

# **HST 209 - American History: The Civil War**

## **Course Syllabus - Winter Term 2012**

### **PLEASE NOTE**

The course syllabus is a contract between instructor and student. It is the student's responsibility to read, understand, and comply with every academic requirement listed herein. Contact the instructor directly if you have any questions regarding the information in this syllabus or the course in general.

### **Class Orientation**

There is NO face-to-face orientation for this course. Students will listen to an audio orientation online. Login to <http://classes.lanecc.edu> to access all class materials.

### **Instructor/ Email Office/ Phone Office Hours**

Joe Escobar - [escobarj@lanecc.edu](mailto:escobarj@lanecc.edu) (Enrolled students should use Moodle messaging, rather than email, to contact the instructor)  
Office - Center Building, 4th Floor, 419J (541) 463-5581  
Office Hours - by appointment (Moodle message me to suggest a day and time to meet)

### **Instructor Contact**

I am accessible via Moodle messaging, email, voicemail, or in person at scheduled appointments. Moodle messaging is the preferred method since I check the course website multiple times each day, weekends included. More importantly, traditional emails often get "caught" in LCC's email spam filter and never get to me, while Moodle messages ALWAYS get through.

LCC requires that all students provide an email address to the college. You should be certain that your email address in ExpressLane and your Moodle profile is correct.

**Required  
Textbook &  
Videos**

**Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era**

James M. McPherson - author

Oxford University Press, USA; Later Printing edition (December 11, 2003)

ISBN-10: 019516895X ISBN-13: 978-0195168952

**The Civil War: A Film by Ken Burns**

The required videos are available online.

<http://www.lanecc.edu/library/find/videostreaming.htm>

You may also be able to find these same nine episodes on DVD and/or VHS.

Students will also be required to watch a variety of other web-based video and audio clips. If you are not able to view/hear online media, you should not take this course.

**Course  
Description**

When *The Civil War*, originally premiered in September 1990, the response was phenomenal and the series became a national viewing event. The film interweaves thousands of photographs and paintings with the words of those who lived through the war that shattered a union and shaped a nation: politicians, generals, common soldiers, slaves and free slaves, the famous and the forgotten, male and female.

This online class is an integrated instructional program consisting of a **nine** (hour-long) **episode online video series**, **two examinations**, and **various online written assignments**. In addition to the videos, students are required to read a 549 page **textbook** (multiple chapters each week) and view/read/listen/watch other internet-based materials.

**Course Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- Grasp the political, social, and economic realities of the Civil War.
- Know the chronology of the key events in the Civil War.
- Appreciate that the Civil War was a milestone in American history that has shaped the American character and helped to change political, economic, military, and social institutions.
- Realize that the Civil War left numerous issues unresolved, many which will continue to challenge this nation into the 21st century.

**Online Assignments**

Students will complete written work based on the required textbook readings, video episodes, and web-based information provided on the class website in Moodle. Assignments will center around weekly materials and include unique prompts.

Students will post a number of observations, comments, and constructive replies to other students in several different forums. These posts will also require students to incorporate textbook, internet-based, and video information into their responses.

Instructions and deadlines for all assignments and forums will be clearly outlined on a weekly basis on the class website.

Students will also take a number of online quizzes to assess their knowledge of the textbook readings and video assignments.

The weight of these activities will vary according to required workload and participation.

## Exams

Students will take two non-comprehensive exams which will only be administered by computers at approved testing locations. You will NOT take your exams at home from your own computers. This requirement may cause some of you to have to make special arrangements to come to campus or to another approved testing facility. Read on.

The objective exams consist of multiple choice questions, true/false, matching, maps, etc. Each objective exam will have between 50 and 100 questions. Most students will complete an exam in one hour, although you may have as much time as you need.

The actual exams must be taken on LCC's Main Campus in CEN456, the Social Science Computer Testing Lab. Be sure to bring a photo ID with you on exam day.

