

University of Florida
Department of History
Spring 2017

AMH4930: Research Seminar in American Civil War Memory

Professor Sean Adams
Thursdays Periods 7-9 (1:55-4:55)
Keene-Flint Hall 113

Course Introduction and Objectives

The American Civil War lasted four years, claimed the lives of over 700,000 soldiers, ended racial slavery, and changed the course of the American nation. The ways in which diverse groups of Americans—northern and southern, white and black, men and women—remembered the conflict provokes nearly as much controversy as the Civil War itself. This seminar will explore the ways in which various memorials, battlefield parks, commemorations, and reenactments all look back at the Civil War, while injecting contemporary political, cultural, and racial conflicts into those memories.

As this is both a reading and research seminar with a thematic focus, the course will split time between a broad survey of themes in the memory of the Civil War Era and a hands-on research workshop allowing students to explore their own particular interests within this topic. The end result of this seminar will be a 15 to 20 page paper based upon primary sources. Along the way, students will develop skills in historical research that will involve the use of manuscript, published, microfilmed, and online source materials. They will also hone their writing skills with various short papers and the aforementioned research paper.

Required and Recommended Readings

There are five (5) required texts and one (1) required film for this course. The books are available for purchase both online and at the UF Book Store. Since this is a seminar, the success of the course depends upon the students completing, contemplating, and discussing the weekly readings. The reading schedule will provide a structure for completing these readings, and it is of the utmost importance that you adhere to this schedule. Not doing the readings will likely result in a failing grade for this course, as a hefty portion of the grade depends upon participation.

Tony Horwitz, *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War*. New York: Pantheon, 1998.

Merrill Peterson, *John Brown: The Legend Revisited*. Charlottesville: The University of Virginia Press, 2002.

David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.

Anne Rubin, *Through the Heart of Dixie: Sherman's March and American Memory*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.

Anne Marshall, *Creating a Confederate Kentucky: The Lost Cause and Civil War Memory in a Border State*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010.

In addition to these readings, students should plan to watch one (1) from the following list of films for the class period of 16 March 2017.

<i>The Birth of a Nation</i> (1915)	<i>Ride With the Devil</i> (1999)
<i>Gone With the Wind</i> (1939)	<i>Cold Mountain</i> (2003)
<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> (1951)	<i>Gods and Generals</i> (2003)
<i>The Outlaw Josey Wales</i> (1976)	<i>Lincoln</i> (2012)
<i>Glory</i> (1989)	<i>Free State of Jones</i> (2016)
<i>Gettysburg</i> (1993)	

Grading Policy

Students will be evaluated on a number of assignments in this class. Most important will be the final paper, which will be due on Monday, 24 April 2017 at 5:00 pm. Students will also write 3 brief, 2-3 page response papers at various points of the semester. More details on these response papers, along with formal guidelines for the research prospectus and presentation, will be made available in class. Finally, the breakdown of the final grades in this course is as follows:

Grade Calculation	Grading Scale	Grade Value
Participation 30%	100-93=A	A=4.0
Short Response Papers 20%	92-90=A-	A-=3.67
Paper Prospectus 10%	89-87=B+	B+=3.33
Research Presentation 10%	86-82=B	B=3.00
Final Paper 30%	82-80=B-	B-=2.67
	79-76=C+	C+=2.33
	75-72=C	C=2.00
	71-69=C-	C-=1.67
	68-66=D+	D+=1.33
	65-62=D	D=1.00
	61-60=D-	D-=0.67
	59-0=E	E=0.00

Seminar Schedule (Subject to Revision by Instructor)

- January 5 Introductions and Discussion of Course Expectations
- January 12 Popular Memory and the Civil War
Readings: Horwitz, *Confederates in the Attic*, entire book
- January 19 Freedom Fighters and Terrorists
Readings: Peterson, *John Brown: The Legend Revisited*, entire book
Short Essay Due
- January 26 Creating Memory in the Wake of the Civil War
Readings: Blight, *Race and Reunion*, pp. 1-210.
- February 2 Memory Loss?
Readings: Blight, *Race and Reunion*, pp. 211-397.
Short Essay Due
- February 9 The Destructive War in History
Readings: Rubin, *Through the Heart of Dixie*, entire book
- February 16 Remembering the War on the Borders
Readings: Marshall, *Creating a Confederate Kentucky*, entire book
Short Essay Due
- February 23 Research in Civil War Memory
Brief Research Questions Due
- March 2 Writing the Civil War
Prospectus Due
- March 9 Spring Break—Have a Good and Safe Holiday**
- March 16 Movie Week
Short Essay Due
- March 23 Individual Consultations
- March 30 Individual Consultations
- April 6 Research Presentations and Peer Editing

April 13 Research Presentations and Peer Editing

Final Paper Due: Monday, 24 April 2017, 5:00 pm.

Contact Information

Office: 025 Keene-Flint

Tel: (352) 273-3354

E-mail: spadams@ufl.edu

Website: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/spadams>

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9-11 am; Thursdays 10-11 am; & by appointment