

## History 550-001—The Civil War and Reconstruction—Fall 2020

### Undergraduate Students

**Dr. Andy Doyle**

**Time and Site: MW 5:00-6:15 pm; Kinard 204**

**CRN: 12194; three semester hours**

**Office: 376 Bancroft; phone: 323-4689; email: [doylea@winthrop.edu](mailto:doylea@winthrop.edu)**

**Office Hours: MW 7:30-8:30 pm and TR 4:00-5:00 pm, or by appointment**

- **I will be available via Blackboard Collaborate for video office hours during these times. You must email me to set up an appointment so I can set up a video session. Doing so in advance is preferable; asking in the spur of the moment may be fine, but I might be booked.**

**Turnitin course ID: 26076107; password: Foner**

**Course Description:** The American Iliad, the American Epic, the American Crucible; the War between the States, the War of the Rebellion, the War for Southern Independence, the Second American Revolution. Did the South remake itself into a nation? Was it a war between brothers? Was it caused by the ineptitude of a blundering generation, or was it an irrepressible conflict? Was it really caused by slavery? Was Lincoln a racist? Did Lincoln free the slaves, or was the war the backdrop for mass self-emancipation? Was the Civil War the world's first total war? The euphemisms used to describe and shape the meaning of the war are legion and often divisive, even now, nearly 160 years after it began. And that doesn't include the many fraught issues of Reconstruction. Was it a tragic era, or was it a noble but experiment that failed due to southern intransigence—or was it America's inherent racism? What about the reshaping of the historical memory of the war during half century after it ended? This course will explore these issues and many more and debate the answers to them. Respected historians have spilled oceans of ink—and rearranged a untold number of ones and zeroes—debating them, so we'll be in good company if and when we disagree. Just be sure to back up your arguments with reasoned thought backed up by evidence.

### **Required texts, available for purchase at the university bookstore or from online booksellers (only two?):**

1) Eric Foner, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*, paper, 2010, ISBN: 978-0-3-933406-6-2

2) Gary Gallagher and Joan Waugh, *The American War: A History of the Civil War Era*, 2015; ISBN: 978-0-9910375-3-7

### **Articles, chapters, and essays, available on Blackboard:**

James McPherson, "From Limited to Total War in America"

Mark Neely, "Was the Civil War a Total War?"

**Primary sources:** Evidence from primary sources will be an essential part of this class. The problem is not finding enough good ones to use in a class like this, but to limit ourselves to a mere sampling of the vast array available to us. We're lucky to be able to study the words of Abraham Lincoln, who not only is the most important figure of the era, he also spoke to both his generation as well as to those of us in the twenty-first century in an evergreen idiom that is (or should be) accessible to any contemporary college student. We'll also study other texts, like photographs, painting, sketches, and lithographs, political cartoons, and other visual sources that can be "read" and interpreted by historians just as surely as we can read interpret the written word. I might add or subtract a bit from this list, but it won't be an imposing amount of reading in total:

- Charles Francis Adams, "Lee Centennial Address"
- Jefferson Davis: excerpts from his second (Richmond) inaugural address
- Frederick Douglass, excerpts from speeches
- Freedmen and Southern Society Project, excerpts from narratives of slaves and freedpeople
- George Templeton Strong diary
- Ulysses Grant: excerpts from *The Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*
- Abraham Lincoln, excerpts from selected speeches and letters
- Karl Marx, excerpts from articles and letters on the Civil War
- Elisha Hunt Rhodes, excerpts from *All for Union*
- Alexander Stephens, excerpts from the "Cornerstone Speech"
- WPA Slave Narratives, excerpts
- Sam Watkins, excerpts from *Company Aytch, or a Sideshow of the Big Show: A Memoir of the Civil War*
- Excerpts from letters and diaries of soldiers and private citizens
- Assorted visual texts, including photographs, political cartoons, paintings, and lithographs

**Evaluation:**

Brief paper on Lincoln and slavery	15%
Midterm	15%
Final exam	15%
Research paper	36%
Participation in class and Blackboard forums	19%

**Exams:** There will be midterm and final exams; these will be completed out of class and submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Research paper:** You must write a ten-page (3000-3300) word research paper, which must be based substantially on primary sources. The range of topics open to you is extremely broad, but I must approve the topic. Coming up with a good topic is essential, especially narrowing its scope. Complete guidelines will be distributed separately.

**Classroom participation:** Classroom discussion is a critical aspect of this course. Formulating and expressing your ideas verbally provides you an excellent opportunity for active learning, and equally importantly, it allows you to share your perspectives with your classmates.

**Blackboard Discussion Forums:** Primary sources and other information will be posted on Blackboard every week. Out-of-class discussions will take place on Blackboard; your post should be posted before class according to the instructions for that forum. The Blackboard posts should be roughly 100 words in length—a brief paragraph. Both in-person and Blackboard discussion posts should demonstrate thoughtful analysis of one or more sources posted on that week's Blackboard module. I reserve the right to give reading quizzes if the discussion in class and on Blackboard is below par.

