

**SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Humanities

Revision Date: 07-01-23

[Syllabus Statements](#)

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: HIST2450
Course Title: History of the Civil War and Reconstruction
Prerequisite: None
Catalog Description: The American Civil War is the most important and defining event in United States history. The purpose of this class is to explore the sectional crisis and the war and Reconstruction and its impact on American institutions and society.
Credit Hours: 3.0
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Acquaint students with the fundamental themes and chronology of the Civil War/Reconstruction Era.
- B. Explain how the Civil War was one of the key events in American history.
- C. Provide and explain the fundamental causes and results of the American Civil War.
- D. Examine the American Civil War and Reconstruction era through a variety of perspectives, including the political, economic, military, and social dimensions of this era.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1. Increase knowledge of the basic periodization and central themes in United States Civil War and Reconstruction history.
 - 2. Develop their ability to critique historical issues and interpretations from a variety of perspectives.
 - 3. Analyze historical data and present informed conclusions regarding these data.
 - 4. Acquire an understanding and appreciation about the American Civil War and will be able to place the event in a greater historical context.
 - 5. Gain a well-rounded knowledge of the Civil War and Reconstruction period and will be able to comprehend the causes, events, results and significance of the topic.
 - 6. Acquire an understanding of the historiography of the topic explored and be aware of the different schools of thought by historians.
 - 7. Understand the difference between primary and secondary sources along with how historians utilize each and apply this information in a research paper.
 - 8. Compile bibliographies for course-appropriate subjects.
 - 9. Improve communication skills, verbally and written.
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes
 - 1. GELO #2: Written Communication
Outcome: Identify and evaluate evidence from a variety of printed, visual, and electronic sources.
Outcome: Read and write in mechanically-sound, college-level English.
 - 2. GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
Outcome: Evaluate ideas presented in writing, medial, speech, or artistic presentations.

Outcome: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impacts of actions.

3. GELO #6: Career and Life Skills

Outcome: Use digital technology effectively to access, manage, integrate, evaluate, and present information.

IV CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- A. What is Civil War history?
- B. American Modernization, 1800-1860
- C. The Antebellum South
- D. The Ideological Conflict Over Slavery
- E. Texas, Mexico, and the Compromise of 1850
- F. Filibusters, Fugitives, and Nativists
- G. Kansas/Nebraska and the Rise of the Republican Party
- H. The Deepening Crisis, 1857-1859
- I. The Critical Year, 1859-1860
- J. Secession and the Coming of War
- K. Mobilizing for War
- L. The Balance Sheet of War
- M. The War at Home and Abroad
- N. The Springtime of Northern Hope
- O. Jackson and Lee Strike Back
- P. Slavery and the War: Northern Politics, 1861-1862
- Q. The First Turning Point: Antietam and Emancipation
- R. The Winter of Northern Discontent
- S. The Second Turning Point: Gettysburg, Vicksburg & Chattanooga
- T. War Issues and Politics in 1863
- U. Wartime Reconstruction and the Freedmen
- V. Military Stalemate, 1864
- W. The Third Turning Point, The Reelection of Lincoln
- X. The End of the Confederacy
- Y. The Problems of Peace
- Z. The Origins of "Radical" Reconstruction
- AA. Reconstruction and the Crisis of Impeachment
- BB. The First Grant Administration
- CC. Social and Economic Reconstruction
- DD. The Retreat from Reconstruction
- EE. The New South

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s):
 - 1. Gienapp, Willam E., ed. *The Civil War and Reconstruction: A Documentary Collection*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2001. ISBN: 978-0-393-97555-0.
 - 2. Simpson, Brooks D. *America's Civil War* (part of the American History Series). Wiley-Blackwell, 1996. ISBN: 978-0-882-95929-0.
- B. Other Resources:
 - 1. Other required readings will vary from term to term, and may include:
 - a. Short monographs
 - b. Autobiographical memoirs
 - c. Scholarly articles

- d. Other primary or secondary sources related to the American experience. These will be supplied by the instructor unless otherwise specified in the course policies.
- C. Student purchase of examination book (“blue books”) may be required for exams.

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following.
 - 1. Lectures
 - 2. Class Discussion
 - 3. Individual/Group Projects
 - 4. Student Presentations
 - 5. Multimedia Presentations

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following: Specific weighting of these assessment modalities is detailed in the course policies. The instructor may also require other types of graded work, as long as it is not inconsistent with the parameters defined in the “Methods of Evaluation” section.
 - 1. Written examinations
 - 2. Quizzes
 - 3. Research papers
 - 4. Book reviews
 - 5. Short papers based on readings
 - 6. Class discussions
 - 7. Student Presentations (Group and/or Individual)
 - 8. Other interactive activities
 - 9. Attendance

B. SCC GRADING SCALE:

A+	95-100	C+	75-79	F	59 or less
A	90-94	C	70-74		
B+	85-89	D+	65-69		
B	80-84	D	60-64		

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. In order to receive a passing grade in this course, students must complete the work assigned by the instructor in a satisfactory manner.
- B. Regular attendance, reading, examinations, writing assignments, discussion, and respectful behavior are all required course components.