LDST 345  
FALL 2018

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 28 and returning by dinner time on Monday, October 29. 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 10 and one on the material from the second part of the course on Wednesday, December 5.

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

Monday, August 27

Introduction

Wednesday, August 29

Beginnings


Monday, September 3 (Odd numbers email)

Lurching Toward War

McPherson, Chapters 3 – 5.

Wednesday, September 5 (Even numbers email)

Davis and Lincoln

McPherson, Chapter 6

Monday, September 10  (Odd numbers email)

Secession

McPherson, Chapters 7 - 9

Wednesday, September 12  (Even numbers email)

The Early Stages

McPherson, Chapters 10 and 11

Monday, September 17  (Odd numbers email)

The War on Water, 1862

McPherson, Chapters 12 and 13

Wednesday, September 19  (Even numbers email)

Grant Moves South, Part 1

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

Monday, September 24  (Odd numbers email)

Grant Moves South, Part 2

Catton, Chapters 5 - 8

Wednesday, September 26  (Even numbers email)

Jackson, Lee, and McClellan

McPherson, Chapters 14 and 15

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

McPherson, Chapters 16 - 18

Wednesday, October 3 (Even numbers email)

Politics, National and International

McPherson, Chapters 19 and 20

Monday, October 8 (Odd numbers email)

Long Remember: The Summer of ’63

McPherson, Chapter 21

Wednesday, October 10

Midterm Exam

October 12-17 Fall Break

Wednesday, October 17 (Even numbers email)

The Killer Angels, Day 1


Monday, October 22 (Odd numbers email)

The Killer Angels, Day 2

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

Wednesday, October 24 (Even numbers email)

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

Sunday and Monday, October 28 and 29  GETTYSBURG TRIP

Wednesday, October 31  (Odd numbers email)

Grant and The Imperatives of Command


Monday, November 5  (Even numbers email)

If It Takes All Summer

McPherson, Chapters 23 – 25

Wednesday, November 7  (Odd numbers email)

Sherman and Victory

McPherson, Chapters 26 – 27

Monday, November 12  (Even numbers email)

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln


Wednesday, November 14  (Odd numbers email)

April 1865, I


Monday, November 19  (Even numbers email)
April 1865, II

Winik, Chapters 3 and 4

Thanksgiving Vacation, November 21-November 26

Monday, November 26  (Odd numbers email)

April 1865, III

Winik, Chapters 5 and 6

Wednesday, November 28 (Even numbers email)

April 1865, IV

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

Monday, December 3

Review and Conclusions

Wednesday, December 5

Second Half Exam