HIS 3942
Practicum: Abraham Lincoln

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MWF 1:55-2:45; Flint 011
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Course Summary
The Practicum is a required course for all History majors. It functions as an introduction to the study of History. In brief, that means that you will complete a series of modest assignments that introduce (or reintroduce) you to some of the essential skills of being an historian. The course concludes with an extended discussion of how to organize a major research project, culminating in a final proposal.

The particular Practicum is about Abraham Lincoln. You will be reading Eric Foner Pulitzer Prize winning The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery. You will also read various articles that address aspects of Lincoln’s life and times. And, much of time will be spent examining a wide range of primary sources (newspapers, speeches, cartoons, photographs etc.) that provide the historian with evidence about the Civil War era. Note: Your independent work will not have to be about Lincoln, it will only have to be about this period of history.

Class Meetings and Preparation
This course will combine very occasional traditional lectures with the intensive discussion of a wide range of readings and documents. Attendance is mandatory. More than two absences will result in automatic deductions from your final grade. You are expected to attend all classes with notes on the assigned readings. You will have periodic open note quizzes on the assigned readings.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Canvas Web Site
This class will make limited use of the class web site on Canvas. I will link this syllabus and the assignments on Canvas. I will also create links to additional assigned readings. And, finally, there will be a page with links to useful primary sources. We will not use Canvas for class discussions or grades.
**Readings for Purchase**
The following two books should be available in the campus bookstore, and also for purchase online:

- Eric Foner, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* (Norton, 2010). This is a wonderful biographical study, with a focus on Lincoln’s relationship with slavery and race. This is (sort of) the course textbook. We will read and discuss this book throughout the semester, and it will become a key background for your research project.
- Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, 7th* edition (Bedford). This is an excellent guide to all the tools that go into reading and writing in History. You should acquire this book and continue to use it in all of your History courses.

**Assignments and Grading**
This course will be graded on a 200-point scale.
The 7 numbered assignments will be worth 10 points each:
1. Assess a Piece of evidence 10
2. Assess a Footnote 10
3. Discuss a paragraph 10
4. Newspaper Research Assignment 10
5. Summarize an Argument 10
6. Assess a Web Page 10
7. Research Topic and Plan (question; annotated bibliography) 10

- **Final Project** 50
  Title and Title Page
  Question
  Research Plan
  Secondary Sources
  Sample Evidence
  Outline
  Introduction

- Final Quiz on Lincoln 30
- Weekly Discussion and Preparation 50

**TOTAL** 200

All assignments should be submitted on the assigned dates.
Students must pass all assignments in order to pass the course.

**Participation Grades Will Reflect**

- Coming to class on time prepared to discuss readings. (i.e. with notes)
- Active engagement in discussions.
- Success on very simple 10 point (unannounced) reading quizzes, which measure preparation.
- After two absences, the final grade number will be for each additional unexcused absence.
- If a student is habitually late, this will result in a reduction off the final grade.
Academic Honesty
In writing papers or short assignments, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and is unacceptable. Please review the University's honesty policy at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm.

In addition to these regulations on plagiarism, please understand that I will take any instance of cheating or intentional dishonesty very seriously. This would include any form of dishonesty on the most minor quiz or offering an untrue excuse for a missed class or late assignment.

Accommodations
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Instructor Course Evaluation
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS
(these are subject to minor tweaking)

1. W Jan 6  
   Introductions
   F Jan 8  
   No class: Gallman at a conference

PRIMARY SOURCES
2. M Jan 11  
   How to read a Primary Source?
   Rampolla, 1-21.
   “How to Read a Primary Source.” Bowdoin Writing Guide.
3. W Jan 13  
   Reading Primary Sources
4. F Jan 15  
   Reading Primary Sources

INTRODUCING ABRAHAM LINCOLN
5. M Jan 18  
   Holiday
6. W Jan 20  
   Lincoln: Early Origins
   Read: Foner, chapters 1-3.
7. F Jan 22  
   Using Evidence
   Assignment #1: Assess a Piece of Evidence

CITATIONS
8. W Jan 27  
   A House Divided
   Read: Foner, chapter 4.
9. W Jan 27  
   Citations
9. F Jan 29 Assignment #2: Assess a Footnote [from Foner, first 4 chapters]

READING

9. F Jan 29 Assignment #2: Assess a Footnote [from Foner, first 4 chapters]

WRITING ABOUT HISTORY

10. M Feb 1 Writing Papers
    Read: Rampolla, 22-76.

11. W Feb 3 Analyzing Essays
    Read: Douglas Wilson, “Abraham Lincoln and ‘That fatal First of January’”
    Civil War History Volume 38, Number 2 (June 1992).


ELECTION AND WAR

13. M Feb 8 Lincoln Gets Elected
    Read: Foner, chapter 5

14. W Feb 10 Cartoons and Other Ephemera

15. F Feb 12 Cartoons and Other Ephemera

FROM UNION TO EMANCIPATION / NEWSPAPERS

16. M Feb 15 The Road to Emancipation
    Read: Foner, chapter 6-7

17. W Feb 17 Assignment #4: Newspaper Research
18. F Feb 19 Class meets at Harn Museum for 4:00 Lecture
    [Professor Gary Gallagher (UVa) will speak on “Robert E. Lee and the Question of Loyalty.”]

EMANCIPATION AND RACE / PHOTOGRAPHS

19. M Feb 22 Photographs and the Civil War

20. W Feb 24 A New Birth of Freedom
    Read: Foner, chapter 8

21. F Feb 26 Photographs of Black Soldiers

SPRING BREAK

WHO FREED THE SLAVES? / COMPETING ESSAYS

22. M Mar 7 Images of Race
23. W Mar 9 Who Freed the Slaves?
    Read:
    James McPherson, James, “Who Freed the Slaves?” in Drawn With the Sword (NY, 1996).

24. F Mar 11 Who Freed the Slaves?
    Assignment #5: Summarize an Argument

REELECTING LINCOLN

25. M Mar 14 The Blind Memo
26. W Mar 16 The Second Inaugural Address
    Read: Foner, chapter 9
    Second Inaugural Address

27. F Mar 18 Guest Lecture: Lincoln and Obama

VICTORY AND BEYOND
28. M Mar 21  
Read: Foner, Epilogue

29. W Mar 23  
Plagiarism
Read: Rampolla, 89-92; 98-105.

30. F Mar 25  
Assignment #6: Assess a Web Page

31. M Mar 28  
Read: Rampolla, 77-97.

32. W Mar 30  
To be determined

33. F Apr 1  
Assignment #7: Identify a Research Topic

   Apr  4-8  
   INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS ON YOUR RESEARCH

   M Apr 11  
   No Class: Gallman at Conference

34. W Apr 13  
Preparing an Outline

35. F Apr 15  
Final Quiz on Abraham Lincoln

36. M Apr 18  
Finishing Touches

37. W Apr 20  
Final Research Proposal Due in Class