for the longer paper. 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 December 5, and class presentations and peer review will follow. The final, revised version of the research paper is due December 18.

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*, 17th ed., in Prof. Purcell's office or in the Library or the Chicago Manual of Style Online (available through the library catalog) for help (be sure to click 17th edition). The journal entries, alone, are informal and do not need to conform to style.

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%
paper proposal	7%
journal	1%
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 30

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>; Kirk Savage, "What To Do with Confederate Monuments?" (November 5, 2015), <http://www.kirksavage.pitt.edu/?p=545>; Jelani Cobb, "Charlottesville and the Trouble with Civil War Hypotheticals," The New Yorker, August 16, 2017, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/charlottesville-and-the-trouble-with-civil-war-hypotheticals>; "Silent Sam Statue Torn Down During Protests at UNC," August 21, 2018, <https://www.wfmynews2.com/video/news/silent-sam-statue-torn-down-during-protests-at-unc/83-8226707> (check Twitter and news for latest developments); see https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2018/08/21/silent-sam-a-racist-jim-crow-era-speech-inspired-unc-students-to-topple-a-confederate-monument-on-campus/?utm_term=.9332b4b60b24

Week Two: Race and Memory

Monday, September 3

Reading Due: David Blight, Race and Reunion, pp.1-254

Wednesday, September 5

Reading Due: David Blight, *Race and Reunion*, pp. 255-485

Friday, September 7 MEET IN BURLING basement computer room

Reading Due: *Craft of Research*, pp. 3-15, 31-33

Week Three: Reunion or Reconciliation?

Monday, September 10

Reading Due: Robert J. Cook, *Civil War Memories*

Wednesday, September 12

Reading Due: Caroline E. Janney, *Remembering the Civil War*, Prologue, pp. 3-11, skim book quickly, https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9781469607078_janney; Caroline E. Janney, "War over a Shrine of Peace: The Appomattox Peace Monument and Retreat from Reconciliation," *The Journal of Southern History* LXXVII (February 2011): 91-120, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27919388>; Nina Silber, "Reunion and Reconciliation, Reviewed and Reconsidered," *Journal of American History* 103 (June 2016): 59-83, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jaw008>

Friday, September 14 Monument Lab

Reading Due: Kirk Savage, "Molding Emancipation: John Quincy Adams Ward's 'The Freedman' and the Meaning of the Civil War," *Art Institute of Chicago Museum Studies* 27 (2001): 26-39, 101, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4102837>; Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders, "Beyond Monuments: African Americans Contesting Civil War Memory," *Black Perspectives*, October 16, 2017, <https://www.aaihs.org/beyond-monuments-african-americans-contesting-civil-war-memory/>; "Monuments for a New Era," *New York Times*, August 10, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/10/opinion/charlottesville-confederate-monuments.html>

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

Monday, September 17

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/>

Wednesday, September 19 Research Workshop MEET IN BURLING basement computer room
Reading Due: Craft of Research, pp. 35-50

Friday, September 21 Monument Lab
Reading Due: Kirk Savage, "The Past in the Present: The Life of Memorials," Harvard Design Magazine 9 (Fall 1999), <http://www.harvarddesignmagazine.org/issues/9/the-past-in-the-present>

Week Five: Freedom and Emancipation

Monday, September 24

Reading Due: Reading Due: Chandra Manning, *Troubled Refuge*

Wednesday, September 26 Monument Lab Report on campus tour, report on Grinnell and abolitionism

Due In-class: Preliminary Research Paper topic selection

Friday, September 28 Visit Faulconer Gallery exhibit "Watercolors of Corporal John Gaddis: Documenting the Civil War" **MEET in GALLERY**

Week Six: Civil War in International Context

Monday, October 1

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 (e-reserve on P-Web).

Wednesday, October 3 Monument Lab

Reading Due: Kiratiana Freelon, "Look at All These Monuments Around the World That Honor Those Who Fought Against Slavery," The Root, August 24, 2017,
<https://www.theroot.com/look-at-all-these-monuments-from-around-the-world-that-1798358305>

Friday, October 5 Research Workshop MEET IN BURLING basement computer room
Reading Due: Craft of Research, pp. 51-119

Week Seven: Race, Gender, Emancipation

Monday, October 8

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>

Wednesday, October 10 Monument Lab

Friday, October 12 No class meeting

5:00 pm Assignment Due: Research Question paper due in P-Web

Week Eight:

Monday, October 15 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
https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt5hk09q.14?refregid=excelsior%3A9b9867f4961f30165c29b989f46b9a00&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents; Brian Stole, "The Decline of the Civil War Reenacter," New York Times, July 28, 2018,
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/28/style/civil-war-reenactments.html>
Recommended reading: Craft of Research, pp. 120-170

Wednesday, October 17 In class watch "Moving Midway"

Friday, October 19 In class watch "Moving Midway"

Week Nine: FALL BREAK October 20-28

Week Ten:

Monday, October 29 Research Workshop, MEET IN BURLING basement computer room

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

Wednesday, October 31 Writing Day no class meeting

Friday, November 2 Visit Grinnell Historical Museum

Due at class time to Prof. Purcell and peer-review team: RESEARCH PAPER FORMAL PROPOSAL

Week Eleven:

Monday, November 5 Small group proposal review

Wednesday, November 7 Small group proposal review

Friday, November 9 Small group proposal review

Week Twelve:

Monday, November 12 Writing Day no class meeting

Wednesday, November 14 Writing Day no class meeting

Friday, November 16 **Assignment due in class: Bibliography**
Source Presentations

Week Thirteen:

Monday, November 19 Source Presentations

Wednesday, November 21 Writing Day: Professor Purcell will be in Burling for meetings

Friday, November 23 Thanksgiving Break

Week Fourteen:

Monday, November 26 Writing Day no class meeting

Wednesday, November 28 Writing Day no class meeting

Friday, November 30 Writing Day no class meeting

Week Fifteen:

Monday, December 3 Writing Day no class meeting

Wednesday, December 5: **NOON Research Papers Due**

Friday, December 7 Peer Review

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

Week Sixteen:

Monday, December 10 Research Presentations

Wednesday, December 12 Research Presentations

Friday, December 14 Research Presentations

FINAL VERSION OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 5:00 PM

Turn in at Ms. Purcell's office