**Grading:** This course will be graded on a plus/minus basis. All course components will receive a number grade, but the final grade will be a letter grade and result from a weighted average of the above components. I will only give incompletes in extraordinary circumstances. According to the Winthrop's academic regulations, letter grades in Fall 2020 are assigned as follows:

**Letter grading scale, Fall 2020:**

A (93 and above); A-minus (90-92)  
B-plus (87-89); B (83-86); B-minus (80-82)  
C-plus (77-79); C (73-76); C-minus (70-72)  
CR (60-69); student receives 3 hours credit; no impact on GPA  
U (59 and below); student receives no credit; no impact on GPA

**S/U grading scale, Fall 2020**

S (70 and above); student receives 3 hours credit with no impact on GPA  
U (69 and below), student receives no credit with no impact on GPA

**Blackboard:** Everyone enrolled in the class is on Blackboard. If you have trouble accessing Blackboard, troubleshoot it yourself at <https://www.winthrop.edu/onlinelearning/student-training-and-resources.aspx>

If you still can't access it, email the Office of Online Learning at [blackboard@winthrop.edu](mailto:blackboard@winthrop.edu)  
You must attend several live online classes on Blackboard Collaborate, readings will be posted there, and there will be assignments on Blackboard most weeks of the semester.

**Turnitin.com:** Your exams and research paper must all be submitted to Turnitin.com by the date and time indicated on the syllabus. If your paper is finished on time but you have problems submitting it to Turnitin, email it to me prior to the time it is due and no late penalty will accrue. Since I will grade all papers on Turnitin, you must submit it to Turnitin or I will not grade it. If you submit a late paper to Turnitin, I will deduct 5 points for up to two days late, 10 points for three to ten days late, and 15 points after that. If you fail to submit an assignment to Turnitin by the time I calculate final grades for your class, you will receive a zero for that assignment.

**Class listserv:** You are responsible for any information distributed via the course email listserv. If you have an active winthrop.edu email account, you should be automatically included in the listserv. If you registered late or for any other reason are not included on the listserv, you must self-subscribe at <http://www.winthrop.edu/technology/default.aspx?id=7081>. I can neither add nor remove a name from the listserv; you must do this yourself.

**Students with disabilities:** If you have a disability and need specific accommodations, please go to the Office of Accessibility website at <https://www.winthrop.edu/hcs/about-accessibility.aspx>, or call them at 323-3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Excused absences and makeup exams:** These will be granted only for a documented illness, the illness or death of a member of your family, or in other extraordinary circumstances. Please submit documentation of your illness or other reason for absence as soon as possible and no later than when you return to class.

**Cheating:** While I doubt very seriously that this issue will arise, I am required to state my policy: any student caught cheating, including plagiarism, or the unattributed use of the words or ideas of someone else, will receive a zero for that assignment and a deduction of five points from the final average for the course.

**Syllabus change policy:** I will do my best to adhere closely to the syllabus, but circumstances may require a deviation from the schedule outlined here. I will inform students in class and/or via email regarding any changes and post a revised version on Blackboard. The syllabus posted on Blackboard will always take precedence over any past versions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

## Course Schedule

Week 1 (August 26):

- Virtual class on Blackboard Collaborate
- Course introduction

Week 2 (August 31 and September 2)

- Virtual class on Blackboard Collaborate
- Topic: The Sectional Crisis I
- Readings: Foner, Preface; chap. 1-3
- Primary sources: Excerpts from Lincoln speeches in Peoria, Springfield, and Charleston
- Blackboard discussion

Week 3 (September 7 and 9):

- Sep 7: Virtual class on Blackboard Collaborate
- Sep 9: In-person class
  - All classes are held in person between Sep 7 and Nov 23
- Topic: The Sectional Crisis 2; the election of 1860 and the first phase of secession
- Readings: Gallagher, chap. 1; Foner, chap. 4-5
- Primary sources: Lincoln, Cooper Union speech; First Inaugural
- Blackboard discussion
- Brief paper on Lincoln and slavery through his inauguration; due Friday, Sep 11 at midnight

Week 4 (September 14 and 16)

- Topic: Secession phase 2; the Border States and the war for Union; the opposing sides: strengths and weaknesses
- Readings: Gallagher, chap. 2; Foner, chap. 6
- Primary sources: Davis inaugural address; Stephens cornerstone speech
- Blackboard discussion
- Research paper topic due

Week 5 (September 21 and 23):

- Topic: the common soldiers and why they fought; Bull Run through Shiloh
- Readings: Gallagher, chap. 3 and 4
- Primary sources: Watkins and Rhodes excerpts
- Blackboard discussion

Week 6 (September 28 and 30)

- Topic: Spring 1862 through Gettysburg in the East; the naval war
- Readings: none
- Primary sources: photos
- Blackboard discussion
- Working bibliography for paper due

