



Civil War & Reconstruction

Department of History

College of Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

HIST 4053-201

MWF: 11:00-11:50 A.M., PY 202

Spring 2024

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Whitney Snow

Office: OD 223

Office hours: Tuesdays (8:00-10:00 A.M.; Wednesdays (1:00-3:00 P.M.);
Thursdays (8:00-9:00 A.M.); and by appointment

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Course Description

"*A House Divided Cannot Stand*,"—Abraham Lincoln. This course will trace the origins of the Civil War, the war's course, and the Reconstruction Era. Spanning from the 1840s to 1877, its intent is to provide students with contextualization, specifically as it relates to race, class, and gender. Themes include slavery, sectionalism, disunion, and emancipation. By semester's end, students will have a firm grasp of the roots of secession; war as it pertained to the soldier and the civilian; war's social, economic, and legal ramifications; the limitations of Reconstruction; and the Civil War in American memory.

Textbooks

*Chadwick, Bruce. *The Reel Civil War: Mythmaking in American Film*. New York: Vintage Books, 2001.

*Cook, Robert J. *Civil War Memories: Contesting the Past in the United States since 1865*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017.

*Fellman, Michael, Lesley J. Gordon, and Daniel E. Sutherland. *This Terrible War: The Civil War and its Aftermath*. 3rd Ed. Boston: Pearson, 2015.

*Perman, Michael and Murrell Taylor. *Major Problems in the Civil War & Reconstruction: Documents and Essays*. 3rd Ed. Boston: Wadsworth, 2011.

Academic Misconduct

Cheating, collusion, plagiarism, and use of AI (artificial intelligence) are forms of academic dishonesty. While some professors may permit or even encourage the use of AI, it is NOT allowed in this class. It is imperative that you do your own work in your own words.

Grading

Assignments	Points
Book Review #1	15%
Book Review #2	15%
Film Critique #1	10%
Film Critique #2	10%
Discussion Leader	10%
Midterm	20%
Final	20%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Exams

*This course includes two exams (a midterm and a final) which will consist of six identification terms and one essay.

*Students will type their exams in a word.doc and upload the document into a dropbox on our class D2L dashboard. Instructions are as follows: 1) Go to our class D2L dashboard 2) Click on "Assessments" 3) Click on "Assignments" 4) Look for either "Midterm" or "Final Exam" 5) There will be an option to upload your document.

*The window to upload each exam will span from 6:30 A.M. to 11:30 P.M. on the respective due dates.

Book Reviews

*Students will be expected to select two books from a list of approved options (posted on D2L) and writing a book review on each.

*The book review must be typed, in 12-point font, Times New Roman, and double spaced. The margins should be 1 inch on the top and bottom and 1.25 inches on the left and right. Your name, the title of this class, and the date should be in the top right-hand corner of the first page. Failure to adhere to the font, spacing, margins, and name/class/date being in the top-right corner will result in point deductions. There is no need for a title page.

*Much like with the aforementioned exams, you will upload your book reviews into a D2L dropbox.

*More in-depth instructions and samples are posted on D2L.

Movie Critiques

*Students are expected to write two critiques of movies chosen from an instructor-approved list provided on D2L.

*The movie critique must be typed, in 12-point font, Times New Roman and double spaced. The margins should be 1 inch on the top and bottom and 1.25 on the left and right. Your name, the title of this class, and the date should be in the top right-hand corner. Failure to adhere to the font, spacing, margins, and name/class/date being in the top-right corner will result in point deductions. There is no need for a title page.

Discussion Leader

Each student will lead discussion ONE week of the semester. Refer to the instructions on D2L.

Extra Credit

*No extra credit assignments will be accepted, but bonus points may be offered for attending instructor-specified events on campus.

Make Up Work/Tests

Students who miss class due to university-related activities will be able to make up exams and writing assignments. In cases of a doctor's excuse and/or a family death, students will be able to make up exams and writing assignments.

Midterm Progress Report

In order to help students to keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report. All students will receive this midterm progress report. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with the instructor.

Office Hours

If the door is closed during the instructor's appointed office hours, it doesn't mean she is not there. ***Just knock!*** If the instructor steps out for any reason, she will place a post-it note on the door. It will indicate an estimated time of return.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 16-19

Deadline to file for graduation: February 12

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 25

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

*While attendance is not part of your grade, it is nevertheless expected and will be taken into consideration if a student is close between letter grades. Official university absences will be excused. A student with more than four unexcused absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor.

*Students are responsible for all missed material.

Instructor Class Policies

*Attendance requires more than being present in class. It means showing up prepared; contributing to class discussions; and exhibiting respect for classmates and the instructor.

*Cell phones should be on silent and put away during class.

*Airpods and headphones should NOT be worn during class.

*Laptops are a privilege and not a right. Students are welcome to use laptops to take notes. However, if they are seen using the laptop for a non-class-related purpose, students will be given a verbal warning. Repeat offenders will no longer welcome to bring a laptop to class.

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog.

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Week or Module	Readings and other Assignments
Week 1 January 15 January 17 January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Class Intro Fellman, Prologue
Week 2 January 22 January 24 January 26	Fellman, Chapter 1 Perman, Chapter 1 Chadwick, Chapters 1-2
Week 3 January 29 January 31 February 2	Fellman, Chapter 2 Perman, Chapter 2 Chadwick, Chapters 2-3; Film Critique #1
Week 4 February 5 February 7 February 9	Fellman, Chapter 3 Perman, Chapter 3 Chadwick, Chapters 4-5
Week 5 February 12 February 14 February 16	Fellman, Chapter 4 Perman, Chapter 4 Chadwick, Chapters 6-7; Book Review #1
Week 6 February 19 February 21 February 23	Fellman, Chapter 5 Perman, Chapter 5 Chadwick, Chapters 8-9
Week 7 February 26 February 28 March 1	Fellman, Chapter 6 Perman, Chapter 6 Chadwick, Chapters 10-11
Week 8 March 4 March 6 March 8	Fellman, Chapter 7 Perman, Chapter 7 Chadwick, Chapters 12-14 (MIDTERM)
Week 9 March 11 March 13 March 15	SPRING BREAK
Week 10 March 18 March 20 March 22	Fellman, Chapter 8 Perman, Chapter 8 Cook, Chapter 1

Week or Module	Readings and other Assignments
Week 11 March 25 March 27 March 29	Fellman, Chapter 9 Perman, Chapter 9 EASTER BREAK
Week 12 April 1 April 3 April 5	Fellman, Chapter 10 Perman, Chapter 10 Cook, Chapter 2
Week 13 April 8 April 10 April 12	Fellman, Chapter 11 Perman, Chapter 11 Cook, Chapter 3; Film Critique #2
Week 14 April 15 April 17 April 19	Fellman, Chapter 12 Perman, Chapter 12 Cook, Chapter 4
Week 15 April 22 April 24 April 26	Fellman, Epilogue Perman, Chapter 13 Cook, Chapter 5; Book Review #2
Week 16 April 29 May 1 May 3	Cook, Chapter 6 Perman, Chapter 14 Cook, Chapter 7

Final Exam: May 6 (Monday)