

Spring 2016

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-9:50 ARH 124

Office: Jesse Macy House (1205 Park St.), Room 201 Phone: 269-3091
Email: PURCELL@grinnell.edu Email is the best way to reach me.

Office Hours: MW 10-12 and by appointment. I am here to help you learn this semester. Please come see me during office hours or make an appointment, so I can speak with you one-on-one. I have a changing schedule from week to week because I direct the Rosenfield Program, so it's often good to make an appointment—I can always make time for you.

No one can adequately understand American History without understanding the causes, progress, and monumental consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction. This course will examine American history from the mid 1840s to the late 1870s, with a primary focus on the Civil War. The Civil War as an historical subject is about much more than just a series of battles. In this course, we will focus on issues of race, gender, politics, and economics as well as important military matters. Our goal will be to understand how and why events happened as they did, whether the fundamental conflicts of the war were solved by Reconstruction, and why the Civil War has occupied such an important place in American history and imagination. We will consider the period from different perspectives-- North versus South, enlisted soldiers versus commanders, battlefield versus "home front"-- in order to explain events of enormous significance. We will also consider how the Civil War has been remembered, and forgotten, in the 150 years since

Together we will investigate some of the most interesting questions in American history, and students should be ready to articulate and grapple with ideas (even the co

bibliography and accompanied by a research journal), which will be showcased at our class poster session on May 6. Other homework, assignments,

Mon. (Feb 15) The Death of Henry Clay: Looking at Culture and Geography
Reading Due: Sarah J. Purcell, "All That Remains of Henry Clay: Public Funerals and the Tour of Henry Clay's Corpse," Common-Place 12 (April 2012): <http://www.common-place-archives.org/vol-12/no-03/purcell/>

Wed. (Feb 17) The Failure of Compromise

- Mon. (Mar 7) The Winter of Northern Discontent, Comparing Battle Maps
Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 18, Gienapp, "The Military Struggle, 1861-1862," 14-16; Concise Atlas, pp. ix-xiii, 50-51, 54-55
- Wed. (Mar 9) What Did Soldiers Fight For?
*Reading Due: Bierce, "What I Saw of Shiloh"; Gienapp, "Common Soldiers" 1-11; Aaron Sheehan-Dean, "Everyman's War: Confederate Enlistment in Civil War Virginia," Civil War History 50 (2004): 5-26 *e-reserve**
https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/civil_war_history/v050/50.1sheehan-dean.pdf; Excerpt from McPherson "For Cause and Comrades"
- Fri. (Mar 11) Black Soldiers
*Reading Due: Dora L. Costa and Matthew E. Kahn, "Forging a New Identity: The Costs and Benefits of Diversity in Civil War Combat Units for Black Slaves and Freeman," Journal of Economic History 66 (December 2006): 936-962; http://www.jstor.org/stable/4501109 *e-reserve*; Gienapp, "African Americans," 1-11*
- Mon. (Mar 14) Spatial History and Black Soldiers
In-class GIS exercise
- Wed. (Mar 16) Spatial History and Black Soldiers
In-class GIS exercise
- Fri. (Mar 18) Mothers of Invention
Reading Due: Faust, pp. xi-233; Reading Due: Gienapp, "The Confederate Home Front" 1-13; Concise Atlas, pp. 64-65
- Mon. (Apr 4) Northern Women, Politics, and Domesticity
*Reading Due: Wendy Hamand Venet, "The Emergence of a Suffragist: Mary Livermore, Civil War Activism, and the Moral Power of Women," Civil War History 48 (2002): 143-164; http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=31h&AN=7152989&site=ehost-live *e-reserve*; Judith Giesberg, "Noble Union Girls," Civil War Times 49 (June 2010): 58-64 (America: History and Life) also available under another title here: http://www.historynet.com/explosion-at-the-alleggheny-arsenal.htm*

1865," 1-7; "The End of the War," 3&4, 11-16; Concise Atlas, pp. 78-85, 88-91

Mon. (Apr 25) The Death of Lincoln

Reading Due: Gienapp, "The End of the War," 5&9

Wed. (Apr 27) Peace & Reconstruction

Reading Due: Ordeal, Ch. 26-29; Gienapp, "Presidential Reconstruction," 1-9; "Johnson's Clash with Congress," 1-8; "Congressional Reconstruction," 1-7; Concise Atlas, pp. 92-99

Fri. (Apr 29) Sex and Politics

Reading Due: Martha Hodes, "The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics," Journal of the History of Sexuality 3 (1993): 402-417; <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3704014>