

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Society and Culture in the Civil War Era

Fall 2017
Professor Manisha Sinha
Office Hours: Wed: 10.00-11.00 a.m.
and by appointment

Hist 5525
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Course Description

This seminar explores the revolutionary significance of the Civil War and Reconstruction era in nineteenth century United States history. It seeks to bridge the gap between African American history and the traditional narratives of mid-nineteenth century American political, social, and cultural history. We will focus on the wartime destruction of slavery, the process of emancipation, state formation and African American political mobilization during Reconstruction. Other topics include transnational history, gender, childhood studies, labor history, literary studies, the new military history, memory and mourning, and the violent fall of Reconstruction. We will read a book a week and recent historical literature will form the bulk of the reading for the course.

Course Requirements

All students will be required to lead the class discussion once during the semester and write a fifteen to twenty page historiographical or research paper on a topic of their choice. The paper is due on the last day of class and students should clear their paper topics with me well in advance. All required books are on reserve in the library.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (August 30): Introduction and Seminar Organization

Week 2 (September 6): Slavery and Abolition

Manisha Sinha, The Slave's Cause

Suggested:

Robin Blackburn, The American Crucible

Seymour Drescher, Abolition

David Brion Davis, The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation

_____, Inhuman Bondage and Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery

Ira Berlin, The Long Emancipation

Patrick Rael, Eighty-Eight Years

James MacPherson, The Struggle for Equality

Corey Brooks, Liberty Power

John Stauffer, The Black Hearts of Men

Richard Newman, The Transformation of American Abolitionism

James Oakes, The Radical and the Republican and The Scorpion's Sting

Thomas Bender ed., The Antislavery Debate

Eric Foner, Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men

Richard Sewell, Ballots for Freedom

Week 3 (September 13): The Politics of Secession and Slavery

Matt Karp, [This Vast Slaveholding Empire](#)

Suggested:

Walter Johnson, [River of Dark Dreams](#)
Carl Lawrence Paulus, [The Slaveholding Crisis](#)
Andrew Torget, [Seeds of Empire](#)
Christopher Phillips, [The Rivers Ran Backwards](#)
Keri Leigh Merritt, [Masterless Men](#)
David Williams, [Bitterly Divided](#)
Rachel Selden, [Washington Brotherhood](#)
Stanley Harrold, [Border Wars](#)
William Link, [Roots of Secession](#)
Manisha Sinha, [The Counterrevolution of Slavery](#)
Michael Johnson, [Toward a Patriarchal Republic](#)
James Oakes, [Slavery and Freedom](#)
David Potter, [The Impending Crisis](#)
Eugene D. Genovese, [The Political Economy of Slavery](#)
Douglas Egerton, [Year of Meteors](#)

Week 4 (September 20): Transnational Histories

Steven Hahn, [A Nation Without Borders](#)

Suggested:

Sven Beckert, [Empire of Cotton](#)
Marilyn Lake and Henry Reynolds, [Drawing the Global Color Line](#)
Don Doyle, [The Cause of All Nations](#)
David T. Gleeson and Simon Lewis eds., [The Civil War as Global Conflict](#)
Mathew Clavin, [Touissant Louverture and the American Civil War](#)
Edward Rugemer, [The Problem of Emancipation](#)
Rebecca J. Scott, [Freedom By Degrees](#) and [Slave Emancipation in Cuba](#)
Amanda Foreman, [A World on Fire](#)
Brian Schoen, [The Fragile Fabric of Union](#)
Thomas Bender, [A Nation Among Nations](#)
Amy Greenberg, [Manifest Manhood and Antebellum American Empire](#)
Robert E. May, [Slavery, Race and Conquest in the Tropics](#)
Andre Fleche, [The Revolution of 1861](#)

Week 5 (September 27): Labor History

Mark Lause, [Free Labor](#)

Suggested:

Sharon Ann Holt, [Making Freedom Pay](#)

