

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester II, 1985-1986

History 393 - Civil War and Reconstruction - Mr. Knupfer

History 393 explores the causes, conduct, and consequences of the American Civil War. Some basic themes we will cover include the fragmentation of the political center that precipitated the breakdown of national democratic politics; the problem of retaining the essence and form of republicanism in the midst of a civil war; and the intractable problems of race adjustment and economic change in the aftermath of the great conflict. Basic knowledge of the American constitutional system is helpful, but not required. Evaluation will rely upon two midterm examinations, a final examination, and participation in a weekly discussion section. Students may substitute a short paper for the second midterm examination.

Required Texts:

David Donald, Liberty and Union. Heath.

Kenneth Stampp, The Imperiled Union. Oxford.

Steven Channing, Crisis of Fear. Norton.

Stephen W. Sears, Landscape Turned Red. Warner Books.

James L. Roark, Masters Without Slaves. Norton.

W. McKee Evans, Ballots and Fence Rails. Norton.

Schedule of Lecture Topics:

January	22	Introduction -- Why Study the Civil War
	24	The Republic in 1848
	27	Slavery in the American Republic
	29	The Slave Community: Life in the Quarters
	31	Abolitionism: From Moral Suasion to Political Action
February	3	Fruits of Manifest Destiny: Territories, Slavery, & Politics
	5	Compromise of 1850
	7	Fugitives & Finality: Compromise and Domestic Peace
	10	Rise & Fall of the Know-Nothings
	12	"A Hell of a Storm": The Kansas-Nebraska Act
	14	The Republicans Appear
	17	Kansas Bleeds
	19	The Democrats' Dilemmas

- 21 John Brown's Private War
- 24 Election of 1860 and Secession of the Lower South
- 26 Northerners and Secession
- 28 Fort Sumter
- March 3 FIRST HOUR EXAMINATION
- 5 A. Lincoln, Civil War President
- 7 Northern Wartime Politics
- 10 Southern Wartime Politics
- 12 Europe and the Civil War
- 14 Lincoln and his Generals
- 17 Robert E. Lee and The Southern Way of War
- 19 Soldiers: Fighting Means Killing
- 21 Northern Wartime Economy
- April 2 Southern Wartime Economy
- 4 The Black's Civil War
- 7 Emancipation
- 9 The War Ends
- 11 SECOND HOUR EXAMINATION
- 14 The Problem of Reconstruction
- 16 Wartime Experiments in Reconstruction
- 18 Andrew Johnson and "The Union As It Was"
- 21 Triumph of the Radicals
- 23 Impeachment of a President
- 25 The "Reconstructed" South
- 28 After Slavery: The Black Response to Reconstruction
- 30 The Grant Era
- May 2 "Redemption": A New South?
- 5 The New Industrial Economy
- 7 Centennial
- 9 Americans and Their Civil War

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11 - Noon, and by appointment;
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