

AMH 4571

**The American Civil War and Reconstruction  
Spring 2015**

**William A. Link  
Flint 105  
MWF Period 4 (10:40-11:30)**

**Contact information:**

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Spring 2015  
Office hours:  
MF, 1-2, or by appointment

**Course Description**

This class examines the causes, fighting, and results of the American Civil War and Reconstruction. We will begin by considering how this disastrous war began and then examine some of the dimensions of the conflict itself. Finally, we will look at the immediate and longer-term aftermath of the war: how Reconstruction unfolded as a process, and what the war meant for future generations of Americans.

The course is divided into three parts: antebellum origins, the war, and Reconstruction. Each of these parts will have assigned readings and assignments.

Much of the course information can be found on UF's elearning website (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>). **Please note that this course is in Canvas, and so login under that option.**

**Course Requirements**

**Text:**

Allen C. Guelzo. *Fateful Lightning: A New History of the Civil War and Reconstruction.*

**Readings:**

Charles Dew, *Apostles of Disunion.*

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Douglas Egerton, *The Wars of Reconstruction*.  
Leeanna Keith, *The Colfax Massacre*.  
Michael Shaara, *The Killer Angels*.  
Reid Mitchell, *Civil War Soldiers*.

### Other Readings on e-learning:

I have placed a number of first-person (primary sources) readings on elearning, starting week two.

***Please note that all readings listed in the syllabus should be completed by the Monday of the week. The weekly online quizzes will be based on this assigned reading.***

### Minimal expectations

1. Attend all classes regularly: I will take attendance and expect all students to come to class. ***An erratic record of attendance will result in a grade penalty, reflected in the discussion grade.***
2. Students should complete the readings, as identified in the course schedule below, no later than the Monday class of each week.
3. Participate regularly in class discussions.
4. Complete all papers by the deadline. These are submitted on elearning, with a deadline/closing date.
5. Treat the class, your fellow students, and the instructor respectfully. This includes:
  - Use computers responsibly—stay off shopping websites, facebook, and so forth. If appears that computer use is being abused, I will institute a no-computer policy.
  - Turning off cell phones prior to class;
  - Arrive at class on time;
  - Remain in class until class is over;
  - Engage in discussion properly: good listening is as important as good talking.

The penalty for cheating is a grade of zero (0), and I reserve the right to pursue other penalties. All students must abide by UF's honor code regarding cheating, plagiarism, and the use of copyrighted materials. This is available at <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

### Tests and exams

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There will be a midterm and a final exam. These exams will be primarily essays and will be take-home. These essays will require students to integrate elements of the class—reading, lecture, discussion—into a thematic whole. Depending on the class's level of preparation, I reserve the right to require short-answer identifications.

### **Online quizzes**

Students will be responsible for completing briefly weekly quizzes online. These will be based primarily on Guelzo's *Fateful Lightning*, though they might also be based on the other assigned readings. These are based on the weekly readings (see below), and **must be completed no later than the Monday of each week**, starting Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>. The assessments are set to expire by noon on Mondays; it is up to you to complete them on time. ***Pay careful attention to the weekly reading assignments—that is your responsibility.***

### **In-class writing**

I reserve the right to conduct in-class writing assignments about the readings. You should keep up your readings according to the course schedule; the in-class writing exercises will come directly from the readings.

### **Final Paper**

All students will complete a final paper (between 1,500 and 2,000 words) that examines the aftermath of the Civil War, using one of two documents (which I have placed on elearning): 1) the congressional investigation for the Ku Klux Klan (volume for Florida) OR 2) the congressional investigation and report about black migration out of the South. These papers should examine the testimony of a single individual, scrutinize that testimony, and then analyze it to reach larger conclusions. Student should read the entire document for context. I will require students to explain in class by

### **Evaluation**

Midterm, 20 percent; final exam, 25 percent; final paper, 20 percent; discussion, 20 percent; online and in-class writing assignments/assessments, 15 percent.

### **Disabled students**

Disabled students will be provided with appropriate accommodations, but only within the structure of the Disability Resource Center. Please consult <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>. ***The appropriate DRC paperwork should be given to me as early as possible in the semester.***

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## Course Schedule

### I THE SECTIONAL CRISIS

WEEK 1	January 7	Antebellum America
WEEK 2	January 12	The US-Mexican War and Its Aftermath
Reading:	Guelzo, ch. 1	
WEEK 3	January 21	Bleeding Kansas
	<b><i>(no class Monday; MLK holiday)</i></b>	
Reading:	Guelzo, ch. 2; Dew, <i>Apostles of Disunion</i>	
WEEK 4	January 26	The Secession Crisis
Reading:	Guelzo, ch. 3; Dew, <i>Apostles of Disunion</i> .	

### II THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

WEEK 5	February 2	Confederacy rising, 1861-63
Reading:	Guelzo, ch. 4 Shaara, <i>Killer Angels</i>	
WEEK 6	February 9	Home fronts
Reading:	Guelzo, ch. 5; Shaara, <i>Killer Angels</i>	
WEEK 7	February 16	The Soldiers' Experience
Reading:	Guelzo, ch. 6; Mitchell, <i>Civil War Soldiers</i> .	

***Midterm: Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>***

WEEK 8	February 23	Emancipation
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Reading: Guelzo, ch. 7; Mitchell, *Civil War Soldiers*; Egerton, *The Wars of Reconstruction*, Prologue, ch. 1

**Week of March 2 SPRING BREAK**

WEEK 9                    March 9            Defeat, 1863-65

Reading: Guelzo, ch. 8

WEEK 10                March 16          The Collapse of the Confederacy

Reading: Guelzo, ch. 9; Egerton, *The Wars of Reconstruction*, ch. 2

**Report on final papers topics due (report in class)**

**III RECONSTRUCTION**

WEEK 11                March 23          Northern Occupation

Reading: Guelzo, chs. 10-11; Egerton, *The Wars of Reconstruction*, chs. 3-4

WEEK 12                March 30          Black Reconstruction

Reading: Egerton, *The Wars of Reconstruction*, ch. 5; Keith, *The Colfax Massacre*

WEEK 13                April 6            White Violence

Reading: Egerton, *The Wars of Reconstruction*, ch. 6; Keith, *The Colfax Massacre*

WEEK 14                April 13          Redeemers

Reading: Egerton, *The Wars of Reconstruction*, ch. 7

**Final Paper due, Friday April 17th**

WEEK 15                April 20          Remembering the War

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Reading: Egerton, *The Wars of Reconstruction*, ch. 9, Epilogue

***Final exam***