

Readings in the History of the US in the Civil War: The Emancipation Moment

History 785.03
Prof. Mark Grimsley
330 Dulles Hall
292-1855
grimsley.1@osu.edu

Autumn 2006

This is a graduate readings course focusing on some of the major literature concerning the “emancipation moment” (1861-1865), with emphasis on recent scholarship.

Office Hours

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30; and by appointment.

Enrollment

All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the department chair after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of each student.

Requirements

Written Assignments

One 1,200-word book review, written in strict conformance to the standards of a scholarly journal. The review will consist of a holistic summary of the books thesis and argument and an analysis of its strengths, weaknesses, significance, etc. [20 percent]

One 15-page research or historiographical paper on a topic to be mutually agreed upon between the student and instructor. [40 percent]

Papers are due on the date and time specified. Late papers will be penalized a full letter grade for each day they are overdue. Barring serious illness or family emergency, no “Incompletes” for the course will be granted.

Class Participation [40 percent]

Each week, two students will be responsible for leading the discussion. It is expected that they will come prepared with a thorough grasp of the book(s) under review; background information on the author(s); familiarity with the critical reception of the book(s); an ability to relate the book(s) to works already discussed; and two or three provocative, open-ended questions to launch the discussion and a strategy for guiding the discussion in the most fruitful directions. Please bear in mind that discussion leaders are *not* expected to present a report to the group, but rather to serve as “resource persons” to strengthen the discussion. It’s the responsibility of every one in the class to be thoroughly prepared and engaged.

Carmen Learning Platform

In addition to in-class discussion, I encourage you to make use of the online discussion capabilities available on the Carmen learning platform for the course. (This is also a good place to check on grades and get periodic updates on the course.) If you have not used Carmen before, you first go to this page -- <https://carmen.osu.edu/> -- and double-click the blue “Login” button. You will apply the same OSU user ID and password used to access your OSU email account. Once logged in, double-clicking on this link -- HISTORY 785.03 (GRIMSLEY) -1 – will take you to the Carmen platform for the course.

Books

Books for the course should be borrowed from a library or ordered directly from a bookstore. Online bookstores, such as Amazon.com, frequently sell new and used copies at very reasonable prices.

Week 1. September 26. Organization and Administrative; Historiography

At this initial session, we’ll get acquainted, go over course requirements, and divide up the reading and discussion assignments. I’ll also make available copies of these two essays to supply historiographical context:

Armstead Robinson, “The Difference Freedom Made: The Emancipation of Afro-Americans,” with comments by Eric Foner and Nell Irvin Painter, in Darlene Clark Hine, *The State of Afro-American History: Past, Present, and Future*. (Louisiana State University Press, 1986), 51-88.

Peter Kolchin, “Slavery and Freedom in the Civil War South,” in James M. McPherson and William J. Cooper, Jr. (eds.), *Writing the Civil War: The Quest to Understand* (University of South Carolina Press, 1998), 241-260, 335-347.

Week 2. October 3. The Southern Freedmens Project

Ira Berlin et al., *Slaves No More: Three Essays on Emancipation and the Civil War* (Cambridge University Press, 1992).

Week 3. October 10. Who Freed the Slaves?

Armstead Robinson, *Bitter Fruits Of Bondage: The Demise Of Slavery And The Collapse Of The Confederacy, 1861-1865* (University of Virginia Press, 2004).

Allen C. Guelzo, *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America* (Simon & Schuster, 2004).

Week 4. October 17. Birth Pangs of Freedom

Willie Lee Rose, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction: The Port Royal Experiment* (1964; rpt. University of Georgia Press, 1998)

Clarence L. Mohr, *On the Threshold of Freedom: Masters and Slaves in Civil War Georgia* (University of Georgia Press, 1986).

Patricia C. Click, *Time Full of Trial: The Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony, 1862-1867* (University of North Carolina Press, 2001).

Week 5. October 24. Strength for the Fight - 1

****Book Review Assignments Due****

Joseph T. Glatthaar, *Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers* (Free Press, 1991).

Keith P. Wilson, *Campfires of Freedom: The Camp Life of Black Soldiers During the Civil War* (Kent State University Press, 2002).

Week 6. October 31. Strength for the Fight - 2

****Final Date for Approval of Historiographical Essay Topics****

Bruce Levine, *Confederate Emancipation: Southern Plans to Free and Arm Slaves During the Civil War* (Oxford University Press, 2006).

Donald R. Shaffer, *After the Glory: The Struggles of Black Civil War Veterans* (University Press of Kansas, 2004).

Week 7. November 7. Wartime Reconstruction

Peyton McCrary, *Abraham Lincoln and Reconstruction: The Louisiana Experiment* (Princeton University Press, 1979).

William C. Harris, *With Charity for All: Lincoln and the Restoration of the Union* (University Press of Kentucky, 1997).

Week 8. November 14. **No Class**

If possible, please attend at least one session of the conference on “The War for the American South, 1865-1968,” at the Mershon Center on November 10-11. Details and registration information may be found on the conference web site:

<http://warhistorian.org/mershon/war-for-south-main.htm>

Week 9. November 21. The Legal, Political and Constitutional Challenge of Emancipation

Silvana R. Siddali, *From Property to Person: Slavery and the Confiscation Acts, 1861-1862* (Louisiana State University Press, 2005).

Michael Vorenberg, *Final Freedom: The Civil War, the Abolition of Slavery, and the Thirteenth Amendment* (Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Week 10. November 28. The Emancipation Moment in Public Memory

David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Harvard University Press, 2001).

Kirk Savage, *Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves: Race, War, and Monument in Nineteenth-Century America* (Princeton University Press, 1997).

****Historiographical Essays Due by 5 p.m., Wednesday, December 6.****

I would appreciate an electronic copy to be sent to my email address and a hard copy to be placed in my mailbox. The datestamp of the electronic copy at the time of arrival will be accepted as the authoritative time of submission.