



2008 PATHS II Summer Program

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR CIVIL WAR COURSE:

June 2-6: 9:00-11:15 am; (lunch + pedagogy sessions); 1:45-4:00 pm

June 9-13: 9:00-11:30 am; (lunch); 12:30-3:00 pm

THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

HIST 3750 3 credits

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Overview: The course examines critical events in the U.S. from 1846-1877, from the outbreak of the Mexican War to the restoration of "home rule" in the South.

The focus rests on:

- the roots of sectional conflict
- the course, conduct, and consequences of war
- the efforts to reconstruct the nation

The class does not focus exclusively (or primarily) on military issues. Political, social, economic, cultural, and military perspectives on the period all play a role in the course.

On all topics, I present a dual perspective: an "outer" historical view (chronological, descriptive, and evaluative in nature) and an "inner" examination (analyzing the ideas, values, anxieties, and expectations of the historical players themselves). In other words, I will explore how we understand these individuals and how they understood themselves.

The topics we will cover:

Key sources of unity within the Republic

Key sources of division within the Republic

King Cotton: slavery in the South

-economic activity; numbers; ownership; production; wealth

-slavery as a way of life: economically, socially, politically, culturally

Slavery and national politics

-1787-1845: from the Constitution to the admission of Texas

Crises of the 1850s

-in domestic politics

-in popular culture

-in foreign policy

The election of 1860

-aftermath of the election

-the course of secession

Balance sheet of war

-Strengths & weaknesses the North and South

Similarities in national governments

-the Confederacy and the Union

-political, financial, mobilization, strategy

Military strategy

-choices of the Confederacy and the Union

The course of the war

-1861

-1862

-(Who freed the slaves?)

-1863

-1864

-1865

-the long end to the fighting

Reconstruction

-the roots of the project

-Lincoln's positions

-Johnson's positions

- Congressional positions
- African American positions
- Southern positions

Breakdown of Reconstruction

- political, social, economic, ideological, political reasons