

History 50:512:320

The Civil War and Reconstruction

Spring 2017

Wednesdays, 5:15 – 7:55 PM

Location: Rutgers at Camden

County College Blackwood / Madison 115

Instructor: Dr. Martin G. Clemis

E-Mail: martin.clemis@rutgers.edu

Phone (215) 380-0075

Course Description: This course examines the causes, conduct, and immediate consequences of the Civil War. It explores America's bloodiest and most divisive conflict using a variety of analytical lenses, including its social, cultural, political, economic, military, and environmental dimensions. Topics and perspectives include the racial, political, and economic conditions that differentiated the northern and southern halves of the United States during the nineteenth century; the role of race and slavery in the conflict; the root causes and events behind sectional conflict, secession, and the formation of the Confederate nation; the military strategy and tactics put in place by the Union and Confederacy; the conduct and character of Civil War combat; the nature and impact of Northern and Southern political and military leadership; and the federal governments conflicting and failed efforts to reconstruct Southern politics and society after the war.

Assignments: In order to receive a satisfactory grade in this course, students must complete the following assignments:

- 1. Attendance /Course Engagement:** Do the reading and participate in class discussions. Each unit will consist of both lectures and discussions. Participation in these discussions of the reading and lecture material and completion of any homework assignments are essential to helping you understand the themes of the course. They are therefore an important part of your grade. Of course, good attendance is also part of this assignment as well, since you can't participate if you aren't there. Attendance is required in this class, and will be regularly taken. I am well aware that missing a class may happen occasionally, but **excessive absences will be noted and affect your class participation grade.**
- 2. Précis (3) – Students are required to select, read, review, and discuss three outside historical texts** from a list provided by the instructor. Reviews must be 1-2 single-spaced pages. The instructor will provide a rubric that details exactly how précis are to be constructed. Students will select their books on the first day of class. The instructor will then create a schedule for class presentations. Students will be required to submit to the instructor hard copies of their review on the day that they present their findings to the class.

3. Historiographical Essay – Students are required to submit a 10 to 12-page historiographical paper that synthesizes six historical works on a topic germane to this course. Paper topics must be submitted by **Wednesday, Feb 1** and a paper prospectus (that includes topic and works cited) submitted by **Wednesday, Mar 8**. The final paper is due on **Wednesday, May 3**. No late papers will be accepted.

Grading – Grades will be based on the following percentages:

- Course Engagement: 30%
- Writing Assignments: 30%
- Historiographical Essay: 40%

Required Texts:

- James M. McPherson. *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Eric Foner. *A Short History of Reconstruction*. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2015.

Sakai – Additional materials for this course, including a complete syllabus, course policies, additional required readings, grades, and assignments will be posted on Sakai. Students must be able to access Sakai on a regular basis. You will not pass the class without Sakai.

Course Schedule: The dates listed below are tentative and may change as the semester progresses. For assignments, check the Sakai and the assignment sheets themselves; Actual due dates for assignments will be listed there. Check this page often or contact your instructor for more information.

Week 1 (Jan 18) – Introduction / The American Civil War in History & Memory

Unit 1 – Slavery, Westward Expansion, and the Sectional Crisis

Readings:

- Week 2 (Jan 25): McPherson, Chapters 1-2
- Week 3 (Feb 1): McPherson, Chapters, 3-4
- Week 4 (Feb 8): McPherson, Chapters 5-6

Unit 2 – Secession and the War in 1861

Readings:

- Week 5 (Feb 15): McPherson, Chapters 7-8
- Week 6 (Feb 22): McPherson, Chapter 9-11

Unit 3 – Civil War: 1862-1863

Readings:

- Week 7 (Mar 1): McPherson, Chapters 12-14
- Week 8 (Mar 8): McPherson, Chapters 15-17
- Week 9 (Mar 22): McPherson, Chapters 18-20

***Note: There will be no class on March 15 due to Spring Break**

Unit 4 – Civil War: 1863-War's End

Readings:

- Week 10 (Mar 29): McPherson, Chapters 21-23
- Week 11 (Apr 5): McPherson, Chapters 24-26
- Week 12 (Apr 12): McPherson, Chapters 27-Epilogue

Unit 5 – Reconstruction

Readings:

- Week 13 (Apr 19): Foner, Chapters 1-6
- Week 14 (Apr 26): Foner, Chapters 7-12

COURSE POLICIES

ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments must be type-written, double-spaced, with one inch margins in Times New Roman 12-point font.

