CIVIL WAR LEADERSHIP

Professors:  
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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 at 10:00 AM on Friday October 24 and returning by dinner time on Saturday October 25. 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; Battle Cry of Freedom by James McPherson; The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara; and April 1865 by Jay Winik. Three chapters are posted on e-reserve (ER). The ER number of each chapter is 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 Wednesday’s or Friday’s reading. We will coordinate the email assignments in class. The comments are due at noon 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 Friday, October 10 and one on the material from the second part of the course on Wednesday, December 3.

4. A paper of approximately 15 pages is due on Friday, December 14, at 5:00 PM. We will meet with you to discuss your plan for the paper. You may write the paper by yourself, or in pairs. We will ask those of you who do your papers in pairs to submit assessments of the relative contributions of each member of the pair.

Your course grade will be based on the requirements above. Class participation, each exam, your emails and the paper are all weighted 20%.

Class Schedule and Readings

Wednesday, August 27

Introduction

Friday, August 29

Beginnings


Wednesday, September 3 (Odd numbers email)

Lurching Toward War

McPherson, Chapters 3 – 5.

Friday, September 5 (Even numbers email)

Davis and Lincoln

McPherson, Chapter 6

Wednesday, September 10  (Odd numbers email)

Secession

McPherson, Chapters 7 - 9

Friday, September 12  (Even numbers email)

The Early Stages

McPherson, Chapters 10 and 11

Wednesday, September 17  (Odd numbers email)

The War on Water, 1862

McPherson, Chapters 12 and 13

Friday, September 19  (Even numbers email)

Grant Moves South, Part 1

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

Wednesday, September 24  (Odd numbers email)

Grant Moves South, Part 2

Catton, Chapters 6 - 8

Friday, September 26  (Even numbers email)

Jackson, Lee, and McClellan

McPherson, Chapters 14 and 15

Wednesday, October 1  (Odd numbers email)
The Emancipation Proclamation and Antietam

McPherson, Chapters 16 and 17

Friday, October 3 (Even numbers email)

Politics, National and International

McPherson, Chapters 18 – 20

Wednesday, October 8 (Odd numbers email)

Long Remember: The Summer of ’63

McPherson, Chapter 21

Friday, October 10

Midterm Exam

October 10-15 Fall Break

Wednesday, October 15 (Even numbers email)

A Visit With President Edward Ayers


Friday, October 17 (Odd numbers email)

The Killer Angels, Day 1


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

Friday and Saturday, October 24 and 25 GETTYSBURG TRIP

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

Wednesday, October 29 (Odd numbers email)

Grant and The Imperatives of Command

Friday, October 31 (Even numbers email)

If It Takes All Summer
McPherson, Chapters 23 – 25

Wednesday, November 5 (Odd numbers email)

Sherman and Victory
McPherson, Chapters 26 – 27

Friday, November 7 (Even numbers email)

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln
Doris Kearns Goodwin, Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln, Chapters 24 and 25. (CR 1,2)
Wednesday, November 12 (Odd numbers email)

April 1865, I


Friday, November 14 (Even numbers email)

April 1865, II

Winik, Chapters 3 and 4

Wednesday, November 19 (Odd numbers email)

April 1865, III

Winik, Chapters 5 and 6

Friday, November 21 (Even numbers email)

April 1865, IV

McPherson, Chapters 28, Epilogue, Afterword; Winik, Chapters 7 and 8, Epilogue

Thanksgiving Vacation, November 25-December 1

Wednesday, December 3

Second Half Exam

Friday, December 5

Conclusions
Awarding of Credit

To be successful in this course, a student should expect to devote 10-14 hours each week, including class time and time spent on course-related activities.
http://registrar.richmond.edu/services/policies/academic-credit.html

Disability Accommodations

Students with a Disability Accommodation Notice should contact their instructors as early in the semester as possible to discuss arrangements for completing course assignments and exams.
http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/disability-services/policies.html

Honor System

The Jepson School supports the provisions of the Honor System. The shortened version of the honor pledge is: “I pledge that I have neither received nor given unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work.”
http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/honor/

Religious Observance

Students should notify their instructors within the first two weeks of classes if they will need accommodations for religious observance.
http://registrar.richmond.edu/planning/religiousobs.html