

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, March 27 and returning by dinner time on Monday, March 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. Other readings will be on Blackboard, 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 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, March 4 and one on the material from the second part of the course on Wednesday, April 20.
4. A paper of approximately 15 pages is due on Friday, April 29 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, January 10

Introduction

Wednesday, January 12

Beginnings

James McPherson (1988) *Battle Cry of Freedom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press). Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2.

Wednesday, January 19 (Odd numbers email)

Frederick Douglass and Slavery

David Blight (2018) *Frederick Douglass, Prophet of Freedom*. (New York: Simon and Schuster). Chapters 1 -5. (Blackboard).

Monday, January 24 (Even numbers email)

Lurching Toward War

McPherson, Chapters 3 – 5.

Wednesday, January 26 (Odd numbers email)

Davis and Lincoln

McPherson, Chapter 6

Shelby Foote (1958) *The Civil War: A Narrative* (New York: Random House), pp. 1-35. (Blackboard).

Monday, January 31 (Even numbers email)

Secession

McPherson, Chapters 7 and 8

Wednesday, February 2 (Odd numbers email)

The Early Stages

McPherson, Chapters 9 - 11

Monday, February 7 (Even numbers email)

The War on Water, 1862

McPherson, Chapters 12 and 13

Wednesday, February 9 (Odd numbers email)

Grant Moves South, Part 1

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

Monday, February 14 (Even numbers email)

Grant Moves South, Part 2

Catton, Chapters 5 - 8

Wednesday, February 16 (Odd numbers email)

Jackson, Lee, and McClellan

McPherson, Chapters 14 and 15; Elizabeth Brown Pryor, “Robert E. Lee” (Blackboard).

Monday, February 21 (Even numbers email)

The Emancipation Proclamation and Antietam

McPherson, Chapters 16 - 18

Wednesday, February 23 Monday, October 7 (Odd numbers email)

Politics, National and International

McPherson, Chapters 19 and 20

Monday February 28

Long Remember: The Summer of '63 (Even numbers email)

McPherson, Chapter 21

Wednesday, March 2

Midterm Exam

Monday, March 14 (Odd numbers email)

The Imperatives of Command

John Keegan, *The Mask of Command* (New York: Viking, 1987) Conclusion;
McPherson, Chapter 22. (Blackboard).

Wednesday, March 16 (Even numbers email)

The Killer Angels, Day 1

Michael Shaara (1974) *The Killer Angels: A Novel* (New York: Random House) To the Reader; Forward; Monday, June 29, 1863; Wednesday, July 1, 1863: The First Day

Monday, March 21 (Odd numbers email)

The Killer Angels, Day 2

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

Wednesday, March 23 (Even numbers email)

The Killer Angels, Day 3

Shaara, Friday, July 3, 1863: The Third Day; Afterword
David S. Reynolds (2020) *Abe: Abraham Lincoln in His Times*. (New York: Penguin), pp. 830-852). (Blackboard).

Sunday and Monday, March 27 and 28 GETTYSBURG TRIP

Wednesday, March 30, November 4 (Odd numbers email)

If It Takes All Summer

McPherson, Chapters 23 – 25

Monday, April 4 (Even numbers email)

Sherman and Victory

McPherson, Chapters 26 – 27

Wednesday, April 6 (Odd numbers email)

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln

Doris Kearns Goodwin (2005), *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, Chapters 24 and 25. (Blackboard).

Monday, April 11 (Even numbers email)

April 1865

Jay Winik (2001) *April 1865: The Month That Saved America* (New York: Harper Collins) Chapters 2, pp. 74-80, 98-121; Chapter 3, pp. 123-14, 163-172; Chapter 4, pp. 181-199

Wednesday, April 13

The End

Winik, Chapter 7, pp. 301-323; McPherson, Chapters 28, Epilogue

Monday, April 18

Review and Conclusions

Wednesday, April 20

Second Half Exam