History 393 - Civil War and Reconstruction - Mr. Knupfer

History 393 explores the causes, conduct, and consequences of the American Civil War. Some basic themes we will cover include the fragmentation of the political center that precipitated the breakdown of national democratic politics; the problem of retaining the essence and form of republicanism in the midst of a civil war; and the intractable problems of race adjustment and economic change in the aftermath of the great conflict. Basic knowledge of the American constitutional system is helpful, but not required. Evaluation will rely upon two midterm examinations, a final examination, and participation in a weekly discussion section. Students may substitute a short paper for the second midterm examination.

Required Texts:


Schedule of Lecture Topics:

January

22 Introduction -- Why Study the Civil War
24 The Republic in 1848
27 Slavery in the American Republic
29 The Slave Community: Life in the Quarters
31 Abolitionism: From Moral Suasion to Political Action

February

3 Fruits of Manifest Destiny: Territories, Slavery, & Politics
5 Compromise of 1850
7 Fugitives & Finality: Compromise and Domestic Peace
10 Rise & Fall of the Know-Nothings
12 "A Hell of a Storm": The Kansas-Nebraska Act
14 The Republicans Appear
17 Kansas Bleeds
19 The Democrats' Dilemmas
March

3 FIRST HOUR EXAMINATION
5 A. Lincoln, Civil War President
7 Northern Wartime Politics
10 Southern Wartime Politics
12 Europe and the Civil War
14 Lincoln and his Generals
17 Robert E. Lee and The Southern Way of War
19 Soldiers: Fighting Means Killing
21 Northern Wartime Economy

April

2 Southern Wartime Economy
4 The Black's Civil War
7 Emancipation
9 The War Ends
11 SECOND HOUR EXAMINATION
14 The Problem of Reconstruction
16 Wartime Experiments in Reconstruction
18 Andrew Johnson and "The Union As It Was"
21 Triumph of the Radicals
23 Impeachment of a President
25 The "Reconstructed" South
28 After Slavery: The Black Response to Reconstruction
30 The Grant Era

May

2 "Redemption": A New South?
5 The New Industrial Economy
7 Centennial
9 Americans and Their Civil War

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11 - Noon, and by appointment; 5263 Humanities; 263-2386