The American Civil War

This is a reading course designed to introduce students to some of the major that have preoccupied historians of the American Civil War. As such it will be topical more than thematic. The readings will cover familiar topics—the secession crisis, military strategy, internal dissent, the confederacy, turning points in the war—as well as more recent themes—violence, gender, and emancipation. No one approach to the war will be favored. Instead we will cover the military, social, political, and economic history of the Civil War.

As background reading, before the class begins, students are encouraged to read James McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*.

**Students should come to the first class prepared to discuss Archer Jones and Herman Hattaway, *Why the North Won the Civil War*.**

All assigned books are available for purchase online.
Aug. 30 INTRODUCTION:
- Herman Hattaway and Archer Jones, *How the North Won: A Military History of the Civil War*

Sept. 6 THE POLITICS OF WAR: THE UNION
- Philip Paludan, *A People’s Contest*

Sept. 13 THE POLITICS OF WAR: THE CONFEDERACY
- Gary W. Gallagher, *The Confederate War*
- William W. Freehling, *The South vs. The South*

Recommended
- Emory Thomas, *The Confederacy as a Revolutionary Experience* (1971)

Sept. 20 LAW AND WAR
- Stephen C. Neff, *Justice in Blue and Gray: A Legal History of the Civil War*

Sept. 27 BATTLEFIELD TACTICS
- Earl Hess, *Civil War Infantry Tactics*

Recommended
- Robert V. Bruce, *Lincoln and the Tools of War*
- Paddy Griffith, *Battle Tactics of the Civil War*
Oct. 14  THE CIVIL WAR AND THE WIDER WORLD
- Howard Jones, *Blue and Gray Diplomacy*
- Don Doyle, *The Cause of All Nations*

Recommended
- Frank Owsley, *King Cotton Diplomacy*
- Amanda Forman, *A World on Fire*

Oct. 18  LEE AND CONFEDERATE STRATEGY

Recommended
- Alan Nolan, *Lee Considered,*
- Emory Thomas, *Robert E. Lee: A Biography*

Oct. 25  GRANT AND UNION STRATEGY


James M. McPherson, “From Limited to Total War, 1861-1865,” in McPherson, *Drawn With the Sword,* pp. 66-86.


Nov. 1  GUERILLA WAR
- Daniel Sutherland, *A Savage Conflict: The Decisive Role of Guerillas in the American Civil War.*
Nov. 8  **SOLDIERS**

- Bell Wiley,
- Reed Mitchell, *Civil War Soldiers*
- Joseph Glaathar, *Forged in Battle*

  **Recommended**

- Bell Wiley, *The Life of Billy Yank*
- Bell Wiley, *The Life of Johnny Reb*
- James McPherson, *For Cause and Comrades*
- Chandra Manning, *What this Cruel War was Over*
- Earl Hess, *The Union Soldier in Battle*

Nov. 15  **WAR AND EMANCIPATION**

- Robert G. Tanner, *Retreat to Victory? Confederate Strategy Reconsidered*
- John Fabian Witt, *Lincoln’s Code: The Laws of War in American History*

Nov. 22  **THE DESTRUCTION OF SLAVERY**


Nov. 29  **GENDERED WAR: Southern Women**

  **Required**

- Judith Giesberg, *Army at Home*.

  **Recommended**

- Drew Gilpin Faust, *Mothers of Invention*
- Nina Silber, *Daughters of the Union*
Dec. 6 MEMORY

- David Blight, *Race and Reunion*