CIVIL WAR LEADERSHIP

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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 the nation, the war and of leadership in general. 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 Sunday, October 27 and returning by dinner time on Monday, October 28. 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: *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. Five chapters are posted on Course Reserve (CR). The CR 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 Monday or Wednesday’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 Wednesday, October 9 and one on the material from the second part of the course on Wednesday, December 4.

4. A paper of approximately 15 pages is due on Friday, December 13, 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

Monday, August 26

Introduction

Wednesday, August 28

Beginnings


Monday, September 2 (Odd numbers email)

Lurching Toward War

McPherson, Chapters 3 – 5.

Wednesday, September 4 (Even numbers email)

Davis and Lincoln

McPherson, Chapter 6

Monday, September 9  (Odd numbers email)

  Secession

  McPherson, Chapters 7 - 9

Wednesday, September 11  (Even numbers email)

  The Early Stages

  McPherson, Chapters 10 and 11

Monday, September 16  (Odd numbers email)

  The War on Water, 1862

  McPherson, Chapters 12 and 13

Wednesday, September 18  (Even numbers email)

  Grant Moves South, Part 1

  Bruce Catton (1960)  Grant Moves South  (Boston:  Little, Brown )  Chapters 1 - 4

Monday, September 23  (Odd numbers email)

  Grant Moves South, Part 2

  Catton, Chapters 5 - 8

Wednesday, September 25  (Even numbers email)

  Jackson, Lee, and McClellan

  McPherson, Chapters 14 and 15

Monday, September 30  (Odd numbers email)
The Emancipation Proclamation and Antietam
McPherson, Chapters 16 - 18

Wednesday, October 2 (Even numbers email)

Politics, National and International
McPherson, Chapters 19 and 20

Monday, October 7 (Odd numbers email)

Long Remember: The Summer of ’63
McPherson, Chapter 21

Wednesday, October 9

Midterm Exam

October 11-15 Fall Break

Wednesday, October 16 (Even numbers email)

The Killer Angels, Day 1


Monday, October 21 (Odd numbers email)

The Killer Angels, Day 2

Shaara, Thursday, July 2, 1863: The Second Day

Wednesday, October 23 (Even numbers email)

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

Sunday and Monday, October 27 and 28  GETTYSBURG TRIP

Wednesday, October 30  (Odd numbers email)

Grant and The Imperatives of Command


Monday, November 4  (Even numbers email)

If It Takes All Summer

McPherson, Chapters 23 – 25

Wednesday, November 6  (Odd numbers email)

Sherman and Victory

McPherson, Chapters 26 – 27

Monday, November 11  (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 13  (Odd numbers email)

April 1865, I


Monday, November 18  (Even numbers email)
April 1865, II

Winik, Chapters 3 and 4

Wednesday, November 20 (Odd numbers email)

April 1865, III

Winik, Chapters 5 and 6

Monday, November 25 (Even numbers email)

April 1865, IV

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

Thanksgiving Vacation, November 26 - December 2

Monday, December 2

Review and Conclusions

Wednesday, December 4

Second Half Exam