

Virginia Western Community College

HIS 269

Civil War & Reconstruction

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

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas

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

Other Required Materials:

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).

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

Topical Description

1	Slavery in the Antebellum Period
2	States Rights and ideas about succession
3	Events and causes leading to the Civil War
4	Secession and the beginning of the Civil War
5	Scope of the War
6	Evolution of medical care during the war
7	A soldier's life
8	The Home front
9	Economics of the war years
10	New technologies and fighting machines of the Civil War
11	Politics of the war
12	Lincoln and his challenges
13	Peak of the Confederacy
14	Emancipation
15	Collapse of the Confederacy
16	Reconstruction
17	Aftermath
18	Myths and reasons why the Civil War holds so much interest to many Americans

Notes to Instructors

None