HISTORY 3323: THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

Instructor: Dr. Robert Wooster
Office: FC 269
Telephone: 825-2402
Internet: robert.wooster@tamucc.edu

Office Hours: MWF 11-12
M 3:00-5:15
W 4:00-5:15
And by appointment

I encourage you to ask questions and make comments in class and/or during office hours. If these times are not convenient, please feel free to make an appointment with me. This is particularly important in this course, for the mid-nineteenth century represents one of the most complex periods in United States history. If you don’t understand something in class, please ask me to explain it. You’ll be doing yourself (and undoubtedly some other bewildered classmate) a favor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Background and causes of the Civil War; military, political, diplomatic, and economic developments during the War; Reconstruction and post-war adjustments.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Through essay exams and book reviews, students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Understand the events, personalities, and ideas which shaped the Civil War era;
2. Construct persuasive essays using sound logic and concrete examples;
3. Craft book reviews which demonstrate the student’s ability to describe and assess major scholarly works on the Civil War.

REQUIRED READING
Eric Foner, Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War
Emory Thomas, The Confederacy as a Revolutionary Experience
Drew Gilpin Faust, This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War
Two books from the list of books to review (see separate document)

COURSE GRADE
First exam 20%  First book review 10%
Second exam 30%  Second book review 10%
Third exam 30%

COURSE POLICIES
Please read the course requirements listed below with care. It is important that there is no misunderstanding regarding them, so if you have any questions concerning them, be sure to ask. I will operate under the assumption that you are aware of and understand them.

1. Lectures and Attendance -- The lectures are designed to be the foundation for the course. As such, regular class attendance is essential if you hope to pass the course. I assume that when you sign up for the course, you are committing yourself to attend class on a regular basis. Further, it is essential that you pay close attention and take good notes when you are here. Despite the help of PowerPoint screens to guide
you, this is not always easy in a lecture setting. The screens are just an aid, and merely copying what is on them will not be enough. The PowerPoint slides will not be available via the internet or posted on Blackboard.

2. **Book Reviews** - See separate instructions and list of books to review. Reviews are due on October 12 and November 16.

3. **Examinations** - There will be three examinations. All exams are to be taken in blue books (1 per exam). Do not, under any circumstances, remove any pages from your blue book before turning it in. If you do turn in a blue book with any pages missing, you will receive a zero for that exam.

Each exam will include a matching section (20%), a book essay (30%), and a major essay (50%). Each exam will include ten matching questions (four from the reading; six from the lectures and class discussions), two essays on the assigned book (you’ll answer one), and two essays on the lectures and class discussions (you’ll answer one). All of the essays, as well as possible subjects for matching questions from the reading, will come from a study guide, which will be distributed at least two weeks before the exam.

First exam – Section One of the lectures; Foner
Second exam – Section Two of the lectures; Thomas
Third exam – Section Three of the lectures; Faust

Electronic devices will not be permitted on exam days. In order to do well on the exams, it is essential that you attend class regularly, take good notes, and read your assigned materials. There are no short-cuts to academic success. It demands energy and effort on your part.

4. **Make-up Examinations** – For those students who miss the first or second exam, all makeups will be given during our regularly scheduled class period of November 27. You should immediately reserve this date and time in your calendar, and note that it is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Because of the nature of the course, you are strongly advised to take the exams at the originally scheduled time. You are expected to show up for the make-up without being prompted, and must rearrange your schedule in order to take the make-up at the time noted above. It is your responsibility to make-up the test, and your responsibility to make the necessary arrangements to take the makeup at this scheduled time. The make-up will cover the same materials and use the same study questions as the regular examination.

5. **Extra Credit** -- You have enough of importance to do in the regular assignments for this course. No extra credit opportunities are available.

6. **Grade Appeals during the semester** -- In grading your exams and book reviews the primary concerns are to maintain fair standards. You have the right to appeal if you believe that you have received an exam grade which does not reflect the quality of your work, or if you do not understand why an answer you gave was graded in the manner in which it was.

7. **Assistance** – Office hours are intended to make this course less forbidding. I encourage you to come by and talk with me during office hours. If you cannot make these times, ask to make an appointment.

8. **Freedom of Speech** -- Feel free to raise your hand with a question or comment. Reducing confusion,
providing clarification, or responding to student curiosity is an important part of the classroom process and will be undertaken to the extent that time and class size permit. In most cases, if you did not understand something, it is because I did not explain it clearly, so you will be doing your colleagues and yourself a service if you request a clarification.

9. Academic etiquette -- Universities must maintain standards of academic etiquette in order to affect an atmosphere conducive to learning. You are expected to demonstrate courtesy to one another in and out of the classroom. Turn off your cell phones, blackberries, I-Pods, etc., before coming to class, and use laptop computers only for legitimate academic reasons. Talking to one’s neighbor(s) during class lectures or general discussions, chronic lateness, using cell-phones or text message gadgets in class, surfing the web, leaving class before it has been dismissed, etc., is inherently disruptive and thus injurious to the rights of others to the opportunity to learn. As such, it is unacceptable in a university classroom. Students who are unable to abide by these rules of academic etiquette and normal civility will be removed from the class.

10. Academic Integrity -- Cheating or plagiarism on an assignment or test, or failure to complete any of the course requirements, will result in a zero grade for the assignment in question, and, in more serious cases, lead to further academic penalty. For definitions of and penalties for plagiarism, see University Procedures, 13.02.99.C3.01 "Procedure for Academic Misconduct Cases" at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/students/130299C301.pdf See also the guidelines for your research paper.

11. Dropping a Class -- I hope no student needs to drop a course. However, events sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. November 15 is the last day to drop a course for the semester with an automatic grade of “W”.

12. Electronic submissions of assignments -- This is not an on-line course. You must submit hard copies of each assignment at the beginning of the class period in which it is due. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.

13. Late Work -- If you turn in an assignment late without a valid reason (verified extended illness, accident, or unavoidable circumstance cleared by the professor in advance) you will be assessed a penalty of ten points per weekday you turn in that assignment late.

14. Blackboard - A posting of this syllabus, guidelines for book reviews, list of books for review, and class handouts is available and should be checked regularly for new materials and announcements. Class notes will not be posted, and regular class attendance is expected.

FINAL GRADE APPEALS
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure
13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

VETERANS
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change):

SECTION ONE (be reading Foner)

Sept.  4  Introduction
       9  The American People at Mid-century
       11 A Nation of Sections: The North
       16 A Nation of Sections: The South
       18 A Shattered Truce
       23 A Dash for Independence
       25 Lincoln and the Crisis
       30 Strategy and Tactics

Oct.  2  First Exam

SECTION TWO (be reading Thomas)

Oct.  7  Bull Run and Coastal Operations
       9  Early Moves in the West
      14 Stalemate in the West
      16 Stalemate in the East; First Book Review Due
      21 The War and the North, I
      23 The War and the North, II
      28 The War and the South, I
      30 The War and the South, II

Nov.  4  Second Exam
**SECTION THREE (be reading Faust)**

Nov.  
6    The High Noon of the Confederacy  
11   Gettysburg  
13   Blue Tide in the West  
18   Grant Takes Command  
20   Atlanta and the March to the Sea  
25   The Collapse of the Confederacy; **Second Book Review due**  
27   Makeup examinations  

Dec.  
2    Early Plans for Reconstruction  
4    Impeachment  
9    The Meaning of the Civil War  

???????? Final examination – Monday, Dec. 16, 4:30-7