

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 34433 Civil War and Reconstruction, 1848-1876

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

The origins of the American Civil War, its course, and subsequent efforts at reconciling the North and South. Emphasis on the social, economic, and cultural background to the war and its impact on American society.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Evaluate the historical significance of ideas, concepts, individuals, and events in the history of the United States from 1848 to 1877.
2. Define the concept of Manifest Destiny and evaluate its impact on the development of the United States, as well as Mexico and Native American tribes.
3. Describe the institution of slavery.
4. Identify the political aspects of the slavery issue.
5. Describe the impact of greater foreign immigration to the United States.
6. Describe the coming of and the fighting of the Civil War.
7. Analyze the process of Reconstruction, including the conditions and opportunities of the freedmen.
8. Use tools of historical analysis to complete research projects about American history, society, and culture during the period of American Civil War and Reconstruction.
9. Describe and explain the complexity of both change and continuity over time in American society and culture.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will examine how events and ideas in American society, culture, and government evolved during the period from 1848 to 1877, as well as to determine the contributions of Americans of this period to modern American society.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will use the essay format for written presentation of research projects and for exams. Students will also participate in class discussions relating to American history of the period of American Civil War and Reconstruction.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will synthesize materials from various sources to complete research projects and construct answers to essay examination questions.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The 1850s and the Origins of the Civil War
- B. The Election of 1861 and the Secession Crisis
- C. The Military Conflict
- D. War Time Political Developments
- E. War Time Society North and South
- F. Outcomes and Consequences of the Military Conflict
- G. Reconstruction: Political, Economic, and Social
- H. The Reassertion of White Supremacy in the Postwar South