



MASTER COURSE OUTLINE

Prepared By: Christopher P. Riley

Date: September 2017

COURSE TITLE

The American Civil War and Reconstruction

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Dept.: HIST

Course Num: 245

(Formerly:)

CIP Code: 54.0102

Intent Code: 11

Program Code:

Credits: 5

Total Contact Hrs Per Qtr.: 55

Lecture Hrs: 55

Lab Hrs: 0

Other Hrs: 0

Distribution Designation: Social Science SS

COURSE DESCRIPTION (as it will appear in the catalog)

This course examines the institutions, events, and personalities that made the Civil War an “irrepressible conflict,” and the difficult Reconstruction period that followed. The onset of the Civil War was rooted in the national controversy over slavery. For this reason, a detailed look at southern slavery, northern industrialism and sectional politics and secession will precede study of the military history of the war itself and the political Reconstruction.

PREREQUISITES

None

TEXTBOOK GUIDELINES

A text (or series of texts) deemed appropriate by instructor in consultation with the department.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to demonstrate the following knowledge or skills:

1. Understand the significance of the Civil War in the lives of contemporaries.
2. Explain the importance of that conflict as a watershed in American history.
3. Effectively argue the constitutional issues related to states' rights and federalism.
4. Write and speak about the personalities and issues involved in secession, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction Era.

INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES

None

COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE

1. Southern slavery
 - a. Its origins in British mercantile policy.
 - b. Why the South was ideal for plantation agriculture
 - c. Early questions about slavery in the Constitutional Convention

- d. Expansion due to the rapid increase in cotton sales
- e. How the South became a “conscious minority”
- 2. Northern Industrialization
 - a. Why the North was ideal for industry
 - b. The rise of free-soil sentiment
 - c. How the North came to take an antislavery position
- 3. The “wedges of separation”
 - a. Clay’s compromises
 - b. Anti-slavery and pro-slavery politics through the 1850s
 - c. Lincoln’s election
 - d. Secession and the Confederacy
- 4. The War
 - a. Lincoln’s call to arms
 - b. The war in the east
 - c. The war in the west
 - d. The life of the soldier
 - e. The home front
 - f. Appomattox and the aftermath
- 5. Reconstruction
 - a. Presidential Reconstruction
 - b. Congressional Reconstruction

DEPARTMENTAL GUIDELINES *(optional)*

PO4 should be assessed: Students will be able to recognize or articulate personal/interpersonal aspects of, or connections between, diverse cultural, social, or political contexts.

PO5 should be assessed: Students will be able to solve problems by gathering, interpreting, combining and/or applying information from multiple sources.

DIVISION CHAIR APPROVAL

DATE