AMH4930: Senior Seminar in the American Civil War
Professor Sean Adams
T 6-8 (Tuesdays 12:50-3:50)
Keene-Flint Hall 101

Course Introduction and Objectives
This course will cover some of the most turbulent years in American history: the growing sectional tension of the 1850s, the problem of secession and outbreak of hostilities in 1861, the unprecedented impact of the Civil War on both the battlefield and the home fronts, and the challenge of Reconstruction during the 1860s and 1870s.

As this is both a reading and research seminar with a thematic focus, the course will split time between a broad survey of themes in the history of the Civil War Era and a hands-on research workshop allowing students to explore their own particular interests within this topic. The end result of this seminar will be a 15 to 20 page paper based upon primary sources. Along the way, students will develop skills in historical research that will involve the use of manuscript, published, microfilmed, and online source materials. They will also hone their writing skills with various short papers and the aforementioned research paper.

Required and Recommended Readings
There are six (6) required and one (1) optional texts available for purchase both online and at various books stores around campus. Since this is a seminar, the success of the course depends upon the students completing, contemplating, and discussing the weekly readings. The reading schedule will provide a structure for completing these readings, and it is of the utmost importance that you adhere to this schedule. Not doing the readings will likely result in a failing grade for this course, as a hefty portion of the grade depends upon participation.


For those students who would like a quick overview of the Civil War, please consult:


**Grading Policy**

Students will be evaluated on a number of assignments in this class. Most important will be the final paper, which will be due during the final exam period from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on May 1, 2013. Students will also write 3 brief, 2-3 page response papers at various points of the semester. More details on these response papers, along with formal guidelines for the research prospectus and presentation, will be made available in class. Finally, the breakdown of the final grades in this course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Calculation</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation 30%</td>
<td>100-93=A</td>
<td>A=4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Response Papers 20%</td>
<td>92-90=A-</td>
<td>A-=3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Prospectus 10%</td>
<td>89-87=B+</td>
<td>B+=3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Presentation 10%</td>
<td>86-82=B</td>
<td>B=3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper 30%</td>
<td>82-80=B-</td>
<td>B-=2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>79-76=C+</td>
<td>C+=2.33</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75-72=C</td>
<td>C=2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71-69=C-</td>
<td>C-=1.67</td>
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<td></td>
<td>68-66=D+</td>
<td>D+=1.33</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65-62=D</td>
<td>D=1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61-60=D-</td>
<td>D-=0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59-0=E</td>
<td>E=0.00</td>
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Seminar Schedule (Subject to Revision by Instructor)

January 8     Introductions and Discussion of Course Expectations

January 15    Reading in the Civil War Era

January 22    Surveying the Civil War Field
Readings: Varon, *Disunion!*, pp. 127-347.
Short Essay Due

January 29    Interpreting the War, I
Readings: Manning, *What This Cruel War Was Over*, entire book

February 5    Interpreting the War, II
Readings: Gallagher, *The Union War*, entire book
Short Essay Due

February 12   The War at Home and the Home at War
Readings: Paludan, *Victims*, entire book

February 19   Interpreting Reconstruction
Short Essay Due

February 26   Research in the Civil War Era
Brief Research Questions Due

March 3       Spring Break—Have a Good and Safe Holiday

March 12      Memory and the Civil War, I
Readings: Janney, *Burying the Dead But Not the Past*, entire book

March 19      Memory and the Civil War, II
Prospectus Due

March 26      Individual Consultations

April 2       Individual Consultations

April 9       Research Presentations and Peer Editing

April 16      Research Presentations and Peer Editing
April 23       Final Session

Final Exam Period (Final Papers Due): May 1, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Contact Information
Office: 227 Keene-Flint
Tel: (352) 273-3354
E-mail: spadams@ufl.edu
Website: http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/spadams

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Thursdays, 2-3 p.m. and by appointment.