

Revised: Fall 2016

HIS 269 Civil War & Reconstruction

COURSE OUTLINE

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

Studies factors that led to the division between the States. Examines the war, the home fronts, and the era of Reconstruction.

This course covers the events leading up to and including Southern secession, the Civil War, and Reconstruction, with an emphasis on the war years. The purpose of the course is to help guide students through an examination of Civil War myths, legends, and facts in an effort to gain a better understanding of the main issues of contention between the North and South and how the war played out.

It is a 3-credit course that may be taken for personal interest or transfer credit with the approval of the receiving institution. It is recommended that students complete History 121 (or the equivalent from another college) prior to taking History 269.

Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 3

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HIS 269: Civil War & Reconstruction

Course Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Trace the causes of secession and the Civil War
- Understand the real story behind popular myths and legends about the war
- Describe key factors that shaped the outcome of the war
- Appreciate how the war transpired (major battles and events)
- Explain the everyday challenges commonly faced by soldiers
- Describe famous individuals and the key roles they played
- Analyze the importance of slavery in the conflict and the fate of freedmen
- Explain how the nation was reunited through Reconstruction

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Required Materials:

1. Textbook, etc.
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

McPherson, James and James Hogue. *Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2010. ISBN: 9780077430351

Horwitz, Tony. *Confederates in the Attic*. New York: Vintage Books, 1999. ISBN: 0679758334

The following supplementary materials are required: Other reading requirements vary by instructor (e.g., Hanson's online lectures and research briefs, and one additional book from an approved reading list).

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Topical Description:

Slavery in the Antebellum Period
States Rights and ideas about succession
Events and causes leading to the Civil War
Succession and the beginning of the Civil War
Scope of the War
Evolution of medical care during the war
A soldier's life
The Home front
Economics of the war years
New technologies and fighting machines of the Civil War
Politics of the war
Lincoln and his challenges
Peak of the Confederacy
Emancipation
Collapse of the Confederacy
Reconstruction
Aftermath
Myths and reasons why the Civil War holds so much interest to many Americans

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Notes to Instructors

- None

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