**The American Civil War and Reconstruction**

**Description and Syllabus**

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| Instructor | William Hoversen | E-mail | Whoversen@gmail.com |
| Office | Room 439 | Office Hours | Thursday 8:00 – 10:00 |

**Course Description:**

The Civil War was fought to preserve the union, but transformed into a moral struggle regarding the very existence of the institution of slavery. Following its conclusion, the country was forced to mend the wounds, all the while, rebuilding the nation and integrating those once enslaved. This class will focus on the causes and effects of the single bloodiest conflict in American history and how the South was reconstructed following its end. Heavy attention will be paid to the war’s major events, the strategies and aims of the governments, sacrifices and decisions made by both parties during the conflict, and the American icons who took part.

**Attendance:** Come to every single class. The university allows you to miss three classes, if you miss four you fail for the entire semester. I take a note of all late students. Three late occasions equal one missed class. It adds up very quickly, so arrange your matters accordingly. It is your responsibility to know how many classes you have missed and how many times you have been late. I will not remind you at every class.

If I see you using your phone in class you will be marked absent. That includes taking notes. Please refrain from checking your email or Facebook/Twitter/Instagram etc during class. If I find you not paying attention during class and looking at other stuff on your chosen piece of technology you will be sent out of the room. If your mind is not on the class there is no reason for you to be there, bothering others who want to pay attention and learn.

**Expectations**: You will attend all scheduled lectures, as any information that is discussed in lectures or presentations is viable for the midterm and final. All assigned reading will be done in advance of the class, as any information found there will also appear on the mid-term and final. Occasionally, pop quizzes will be administered to ensure that you are engaged

**Evaluation:**

- 1000-word essay regarding some aspect of the war or the Reconstruction period: This can be a cultural, historical, military, or biographical.

(all topics must be approved by me) - 20%

- Mid-Term Exam – 30%

- End of Term Final Exam - 50%

**Texts:**

Grant, U. (1885). Personal Memoirs Of U. S. Grant.

McPherson, J. and McPherson, J. (2008). The Battle cry of freedom. New York, N.Y.: Tess Press.

Wiley, B. (1994). The Life of Johnny Reb & the Life of Billy Yank. New York: Book-of-the-Month Club, Inc.

**Related Films:**

Glory

Gods and Generals

Gettysburg

Lincoln

**Final Course Grades:**

*All* of the above will need to be completed and not more than three missed classes for the following grades to be assigned.

100% to 91% = 5

90% to 81% = 4

80% to 71% = 3

70% to 60% = 2

**Rules of the class:** No off color language will be tolerated (I can joke, you can joke, but we will not put someone down, we will not make anyone feel uncomfortable). If you are late, do not knock, just come in as unobtrusively as possible and take a seat. Phones are away while you are in here. You have a phone out, you are here in person only and not engaged in the class. Ergo, it’s an absence. I reserve the right to change any or all of the syllabus during the semester.

**Course Schedule:**

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| **Date of Lesson** | **Topic** |
| February 15 | **- A Comparison of the Antebellum South and North**  **- Historical Causes for the Conflict**  **- Sectionalism** |
| February 23 | **- War Aims and Strategies for the Conflicting Sides**  **- Advantages and Disadvantages of both Combatants**  **- Election of Lincoln and Succession** |
| March 1 | **Early-1861 – Mid-1862 (Fort Sumter to Shiloh)** |
| March 8 | **Mid-1862 – End of 1862 - Advance the Flag of Dixie (7 Days Battle – Fredericksburg)** |
| March 15 | **1863 – The Southern Reckoning** |
| March 22 | **Mid-Term Examination** |
| March 29 | **1864 – Grant and Sherman lay Waste** |
| April 5 | **1865 – A Bloody Conclusion** |
| April 12 | **Assassination of Lincoln – A Felled Giant** |
| April 19 | **Spring Break – No Class** |
| April 26 | **No Class** |
| May 2 | **Reconstruction – Plans for Rebuilding the South and the Fears of a now subjugated Confederacy** |
| May 9 | **The End of Reconstruction and Life in the Post-Reconstruction South**  **- Essays Due in my inbox by the end of the day** |
| May 16 | **Final Exam** |