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, social, 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
James McPherson, For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War
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
Mid-term Examination 25%  Book Test Three (Faust) 10%
Final Examination 25%  First book review 10%
Book Test One (Foner) 10%  Second book review 10%
Book Test Two (McPherson) 10%

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. Examinations - There will be two 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 examination will include a matching section (30%), chronologies (20%), and an essay (50%). Possible topics for chronologies, as well as potential essays, will come from a review guide. Electronic devices are not permitted on exam days. In order to do well on the exams, it is essential that you attend class regularly, take good notes, participate in class discussions, and study. There are no short-cuts to academic success. It demands energy and effort on your part.

3. Book Tests – You will have a book test over each of the three required books. All tests are to be taken in blue books (1 per test). Do not, under any circumstances, remove any pages from your blue book before turning it in. If you turn in a blue book with any pages missing, you will receive a zero for that test.

Each book test will include identifications (40%) and an essay (60%). Potential identifications and essays will come from a review guide. Electronic devices are not permitted on test days. In order to do well on the tests, it is essential that you read the books, prepare accordingly, and study. If you have questions about the content, it is your responsibility to bring them up.

4. Make-ups – For those students who miss an exam or a book test, all makeups will be given during our regularly scheduled class period of April 24. You should immediately reserve this date and time in your calendar. 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 be based upon the same review guides as the regular assignments.

5. Book Reviews - See separate instructions and list of books to review. Reviews are due on February 24 and March 31.

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

7. 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.

8. 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.
9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **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." See also the guidelines for your book reviews.

12. **Dropping a Class** -- I hope no student needs to drop a course. However, events sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. April 7 is the last day to drop a course for the semester with an automatic grade of “W”.

13. **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.

14. **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.

15. **Blackboard** - A posting of this syllabus, guidelines for book reviews, list of books for review, review guides, 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.
COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change):

SECTION ONE

Jan. 18  Introduction
Jan. 20  The American People at Mid-Century, I
Jan. 23  The American People at Mid-Century, II
Jan. 25  A Nation of Sections, I
Jan. 27  A Nation of Sections, II
Jan. 30  Shattered Truce

Feb. 1   The Impending Crisis
Feb. 3   Book Test One (Foner)
Feb. 6   A Dash for Independence
Feb. 8   Lincoln and the Secession
Feb. 10  Civil War Strategy
Feb. 13  America’s Bloodiest War
Feb. 15  Book Test Two (McPherson)
Feb. 17  The Opening Moves
Feb. 20  Coastal and Naval Operations
Feb. 22  Early Moves in the West
Feb. 24  Shiloh; First Book Review Due
Feb. 27  Invasions of Kentucky
Mar. 1   The Peninsula Campaign
Mar. 3   Library Assignment; no class meeting
Mar. 6   Antietam
Mar. 8   Fredericksburg
Mar. 10  Midterm Examination

SECTION TWO

Mar. 13-17 Spring Break; no classes
Mar. 20  The Vicksburg Campaign
Mar. 22  Chancellorsville
Mar. 24  Gettysburg
Mar. 27  Matters Diplomatic and Military
Mar. 29  The War and the North, I
Mar. 31  The War and the North, II; Second Book Review Due

Apr. 3   The War and the South, I
Apr. 5   The War and the South, II
Apr. 7   Chickamauga and Chattanooga;
         Last Day to Drop
Apr. 10  Grant Takes Command
Apr. 12  The Atlanta Campaign
Apr. 14  Lincoln’s Reelection
Apr. 17  Book Test Three (Faust)
Apr. 19  Sherman’s March
Apr. 21  The Collapse of the Confederacy
Apr. 24  Make ups
Apr. 26  Early Plans for Reconstruction
Apr. 28  The Crisis of Impeachment

May 1  The Meaning of the Civil War

FINAL EXAMINATION: Wednesday, May 10, 8-10:30

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466 or log onto http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac.

DISABILITY SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. 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 for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf). For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.