The Civil War in the United States, 1861-1865

Spring 2019
Prof. James Oakes
Monday 2-4

This is a reading course emphasizing some of the most recent scholarship on the Civil War. No single approach or interpretation will prevail. The readings will cover the social, political, military, and economic history of the war, with attention to both the Union and the Confederacy. The course begins and the secession crisis and ends in 1865. For students with little or no background in the subject, it would be helpful to have read James M. McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, which is the best one-volume study of the Civil War.

Every student will be required to prepare at least one review of the week’s readings and present it to the class as a stimulus to discussion. The review should be written out and should take between ten to fifteen minutes to present. Half of the review should be devoted to summarizing the book, the other half to analyzing the interpretation. Final grades will be based on the review plus class participation.

Tentative Readings:

January 28  historiographical essay to be assigned
February 4  Lawrence T. McDonnell, *Performing Disunion: The Coming of the Civil War in Charleston, South Carolina*
February 11 Timothy S. Huebner, *Liberty and Union: The Civil War Era and American Constitutionalism*
February 18  No Class
February 25  Gary Gallagher, ed., *Lee the Soldier*, pp. 1-305
March 4  Brooks D. Simpson, *Ulysses S. Grant: Triumph over Adversity*
March 11  George C. Rable, *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!*
March 18  Earl Hess, *Civil War Logistics: A Study of Military Transportation*
March 25  Nina Silber, *Daughters of the Union: Northern Women Fight the Civil War*
Laura Edwards, *Scarlett Doesn’t Live Here Anymore: Southern Women in the Civil War Era*

**April 1**

R. Douglas Hurt, *Agriculture and the Confederacy: Policy, Productivity, and Power in the Civil War South*

**April 8**
Sven Beckert, *The Moneyed Metropolis: New York City and the Consolidation of the American Bourgeoisie*, pp. 1-144.

Heath Cox Richardson, *The Greatest Nation on Earth: Republican Economic Policies during the Civil War*

**April 15**
Chandra Manning, *Troubled Refuge: Struggling for Freedom in the Civil War*

**April 22**
No Class

**April 29**
Andrew F. Lang, *In the Wake of War: Military Occupation, Emancipation, and Civil War America*

**May 6**
Eric Mathison, *The Loyal Republic: Traitors, Slaves, and the Remaking of Citizenship in Civil War America*

**May 13**
Jonathan White, *Emancipation, the Union Army, and the Re-election of Abraham Lincoln.*