

The Civil War as Social History

Prof. Oakes
Fall 2021
Tuesday 2-4

The American Civil War was a military and political conflict. It has an economic history, an intellectual history, and a broader cultural history. But some of the most important scholarship in recent years has recovered the Civil War as social history. This seminar surveys some of that recent literature, notably the history of women but also common soldiers and poor whites. Themes will include violence, gender, and class conflict.

All classes are in-person except November 16, which will be a **Zoom class**.

Grades will be based on three five-page papers, plus class participation.

Readings

Gender and Women

Aug 31 Tera Hunter, *Bound in Wedlock*

Sept 7 Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers, *They Were Her Property*

Sept 21 Thavolia Glymph, *The Women's Fight: The Civil War's Battles for Home, Freedom, and Nation*

Stephanie McCurry, *Women's War*

First Paper Due Sept. 21: Five pages, double-spaced, on women and the Civil War

The Slaveholders' War

Sept 28 Kevin Waite, *West of Slavery*

Class Conflict in the Confederacy

- Oct 5 Keri Leigh Merrit, *Masterless Men*.
- Oct 12 Victoria Bynum, *The Free State of Jones* (available on JSTOR)
- Oct 19 David Williams, *Bitterly Divided: The South's Inner Civil War*

Second Paper Due Oct. 19: Class Conflict in the Confederacy

Violence

- Oct 26 Jonathan M. Steplike, *Fighting Means Killing* (available on JSTOR)
- Nov 2 Aaron Sheehan-Dean, *The Calculus of Violence*

Emancipation

- Nov 9 Joseph P. Reidy, *Illusions of Emancipation*
- James Oakes, *The Crooked Path to Abolition*, pp. 134-201.
- Nov 16 Kristopher A. Teters, *Practical Liberators* (JSTOR)

Soldiers

- Nov 23 Peter S. Carmichael, *The War for the Common Soldier* (JSTOR)
- Nov 30 Andrew F. Lang, *In the Wake of War*

Beyond Social History

- Dec 7 Elizabeth Fox Genovese and Eugene D. Genovese, "The Political Crisis of Social History," *Journal of Social History* v. 10, no. 2 (Winter, 1976), 205-220.

Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution*, pp. 1-4.

Williamson Murray and Wayne Wei-siang Hsieh, *A Savage War: A Military History of the Civil War*. (JSTOR)

Final Paper Due Dec. 7: Ten pages on this week's readings.