Introduction

This course explores the military and political leadership of the American Civil War of 1861-1865. It examines the war’s political and social context, its military history, the evolving aims of the fighting, and the central actors and events that shape our understanding of leadership. The instructors, one a social psychologist and the other a Brigadier General and military historian, lecture or present material on occasion. For the most part, however, our class sessions are devoted to discussion of each day’s reading.

A highlight of the semester will be a trip to Gettysburg leaving mid-afternoon on Sunday October 19 and returning after dinner on Monday October 20. This trip is required for all students.

Below is a calendar listing topics and readings for each day the class meets. The assigned books are: *What Caused the Civil War* by Edward Ayers; *Grant Moves South* by Bruce Catton; *Partners in Command* by Joseph Glatthaar; *Battle Cry of Freedom* by James McPherson; *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara; and *April 1865* by Jay Winik. Assigned articles or chapters are posted on e-reserve (ER), as indicated below.

Course Requirements

1. All students are expected to attend class and to come fully prepared to participate in discussion.

2. Each week you should email both instructors brief—about 150 words—questions or comments on either Monday’s or Wednesday’s reading. We will coordinate the email assignments in class. The comments are due 1:00 PM on the day of the class. We will respond to them, ordinarily within a day or two.

3. There will be an exam on the material from the first part of the course on Wednesday, October 8.

4. A paper of approximately 15 pages is due before Thanksgiving, on Wednesday November 19, at 5:00 PM. You may write the paper by yourself
or team up with one other person. The paper should discuss a single leader, or the relationship between or the comparison of two leaders based on reading that we will plan together. Those who do the paper in pairs must submit assessments of the relative contributions of each member of the pair.

5. During the last two weeks of classes you will present, either individually or in pairs, your assessments of the leader or leaders discussed in your paper.

Your course grade will be based on the five requirements above. The first four will be weighted equally, and twice as much as the last.

Class Schedule and Readings

Monday, August 25

Introduction

Wednesday, August 27

Beginnings


Monday, September 1 (Odd numbers email)

Lurching Toward War

McPherson, Chapters 3 – 5.

Wednesday, September 3 (Even numbers email)

Davis and Lincoln

Monday, September 8  (Odd numbers email)

Secession

McPherson, Chapters 7 - 9

Wednesday, September 10  (Even numbers email)

What Caused the Civil War:  A Visit with President Ayers


Monday, September 15  (Odd numbers email)

The Early Stages

McPherson, Chapters 11 and 12

Wednesday, September 17  (Even numbers email)

“The River War in 1862”

McPherson, Chapter 13

Monday, September 22  (Odd numbers email)

Grant Moves South, Part 1

Bruce Catton (1960)  *Grant Moves South* (Boston:  Little, Brown) Chapters 1 - 5

Wednesday, September 24  (Even numbers email)

Grant Moves South, Part 2

Catton, Chapters 6 - 8
Monday, September 29 (Odd numbers email)

Jackson, Lee, and McClellan

McPherson, Chapters 14 and 15

Wednesday, October 1  (Even numbers email)

The Emancipation Proclamation and Antietam

McPherson, Chapters 16 and 17

Monday, October 6 (Odd numbers email)

Vicksburg and Gettysburg

McPherson, Chapters 18 – 20

Wednesday, October 8

Midterm Exam

Fall Break

Wednesday, October 15  (Even numbers email)

The Killer Angels, Day 1


Monday, October 20  (Odd numbers email) GETTYSBURG TRIP

The Killer Angels, Day 2

Shaara, Thursday, July 2, 1863: The Second Day
Wednesday, October 22  (Even numbers email)

**The Killer Angels, Day 3**

Shaara, Friday, July 3, 1863:  The Third Day; Afterword

**Monday, October 27  (Odd numbers email)**

**Partners in Command**


**Wednesday, October 29 (Even numbers email)**

**If It Takes All Summer**

McPherson, Chapters 23 – 25

**Monday, November 3 (Odd numbers email)**

**April 1865, I**


**Wednesday, November 5 (Even numbers email)**

**April 1865, II**

Winik, Chapters 3 and 4

**Monday, November 10 (Odd numbers email)**

**April 1865, III**

Winik, Chapters 5 and 6
Wednesday, November 12  (Even numbers email)

April 1865, IV

Winik, Chapters 7 and 8, Epilogue

Monday, November 17  (Even numbers email)

The End

McPherson, Chapters 26 – 28, Epilogue, Afterword

Wednesday, November 19 and Monday, November 24

Student Presentations

Thanksgiving Vacation

Monday, December 1

Student Presentations

Wednesday, December 3

Conclusions