Week 7 (October 5 and 7)

- Topic: Emancipation
- Readings: Gallagher, chap. 5; Foner, chap 7-8.
- Primary sources: Douglass speeches; Freedmen and Southern Society excerpts
- Blackboard discussion

Week 8 (October 12 and 14)

- Topic: Vicksburg through Chattanooga in the West; finance, supply, and filling the ranks
- Readings: Gallagher, chap 6
- Primary sources: Grant and Sherman excerpts; NYC Draft Riots accounts
- Midterm exam due, Friday, October 16 at midnight

Week 9 (October 19 and 21)

- Topic: A Struggle between Nations (?); Total War (?)
- Readings: Gallagher, chap. 7; McPherson and Neely
- Primary sources: Marx excerpts; soldiers' and civilians' accounts
- Blackboard discussion

Week 10 (October 26 and 28)

- Topic: Women and the Home Front
- Readings: Gallagher, chap. 8
- Primary sources: women's letters and diaries
- Blackboard discussion

Week 11 (November 2 and 4)

- Topic: Grant Moves East; the Overland Campaign through the Siege of Petersburg
- Readings: Gallagher, chap 9
- Primary sources:
- Blackboard discussion

Week 12 (November 9 and 11)

- Topic: Sherman in Georgia; Finale; Presidential Reconstruction
- Readings: Foner, chap 9 and Epilogue
- Primary sources: Grant and Sherman sources; Lincoln's Second Inaugural; freedmen's accounts
- Blackboard discussion

Week 13 (November 16 and 18)

- Topic: Radical Reconstruction
- Readings: Gallagher, chap. 10-11
- Primary sources: Thaddeus Stevens speeches; freedmen's accounts; Nast cartoons
- Blackboard discussion

Week 14 (November 23)

- Topic: Retreat from Reconstruction
- Readings: none
- Research paper due November 25 at midnight

Week 15 (November 30 and December 2)

- Virtual class on Blackboard Collaborate
- Topic: The Lost Cause
- Readings: Gallagher, chap. 12
- Primary sources: Adams, Lee Centennial Address; *Plessy v. Ferguson* opinions
- Blackboard discussion

Final Exam due Monday, December 7 at midnight

**History 550-001—The Civil War and Reconstruction—Fall 2020**

**Graduate Syllabus**

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**Graduate Evaluation:**

Midterm	11%
Final exam	11%
Brief paper on Lincoln and slavery	11%
Brief paper on common soldiers	11%
Research paper	39%
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**Exams:** There will be midterm and final exams; these will be completed out of class and submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Brief paper on Lincoln's views on slavery:** You must write a four-page (1200-1400-word) essay on the evolution of Lincoln's views on slavery prior to the time that he assume the presidency. This paper should be based substantially on the assigned primary sources as well as on *The Fiery Trial*. Complete guidelines will be distributed separately.

**Brief paper on the experiences of common soldiers:** Graduate students must write a four-page (1200-1300 word) paper on the experiences of common soldiers in the war. You can focus on a single individual, or you can write about more general experiences. Choose soldiers on one side or the other, and base your paper to a substantial extent on primary sources that have been assigned and/or select others of your choice. Complete guidelines will be distributed separately.

**Research paper:** You must write a fifteen-page (4500-4700) word research paper, which must be based substantially on primary sources. The range of topics open to you is extremely broad, but I must approve the topic. Coming up with a good topic is essential, especially narrowing its scope. Complete guidelines will be distributed separately.

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- Blackboard assignments
- Brief paper on Lincoln and slavery through his inauguration; due Sunday, Sep 13 at midnight

Week 4 (September 14 and 16)

- Topic: Secession phase 2; the Border States and the war for Union; the opposing sides: strengths and weaknesses
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- Primary sources: Davis inaugural address; Stephens cornerstone speech
- Blackboard assignments
- Research paper topic due

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- Brief paper on the experiences of common soldiers

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- Topic: Spring 1862 through Gettysburg in the East; the naval war
- Readings: none
- Primary sources: photos
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- Topic: Emancipation
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- Primary sources: women's letters and diaries
- Blackboard assignments

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- Topic: Grant Moves East; the Overland Campaign through the Siege of Petersburg
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- Primary sources:
- Blackboard assignments

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- Primary sources: Thaddeus Stevens speeches; freedmen's accounts; Nast cartoons
- Blackboard assignments

Week 14 (November 23)

- Topic: Retreat from Reconstruction
- Readings: none
- Research paper due November 25 at midnight

Week 15 (November 30 and December 2)

- Virtual class on Blackboard Collaborate
- Topic: The Lost Cause
- Readings: Gallagher, chap. 12
- Primary sources: Adams, Lee Centennial Address; *Plessy v. Ferguson* opinions
- Blackboard assignments

Final Exam due Monday, December 7 at midnight

