

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester I Year 1980-81

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
393	The Civil War Era, 1848-1877	Sewell

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course probes the causes, nature, and consequences of the American Civil War. Beginning with an examination of American society at the close of the Mexican War, it explores the roots of the sectional conflict during the 1850's, and examines the reasons for the failure of compromise attempts to avert civil war. Attention is paid to the political, constitutional, social, economic, diplomatic and military history of the war years both to understand the basis of the North's victory over the South and the triumph of nationalism and modernization to which the war contributed. Particular emphasis is given to the related questions of slavery and race--before, during, and after the Civil War--and to the radical attempt to guarantee equal rights of citizenship to Southern blacks during Reconstruction.

LECTURES

Three lectures a week.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Two hour exams (option of substituting paper for second hour exam) plus final. All exams essay-type. Comprehensive final.

GRADING SYSTEM

A-F

REQUIRED READINGS

Steven Channing, Crisis of Fear: Secession in South Carolina
George Frederickson, The Inner Civil War
Albion Tourgee, A Fool's Errand
James Roark, Masters Without Slaves
David Donald, Liberty and Union