Julie Saville, The Work of Reconstruction
Barbare Jeanne Fields, Slavery and Freedom in the Middle Ground
Amy Dru Stanley, From Bondage to Contract
Gunther Peck, Reinventing Free Labor
Eric Foner, Nothing But Freedom
Alexander Lichtenstein, Twice the Work of Free Labor
Thomas Holt, The Problem of Freedom
Moon Ho-Jung, Coolies and Cane
Frederick Cooper et al eds, Beyond Slavery
Tera Hunter, To 'Joy My Freedom
Frederick Cooper, Thomas Holt, and Rebecca J. Scott eds., Beyond Slavery

Week 6 (October 4): The New “Military” History

Greg Downs, After Appomattox

Suggested:

Douglas Egerton, Thunder at the Gates
Barbara Gannon, The Won Cause
Mark A. Weitz, More Damning than Slaughter
Judith Giesberg, Sex and the Civil War
John Fabian Witt, Lincoln’s Code
Lesley Gordon, A Broken Regiment
Stephen Berry, Weirding the War
Russel Weigley, The American Way of War
Glenn Brasher, The Peninsula Campaign and the Necessity of Emancipation
Chandra Manning, What this Cruel War was Over and Troubled Refuge
Gary Gallagher, The Union War
James McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom
Joseph T. Glathaar, Forged in Battle
Reid Mitchell, The Vacant Chair
Donald R. Shaffer, After the Glory
Victoria Bynum, The Long Shadow of the War
Richard N. Current, Lincoln’s Loyalists

Week 7 (October 11): Law, Politics, and Emancipation

Laura Edwards, A Legal History of the Civil War and Reconstruction

Suggested:

W.E.B. Du Bois, Black Reconstruction
Eric Foner, Reconstruction
Pamela Brandwein, Reconstructing Reconstruction
James Oakes, Freedom National
Gregory P. Downs and Kate Masur eds., The World the Civil War Made

Leon F. Litwack, Been in the Storm so Long
Leslie Schwalm, Emancipation's Diaspora
David Roediger, Seizing Freedom
Leonard Richards, Who Freed the Slaves?
Ira Berlin et al eds, Freedom: A Documentary History, 1861-1867 (6 Vols.)
Daniel Crofts, Lincoln and the Politics of Slavery
Eric Foner, The Fiery Trial
Bruce Levine, Confederate Emancipation
David Williams, I Freed Myself
Justice Behrend, Reconstructing Democracy
Luis-Alejandro Dinnella-Borrego, The Risen Phoenix
Rebecca J. Scott and Jean M. Hebrard, Freedom Papers

Week 8 (October 18): The New Western History

Stacey L. Smith, Freedom's Frontier

Suggested:

Matther E. Stanley, The Loyal West
Jerome Rockwell, Indian Affairs and the Administrative State
Heather Cox Richardson, West from Appomattox
Elliot West, The Contested Plains & The Last Indian War
Virginia Scharff ed., Empire and Liberty
Adam Arenson and Andrew Graybill eds., Civil War Wests
Bradley R. Clampitt ed., The Civil War and Reconstruction in Indian Territory
Carol Higham, The Civil War and the West
Ari Kelman, A Misplaced Massacre
Karl Jacoby, Shadows at Dawn
Fay Yarbrough, Race and the Cherokee Nation
Tiya Miles, Ties That Bind & The House on Diamond Hill
Celia Naylor, African Cherokees in Indian Territory
Barbara Krauthammer, Black Slaves, Indian Masters
Robert Utley, The Indian Frontier of the American West & Frontiersmen in Blue
Eugene Berwanger, The West and Reconstruction
Patricia Nelson Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest

Week 9 (October 25): No Class

In lieu of class, write a short (two pages) proposal for your seminar paper with a bibliography and submit it to me. You can choose any one of our weekly topics or any other that might interest you from this period as long as you clear it with me first.

