

COURSE SYLLABUS

This course will examine the causes and consequences of the American Civil War. Roughly four and a half weeks will be spent on the causes of the war; four and a half weeks on the war itself; and one week on the consequences of the war both for the [Re]United States and the rest of the world.

Textbooks:

The primary reading assignments for this course can be found in:

History of the Americas 114 is an eBook designed for this course. The ebook contains selected chapters from a textbook written by James McPherson. This ebook can be ordered directly from the McGraw-Hill website at <https://create.mcgraw-hill.com/shop/>. To order the book, search for ISBN #9871121096592. You can purchase an “download key” from the UCR bookstore which allows you to prepay for the ebook and get instructions how to download it. (Using the download key also ensures that you will get the right ebook!)

Conflict and Compromise: The Political Economy of Slavery, Emancipation and the American Civil War, by Roger Ransom is a supplemental textbook that closely parallels the topics in the lectures. While this book is very useful, it is not a substitute for the primary text. Chapters 1-3 and 6 are available as downloadable PDF files on the Hisa 114 iLearn website.

A Concise Historical Atlas of the U.S. Civil War, by Aaron Sheehan-Dean, has maps and descriptions of battles and economic/demographic variables. This book is recommended, but it is not essential for the arguments presented in the course. It is a very useful guide to review for exams and as a source for the paper assignment.

Additional readings are posted as downloadable PDF file on the Hisa 114 iLearn website.

Note: For those who prefer to have a printed copy of the entire textbook by James McPherson, you can purchase the 4th Edition of *Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction* from Amazon.com. It is also available from McGraw Hill as an ebook.

Course Requirements:

You are expected to attend lecture from 1:40pm to 3:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in UV Theater #8. A schedule of the lectures and reading assignments is included with this syllabus.

There are two exams in the course. The mid-term exam will be on **Tuesday, February 8th**. The final exam will be on **Friday, March 18th from 11:30am to 2:30pm**. Exams consist of short essay-ID questions, together with True/False, and Multiple Choice questions that require you to explain *why* you made each choice indicated on the exam sheet. The exams will be explained more fully in class.

There is a paper assignment that is explained in greater detail below. A short paper assignment is **due on January 27th**; the final draft of the paper is due **in class on Tuesday, March 8th**.

The final grade in the course will be based on the grades on the midterm exam (20%), the writing assignment (35%), the final exam (35%), and class participation (10%).

The Hisa 114 Website on iLearn

The course website on iLearn.ucr.edu includes:

- ✓ Various announcements related to the course -- some of which are important, so you should check them each week.
- ✓ Reading materials in the form of PDF files.
- ✓ A handout with instructions describing the writing assignment in the course.
- ✓ A handout with a list of battles and outcomes discussed in the course.

- ✓ PDF files with the slides from each lecture that can be downloaded to your personal computer and printed for your personal use. **Please do not try to print these slides from the printers in the UCR computer labs!**

Clickers and Class Participation

Every student should have a **Clicker**. During each lecture there will be **three multiple choice questions** which you are expected to answer with your clicker. You get **one point** for simply answering at least one question; you get **an additional point** for each question you **answer correctly**. The total number of points accumulated during the quarter determines the grade for class participation.

Your clicker must be registered at clickers.ucr.edu. Note that clicker registration must be renewed each quarter. Responses for each clicker will be posted on iLearn. If the clicker you are using is not registered to you, it is your responsibility to email me the SID of the person to whom that clicker is registered, together with your own name and SID. **If I do not have this information, you will not get credit for your “clicker points.”** To allow for the inevitable bugs to be worked out in recording and identifying clickers, responses will not be officially counted until the **January 18th lecture**.

Office Hours

My office is room 3302 Humanities and Social Sciences building. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from, or by appointment. The easiest way to reach me is by E-mail at roger.ransom@ucr.edu. I encourage any student who has a question about the class to E-mail me at this address.

Lindsay Johnson will assist in the grading of your examinations and papers. She will be available for consultation on your writing assignments. Her office is the same as mine (HMNSS 3302) and she can be reached at ljohn002@student.ucr.edu.

Books that Might Be Worth Purchasing for “optional” reading assignments:

These books are useful for both the lectures and the reading assignments. They are on reserve in the Rivera Library, and are also for sale on line, or can be purchased on Amazon.com. If cost is important, be sure to check the web for availability of “used” copies.

Ransom, Roger. *Conflict and Compromise: The Political Economy of Slavery, Emancipation and the American Civil War*.

_____. *The Confederate States of America: What Might Have Been*, published by W.W. Norton in 2005. This book deals with the issue of what would have happened if the South won the war. The first chapter of this book contains my most recent thoughts on the coming of the war, which can be a useful guide to the first five weeks of lectures.

McPherson, James M. *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. This book is widely regarded as the best single volume history of the Civil War.

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments

NOTE: The chapters in *Ordeal by Fire* follow a chronology that differs from way in which I have organized my lectures. I have reorganized the chapters in History of the Americas 114 to reflect the topics covered each week. This may cause occasional discontinuity in the reading assignments each week. The assignments below refer to the Selection Number in the table of contents of the ebook.