**IMPORTANT** - Exams may also be taken in the LCC Outreach Centers in Florence or Cottage Grove. Students will need to contact the learning center coordinator **at least one week** in advance of their exam. Hours of operation vary from location to location. The exam deadlines listed in Moodle will apply, not the individual lab hours.

**VERY IMPORTANT** - I realize some students may be taking this class from outside the Willamette Valley in Oregon. If this is the case, be certain to arrange for an exam proctor immediately as this process takes some time. Click the link below and follow the instructions for setting up a proctor with the LCC Distance Learning Department.

<http://www.lanecc.edu/distance/testproctoring.html>

Also, be sure you Moodle message your instructor at LEAST a week in advance of the exam with the specific day and time you plan to take your exam. Again, the exam deadlines are absolute, no matter where you live.

**VERY  
IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION**

Deadlines are absolute in this course.

**No late work is accepted.** All assignments are due, for all students, by the due dates and times listed in the deadline link in the Moodle class website. Since all assignments are turned in via the internet, students will have to plan accordingly.

**No make up exams are given.** Students will have a 3 or 4 day period of time during which they must complete the midterm and final exams. These dates and times are listed in the deadline link in the Moodle class website. Moreover, these exams must be taken in a proctored environment. See the Exam section below.

**Grading  
Criteria**

**Grades**

Your grade in this course will be based on the following breakdown and scale:

*Summary:*

Online Assignments 50%  
Midterm Exam 25%  
Final Exam 25%  
TOTAL 100%

Letter Grades will be as follows:

A+= 100% A=93%-99% A-=90%-92%  
B+=87%-89% B=83%-86% B-=80%-82%  
C+=77%-79% C=73%-76% C-=70%-72%  
D+=67%-69% D=63%-66% D-=60%-62%  
F=<60%

Students grades will be always be available in Moodle.

Grades of "no credit" or "incomplete" will not be given, so please don't ask.

### **A Note On Students and Written Assignments**

The most difficult task required of any instructor is that of grading student writing. Although the purpose of these assignments and forums is not to grade based on spelling and grammar, problems in these areas can only detract from the readability and enjoyment of the information presented, not to mention the lack of care or proofreading they illustrate. You do **not** want me to be proofreading your written assignments and forum posts. You want me (and in the case of forum posts, other students) to be reading your best work and best effort.

Therefore, I urge you to seek assistance if writing is not one of your strengths. For more help, other than your instructor, you should contact the Counseling/Advising Center, the Study Skills Learning Center, The Writing Center, the English Department, and/or the Library staff.

Combined, these online assignments are one half of your grade in this class (50%), more than each individual exam. Consider what you are required to do in order to adequately prepare for just one of these exams, such as reading hundreds of pages of text and watching several hours of video. This should give you an indication of the effort I am looking for in these assignments.

In summary:

- Proofread your writing
- Do not plagiarize. Violators will be punished to the fullest extent of LCC's academic honesty code

### **Extra Credit**

A failing student cannot pass the course by doing extra credit work. Extra credit will **ONLY** influence a borderline final class grade by 1%. For example, students may use extra credit to go from a D+ to a C- or from a B+ to an A-. Students interested in an extra credit opportunity must Moodle message the instructor **AFTER** the midterm exam.

### **Environment for Viewing Videos**

Videos are available online from the [LCC Library website](#). All videos must be viewed thoughtfully and critically. You may find yourself pausing and/or replaying certain places to hear and see something again. You may consider watching them a number of times. Do not expect that a casual viewing of the videos will prepare you for the expectations of this course.

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| <b>Withdrawal Procedure</b>       | The last day to receive a tuition refund is by the end of the FIRST week of the term. The last day to make any schedule changes (grade, pass/no pass, drop) is the end of the 8th week of the term. This includes changing from a grade to a pass/no pass option or dropping the class without it appearing on your transcript. |
| <b>Students With Disabilities</b> | If you need support or assistance because of a disability, you may be eligible for academic accommodations through Disability Services. For more information, contact Disability Services at (541) 463-5150 (voice) or 463-3079 (TTY), or stop by Building 1, Room 218.                                                         |