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 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*
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


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