Optional assignments are available as pdf files on

I: Overview

Jan 4th Interpretations of the Civil War

Jan 6th Overview to 1820

Read: Ransom: *Conflict and Compromise*, Chapters 1 & 2 [PDF]
 "Interpretations of the Civil War" [PDF]
History of the Americas 114, Selection 1

II: Slavery

Jan 11th The Problem of Slavery

Jan 13th The Slave Power

Read: Ransom, *Conflict and Compromise*, 3 [PDF]
History of the Americas 114, Selections 2 & 3

Optional: Atlas: Maps 2 and 10
 Wright, "Cotton and Slavery" [PDF]

III. Politics and Parties before 1850

Jan 18th Texas, War and the Wilmot Proviso

Jan 20th The Compromise of 1850

Read: *History of the Americas 114*, Selection 4 & 5

Optional: Atlas: Maps 3 and 4
 Ransom, *Conflict and Compromise*, Chapters 4 & 5

IV. The Failure of Compromise

Jan 25th The Rise of the Republican Party

Jan 27th Kansas and the Crisis of 1860

Read: *History of the Americas 114*, Selections 6 & 7

Optional: Ransom & Sutch, *Conflicting Visions* [PDF]
 Ransom, *Confederate States*, Chapter 1

NOTE: A one or two page proposal summarizing your paper assignment is due on January 27th. See Writing Assignments for details – Failure to hand in this assignment will reduce the grade on the final draft of your paper!

V. The Irrepressible Conflict

Feb 1st Why Did They Go to War: Explaining the Civil War

Feb 3rd The Balance Sheet of War

Read: *History of the Americas 114* Selections 8 - 10
 Atlas: Map 7

VI. Opening Moves

Feb 8th **MIDTERM EXAM**

Feb 10th Bull Run, Jackson, and the Peninsula Campaign

Read: *History of the Americas 114*, Selections 11-12

Optional: *Atlas*: Maps 8-9, 15-17, 31

VII. War in the West

Feb 15th War in Mississippi: Shiloh and Vicksburg

Feb 17th War in the Upper South: Chattanooga and Atlanta

Read: *History of the Americas 114*, Selections 13-14

Optional: *Atlas*: Maps 13-14, 23, 33, 40

VIII. War in the East

Feb 22rd War in the East: Antietam and Gettysburg

Feb 24th Total War: The Final Year

Read: *History of the Americas 114*, Selections 15-18

Optional: *Atlas*: Maps 19-21, 25, 27-29, 32, 35-39, 41
Ransom, Conflict and Compromise, Chapter 6

IX. Organizing for a Modern War

Mar 1st Mobilizing for War

Mar 3rd Emancipation: Slaves and the War

Read: *History of the Americas 114*, Selections 19-23

Optional: *Atlas*: Maps 12, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 34
Ransom, Conflict and Compromise, Chapter 7

The Final Draft of your paper is due in lecture on March 8th

X. After the War

Mar 8th Reconstruction

Mar 10th What If the South Had Won?

Read: *History of the Americas 114*, Selections 25 - 27
Ransom – CSA Prologue [PDF]

Optional: *Atlas* Maps 46-52
Ransom, Conflict and Compromise, Chapter 8
Ransom, CSA, Chapters 2-6

Final Examination: Friday, March 18th 11:30-2:30

Paper Assignment

The paper assignment for this course asks you to explore a question or topic dealing with the Civil War. You can write on whatever aspect of the war and its aftermath that you find interesting or fascinating. To give you some idea of the possibilities, are a few broad issues where you might find the making of a good paper topic:

Which historical figures participated in the conflict, masterminded the military engagements, and shaped the postwar political reconstruction of the United States?

What were the sectional issues that were so intractable that they could not be resolved without a war?

Why did this war continue for four long, bloody years?

Why are some battles considered major “turning points” by historians, while others remain obscure?

What motivated soldiers—both from the North and from the South—to fight and die?

What were the experiences of those on the home front?

What did emancipation mean to four million slaves and how did the Civil War reshape American society?

Why is the Civil War still one of the most studied events in American History even today?

This assignment is more than a simple essay involving a biography, book report, or bland historical summary. You must propose a thought-provoking answer to a well-conceived question. The topic you select is up to you, but it must reflect thoughtful consideration, outlining, careful reading, and research. If you need help finding books with great ideas, we suggest you look at the annotated bibliography in *History of the Americas 114* or the references in *Conflict and Compromise*

There are two parts to the paper assignment:

Part I: Proposal

Due: Thursday January 27th in lecture

Write a one or two page proposal that explains your research question(s), indicates what texts you will consult, and outlines your main arguments and issues. It is imperative that you construct a solid thesis statement that indicates what your essay is about and how you intend to analyze your materials and prove your arguments (this thesis will likely shift as your essay progresses, but you must provide a rough sketch at this juncture).

Part II: Final Term Paper

Due: Tuesday March 8th in lecture

Submit your final 8-10 page term paper. Your essay must be double spaced with one-inch margins and in Times New Roman font. You should cite 2-3 secondary sources using the Chicago Manual of Style method of endnotes/footnotes (see: Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers* for help). Your essay must have a strong thesis statement and be free of writing errors; it should be thoroughly revised and carefully edited. Attach your graded Proposal to the back of your Final Term Paper!!