

HST 209 - American History: The Civil War Course Syllabus - Winter Term 2016

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 (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)
Required Textbook	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 (\$14.99 new at Amazon, \$8 for a used copy, delivered to your door)
Required Videos	The Civil War: A Film by Ken Burns The required videos are available online. No need to buy them. CLICK HERE to login and access the videos 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 <i>The Civil War</i> , 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 (11 hours long) episode online video series , two examinations , and online written assignments including week-long forums and optional extra credit opportunities . In addition to the videos, students are required to read about 650 pages of a 952 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: • Become more proficient in the realm of historiography, especially when analyzing competing, and sometimes conflicting source materials. • 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 and the world into the 21st century. • Comprehend the war, both its causes and its aftermath from multiple perspectives, North and South, soldier to civilian.
VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION	No late work is accepted. All assignments are due, for all students, by the due dates and times (Pacific Timezone) noted on the course website. No make up exams are given. Students will have a 4 or 5 day period of time during which they must complete the midterm and final exams. These dates and times appear on the term calendar in Moodle, during week 6 and week 11.
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 multiple times each day, weekends included. More importantly, emails often get "lost" in LCC's email spam filter, while Moodle messages never do. LCC requires that all students provide an email address to the college. You should be certain that your email address in MyLane and Moodle is correct.
Grading Criteria	Grades Your grade in this course will be based on the following breakdown and scale: Summary: Forums 35% Quizzes 20% Midterm Exam 20% 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 to students in Moodle.

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 75 and 100 questions. Most students will complete an exam in one hour, although you may have as much time as you need. You are limited only by the testing lab's hours of operation, so pay close attention to each day's opening and closing times. Exams are computerized and must be taken in the Instructional Testing Services Lab (CLASS building - 3rd floor, Room 311). Your exams will not be given in class or during class hours, so be sure to plan your schedules accordingly. Be sure to bring a photo ID with you when you go in to take your test. 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 at those locations. 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. Visit: http://www.lanecc.edu/laneonline/test-proctoring for more information from the LCC Distance Learning Department. Also, be sure you Moodle message your instructor AT LEAST two weeks 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.
Online Work - Forums	Students will complete written work based on the required textbook readings, video episodes, and web-based information provided on the class website in Moodle. Students will post a number of analytical observations, comments, and constructive replies to other students in numerous online forums. Since there is NO LIMIT to the number of times a student can post, all students should be able to earn full credit (maximum points) for each of the six, week-long forums required in this course. Forum discussions will center around weekly materials and include unique prompts, and each of the forums will be equally weighted. More specific information on forum requirements and expectations can be found on the class website in Moodle.

A Note On Written Work in this Online Class	The most difficult task required of any instructor is that of grading student writing. Although the purpose of these forums (and extra credit opportunities) is not to grade based on spelling and grammar, problems in these areas will detract from the readability, clarity, analysis, and enjoyment of the information presented, not to mention the lack of care or proofreading they illustrate. You want me (and in the case of forum posts, other students in your group) to be reading your best work. Therefore, I urge you to seek assistance if writing is not one of your strengths. Students who require more help in this area should contact the Study Skills Learning Center, the English Department, and/or the Library staff. Combined, these forums posts and replies are one third of your grade in this class (35%), 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 forums. In summary: Proofread your writing Do not plagiarize. Violators will be punished to the fullest extent of LCC's academic honesty code
Online Work - Weekly Quizzes	The weekly video quizzes are perhaps online any quizzes you've taken before. They are comprised entirely of "short answer" questions. You get to take the same quiz with the same questions twice, and only the higher score will be used to calculate your grade. There is a 24 hour "waiting period" that is enforced between your first and second quiz attempt. The quizzes are open book and open notes, however, spelling counts. First, the good news. Since you get the same questions for each of your two attempts, AND you get to use your book and notes, AND only the highest score is used, there is no reason whatsoever, that any student should fail to earn a perfect score. All students should earn 100%, full credit, on each and every weekly quiz. Now, the bad news. As you might imagine, every student from past terms had NOT earned full credit for the weekly quizzes. The reasons are: #1 Laziness or stupidity. If any human being is given a list of the EXACT questions (word for word) that are on a test, and cannot answer those questions correctly by the second attempt, even when they are allowed to use their book and notes (notes, by the way, which could simply be the answers to the exact list of questions that they had in their "possession" since the first quiz attempt), what else could be said of that person? #2 Procrastination. Remember the enforced 24 hours between quiz attempts mentioned above? Students who wait until the deadline, the last day of the week, to make their first quiz attempt, automatically forfeit their second quiz attempt. (Also recall that no late work is accepted in this class.) #3 Attention to detail. Remember that spelling counts. If the correct answer to a question is Abraham Lincoln, and you type in "Abraham Lincon", the Moodle quiz computer will mark that answer as incorrect. Since quizzes are open book and open notes, correct spelling should not be an issue.

Extra Credit	A failing student cannot pass the course by doing extra credit work. Extra credit opportunities are NOT weighted enough to replace any quiz or forum that a student failed to complete by the deadline (a zero). They are able to raise the score on a single forum, for example, an entire letter grade. This 10% boost would raise a B to an A on a single assignment. Students interested in pursuing extra credit points will be given three opportunities, with respective deadlines, during the term. Once a deadline has passed, that extra credit opportunity will no longer be available; therefore, in some cases, students should consider completing this work in anticipation of a future problem or weaker performance. All information regarding extra credit opportunities will be found in Moodle.
Environment for Viewing Videos	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. The specific episodes you are responsible to watch (and know for the midterm and final exams) are listed in Moodle each week. I urge you to keep to the viewing schedule required for this course and not to jump ahead or fall behind.
Withdrawal Procedure	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.
Accessibility and Accommodations	To request assistance or accommodations related to disability, contact the Center for Accessible Resources at (541) 463-5150 (voice), 711 (TTY), AccessibleResources@lanecc.edu (e-mail), or stop by Building 1, Room 218. Please be aware that any accessible tables and chairs in this room should remain available for authorized students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.