

Professor Lurie
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Office hours, M,W, 10-11:30, M, 1:30-2:30, and by appointment.
Conklin 330, (973) 353-1056.
Extension 30

History 512: 350

The Unfinished History of the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras

1832- ??

MW6 (4:00 to 5:15), Conklin 346

PLEASE READ THIS INTRODUCTION **VERY CAREFULLY, BEFORE** you decide to remain in this course.

1) First, let me extend a very special welcome to you, concerning this computer oriented history course. You should understand, at the outset that 512:350 is probably going to be a “different” history course than you may have encountered here at Rutgers, Newark. Please be aware that in addition to some traditional texts (paperbacks), we will use a variety of web sites. Further, I expect to use the computer during each class. Ready access to a computer is mandatory, if you wish to take my course. Also, you must have easy access to the web, as a number of your assignments will be based on various web sites. The class will use Blackboard (BB), a computer based program here at Rutgers. All assignments will be posted on it. I will also use bb to outline questions or issues, and to keep in contact with the class. You should get into the habit of checking blackboard the day before each class. From time to time, you will be asked to offer your candid reactions to the material and computer based content of my course.

2) All written work in this course is to be submitted using ONLY your last four SS#s as ID. NEVER PLACE YOUR NAME ON YOUR EXAMS OR ASSIGNMENTS!! Students who use their name on written work or on exams will have them returned--ungraded. Written work in this class is to be proof read with some care. **Make sertin that there arre no spilling mistakes!!** Sloppy work with excessive typos etc, will also be returned unread.

3) All exams in my course are open note exams. You may use any notes taken either in class or from the assigned readings; but **NO BOOKS ARE ALLOWED.**

4) Please understand that promptness to my class is expected. Unless unforeseen circumstances intervene, it will start PROMPTLY at 4:00 p.m. Students who are more than a very few minutes late, will be marked absent!

Moreover, make sure that any cell phones are turned OFF during the class! Students who violate this requirement will be asked to leave. It is expected that each reading assignment will be completed IN ADVANCE of the class wherein it will be discussed.

4) Concerning plagiarism. Every student is required to read and sign an agreement concerning plagiarism. It will be explained during the first day (Introduction) to my class. Any student who declines to sign it will be dropped from the course. It should be understood that I take the issue of plagiarism **VERY SERIOUSLY**. Any student caught committing this offense in my courses will automatically receive an F for the course. The Chair of the History department will be informed, and a record will be kept of the incident. Depending on circumstances, the matter may be referred to the University.

5) If you are not willing to give this course the time and effort required to do as good a job as you are capable of, PLEASE do not enroll in it. I assume that your decision to take this course implies your acceptance of these requirements.

Course requirements:

- a) regular attendance, which is taken early in the period, for each class. Only TWO (2) unexcused absences will be allowed. Students with more than several unexcused absences will have their final grade lowered. The greater the number of absences, the greater the reduction in grade,
- b) 6 weeks exam (October 12, 2004)
- c) computer based research explorations and evaluations, including one in class presentation
- d) 1 or 2 book "reactions"
- e) final exam

The hour exam counts 20%, the final counts 30%, and the other written or computer based assignments count 50%.

Course Objectives:

- a) to gain a better understanding of the Civil War era
- b) to integrate computers and computer generated materials into the course
- c) to gain skill in written assessment and evaluation both of web sites as well as other written material
- d) to, hopefully, discover why history can be fascinating, fulfilling, occasionally frightening, but ALSO FUN!!

Required texts: (available from both the University book store and N.J. books)

- a) Ambrose Bierce, Civil War Stories, Dover publications. Cited as Bierce
- b) Richard Current, Lincoln and the First Shot, Waveland press. Cited as Current
- c) Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction, Harper and Row. Cited as Foner.
- d) John Hope Franklin, The Emancipation Proclamation, Harlan, Davidson. Cited as Franklin
- e) William E. Gienapp, Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America, Oxford University press. Cited as Gienapp
- f) Philip Shaw Paludan, Victims: A True Story of the Civil War, University of Tennessee Press. Cited as Paludan

I strongly recommend purchasing Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, (latest edition), as well as a short introduction to using the web—depending on your familiarity with navigating within it. There are MANY available. See, for example, Martin Irvine, Web Works, or Harnack and Kleppinger, On Line!, or Stull and Rossi, History on the Internet.

Tentative topics

(specific assignments from the readings will always be announced in advance, as will be the date when each topic is discussed. In addition, a number of documents will also be assigned. These will be posted on bb.)

- 1) Introduction, Gienapp, chapters 1-3
- 2) nullification, slavery, abolitionists, and the Mexican War,
- 3) the 1850's:
 - a) Compromise of 1850,
 - b) Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852)
 - c) Kansas Nebraska Act and Bleeding Kansas (1854-1856)
 - d) Dred Scott (1857)
 - e) Lincoln-Douglas Debates (1858)
- 4) election of 1860
- 5) secession, 1861, Gienapp, chapter 4

6) Outbreak of war, Current, entire book.

Class debate: WHO is to blame for the OUTBREAK of the War—
Jefferson Davis or Abraham Lincoln?

7) Changing goals and perceptions, Gienapp 5-7

8) Diplomacy,

9) Wartime society, women, role of black soldiers,

10) Legal issues

a) emancipation proclamation, Franklin, entire book.

b) b) 13th Amendment

11) 1863-1865

a) Paludan, entire

b) Gienapp, 8

12), 1865

13) assassination,

14) Reconstruction, Foner entire book

1) restoration

2) reconciliation

3) restitution

4) revenge

5) republicanism

6) racism

15) Johnson

15) Congress

16) The 14th Amendment, Reconstruction Acts

17) impeachment,

18) aftermath,

19) economic consequences of Reconstruction

20) End? of Reconstruction

a) solid South

b) Slaughterhouse Cases of 1873

c) election of 1876

d) Civil Rights Act of 1875 Civil Rights Cases of 1883.

21) Lingering legacy

1) Bierce: 4 stories a) A Horseman in the Sky, b) An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge, c) One of the Missing, d) Parker Addison, Philosopher.

22) Reconstruction is still unfinished. Why?