All assignments submitted in paper form must be stapled, clipped, or otherwise bound.

Effective communication of your idea(s) is a part of every assignment. Therefore, grammar and spelling count. Use those spell-checkers and proofread your assignments assiduously.

Requirements regarding the length of assignments are STRICT. Papers not within 10% of the stated limit will lose points for failing to satisfy the terms of the assignment.

Computer mishaps are no excuse. Finish your papers early so that dry ink cartridges, crashing computers, and long lines for printing at the computer labs don't cause you to miss a deadline.

Keep the graded copy of your assignment until final grades are posted at the end of the semester.

CITATION

The reflective essays require properly footnoted citations. For citations use the “Note” format described in the Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide at:

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments must be submitted both in hard and digital copy on the due date. Digital copies can be emailed directly to your instructor or placed in Sakai's “Dropbox”

All assignments must be in Microsoft Word (doc), plain text (txt), or rich text format (rtf).

Filenames **MUST** include your last name and unit title (ie. **clemis.Antietam.doc**).

You must retain both a copy of the paper and that email confirmation or your Sakai log to prove that you submitted an assignment in case there is a problem later.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All due dates are strict. Under most circumstances, I will accept late assignments, but they will lose one or more letter grades, depending on how late they are submitted. Any late assignments **MUST** be submitted before I return the rest of the assignments to the class (normally one week after the regular due date).

No makeups for in-class assignments are allowed except for compelling reasons and **ONLY** with sufficient prior notice.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. Attendance will be taken regularly. I do take into account that everyone misses class once in a while, so I require no excuses for absences. Sports, family emergencies, car trouble, etc. affect everyone, but I must calculate grades based solely on class performance.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

During in-class quizzes, exams, and discussions, the use of electronic devices (including laptops, cell or smartphones) to access notes, the internet, or other resources is prohibited unless specifically allowed by the terms of the exercise. Many in-class exercises are designed to test your comprehension of course materials, so access to such materials would constitute academic dishonesty (see below).

As a courtesy to me and your fellow students, please set your phones on silent mode and refrain from extraneous activities such as surfing the internet, texting, or reading the newspaper during class time. Students engaging in disruptive behavior of this sort will be asked to leave and be marked absent for the day.

WHAT IS "COURSE ENGAGEMENT?"

"Class participation" is not used as a grading category because "engagement" better describes what instructors are looking for in successful students. Students often confuse "participation" with "talking." A student who is "engaged" attends all class meetings, is consistently prepared to discuss the readings, and turns in all assignments complete and on time. An "engaged" student responds appropriately and intelligently to questions asked during class, provides leadership in small group activities, and takes the initiative during class discussions to provide insightful comments that spark further discussion. "Engaged" students draw connections among classes they have taken or ideas they have encountered outside of the classroom in books, newspapers, movies, or elsewhere. Though it is not a requirement to attend office hours, "engaged" students usually seek out the

professor to clarify the terms of assignments, to refine paper topics, to go over study questions, and even to discuss grades.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT: Academic integrity is essential to the success of the educational enterprise and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the academic community. Violations of academic integrity include but are not limited to cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating others' violations of academic integrity. The instructor assumes students will familiarize themselves with the policies and information posted by Rutgers at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/> at the earliest opportunity.

DISABILITY SERVICES STATEMENT: Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 508 of the Disabilities Act of 1998, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008. These mandate that reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities and accessibility of online information. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact the instructor early in the semester so that he can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services, the designated office on campus to provide services and administer exams with accommodations for students with disabilities. The Rutgers-Camden Office of Disability Services can be contacted by phone at 856-225-6442 or on the web at <http://learn.camden.rutgers.edu/disability-services>. The instructor looks forward to talking with you soon to learn how he may be helpful in enhancing your academic success in this course.