Week 10 (November 1): Gender in the Age of the Civil War

Nina Silber, Daughters of the Union

Suggested:

Wendy Hamand Venet, Neither Ballots Nor Bullets

Laura Free, Suffrage Reconstructed

Faye E. Dudden, Fighting Chance

Thavolia Glymph, Out of the House of Bondage

Leslie Schwalm, A Hard Fight for We

Carol Faulkner, Women's Radical Reconstruction

Laura Edwards, Gendered Strife and Confusion

Hannah Rosen, Terror in the Heart of Freedom

Mary Kaiser, Freedwomen and the Freedmen's Bureau

Sharon Romeo, Gender and Jubilee

Drew Faust, Mothers of Invention

Stephanie McCurry, Confederate Reckoning

Jane Schultz, Women at the Front

Judith Giesberg, Army at Home and Civil War Sisterhood

George Rable, Civil Wars

Carol Berkin, Civil War Wives

Week 11 (November 8): Death and Memory

Micki McElya, The Politics of Mourning

Suggested:

W. Fitzhugh Brundage, The Southern Past and Where These Memories Grow

Drew Faust, This Republic of Suffering

Martha Hodes, Mourning Lincoln

Barbara Gannon, Americans Remember Their Civil War

Jim Downs, Sick from Freedom

Megan Kate Nelson, Ruin Nation

Mark Schantz, Awaiting the Heavenly Country

Fanny Nudelman, John Brown's Body

David Blight, Race and Reunion

Nina Silber, The Romance of Reunion

Caroline Janney, Remembering the Civil War

John R. Neff, Honoring the Civil War Dead

Bruce Baker, What Reconstruction Meant

Carole Emberton and Bruce Baker eds., Remembering Reconstruction

Week 12 (November 15): Motherhood and Childhood

Mary Niall-Mitchell, Raising Freedom's Child

Suggested:

Anna Mae Duane, Suffering Childhood in Early America

Robin Bernstein, Racial Innocence

Heather Andrea Williams, Help Me to Find My People

Anya Jabour, Topsy-Turvy

James Marten, The Children's Civil War

Valerie Zeigler, Diva Julia

Theda Skocpol, Protecting Soldiers and Mothers

Catherine Jones, Intimate Reconstructions

Hilary Green, Educational Reconstruction

Tera Hunter, Bound in Wedlock

Adam Rothman, Beyond Freedom's Reach

Heather Andrea Williams, Help Me to Find My People and Self Taught

Week 13 (November 29): Literary History

Brook Thomas, The Literature of Reconstruction

Suggested:

Edlie Wong, Racial Reconstruction

John A. Casey, Jr., New Men

Sharon D. Kennedy-Nolle, Writing Reconstruction

Lyde Cullen Sizer, The Political Work of Northern Women Writers

Sarah Gardner, Blood and Irony

Christopher Hager, Word By Word

Edmund Wilson, Patriotic Gore

Alice Fahs, Imagined Civil War

Robert Levine, The Lives of Frederick Douglass

Ezra Greenspan, William Wells Brown

David Blight, American Oracle and A Slave No More

Albion Tourgee, A Fool's Errand

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Iola Leroy

Week 14 (December 6): The Violent Fall of Reconstruction

Kidada E. Williams, They Left Great Marks on Me

Suggested:

Michael Fitzgerald, Splendid Failure

Douglas Egerton, The Wars of Reconstruction

Nicholas Leman, Redemption
Stephen Budiansky, Bloody Shirt
Elaine Parsons, Ku Klux
Richard White, The Republic for Which It Stands
Carole Emberton, Beyond Redemption
George Rable, But There Was No Peace
Allen Trelease, White Terror
Lou Falkner Williams, The Great South Carolina Ku Klux Klan Trials
Richard Zuczek, State of Rebellion
Lee Anna Keith, The Colfax Massacre
Charles Lane, The Day Freedom Died
James K. Hogue, Uncivil War
Nell Painter, Exodusters
Scot Reynolds Nelson, Iron Confederacies
Talitha LeFlouria, Chained in Silence
David M. Oshinsky, Worse Than Slavery
Douglas Blackmon, Slavery By Another Name
Steven Hahn, A Nation Under Our Feet
Theodore Rosengarten, All God's Dangers
Leon F. Litwack, Trouble in Mind
August Meier, Negro Thought in America