History 457, Part II:  

CIVIL WAR: 1840-1865

Fall Quarter 2013:  
Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 - 13:20  
16 PAC

Professor:  
James C. Mohr
Office:  
383 McKenzie
Hours:  
Tues and Thurs 13:30 - 14:30 and by appointment
Phone:  
541-346-5903
E-mail:  
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Required readings:

Potter, *The Impending Crisis, 1848-1861*
McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire, Vol. 2*
Faust, *Mothers of Invention*
DuBois, “Women’s Rights and Abolition”
Hersh, “Am I Not a Woman and a Sister?”

(The books are available at the UO Duckstore; the articles will be posted electronically)

This will be primarily a lecture course, with some discussion along the way and one class session set aside specifically for discussion of the Faust book (see syllabus).

There will be a mid-quarter exam (33% of your final grade); a seven-to-nine page paper (33% of your final grade); and a final exam (34% of your final grade). The paper assignment follows the syllabus.

Week I:
Oct 01:  
Introduction and Overview

Oct 03:  
The politics of slavery through the 1840s
(Potter, *Impending Crisis, 1-62*)

Week II:
Oct 08:  
The emergence of anti-slavery activism
(DuBois, “Women’s Rights,” and Hersh “Am I Not”)

Oct 10:  
The Mexican War and the Compromise of 1850
(Potter, *Impending Crisis, 63-144*)
Week III:
Oct 15: The Kansas Crisis
(Potter, *Impending Crisis*, 145-198)

Oct 17: The Political Revolution of the 1850s
(Potter, *Impending Crisis*, 199-266)

Week IV:
Oct 22: Dred Scott and the law of slavery
(Potter, *Impending Crisis*, 267-296)

Oct 24: The Lincoln-Douglas Debates and John Brown’s Raid
(Potter, *Impending Crisis*, 297-384)

Week V:
Oct 29: The Election of 1860 and the Secession Crisis
(Potter, *Impending Crisis*, 385-484)

Oct 31: MID-QUARTER EXAM

Week VI:
Nov 05: Causes and Historiography
(Potter, *Impending Crisis*, 485-583)

Nov 07: No Class and no additional assignment: catch up on reading and finish your paper

Week VII:
Nov 12: Comparing the Belligerents and Mobilizing for War
(McPherson, *Ordeal*, 163-226)

Nov 14: The Confederacy as a Success
(McPherson, *Ordeal*, 227-302)

Week VIII:
Nov 19: PAPERS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS
The Confederacy Unravels
(McPherson, *Ordeal*, 303-372), and discussion of Faust, *Mothers of Invention*

Nov 21: The Union War Effort, Part I
(McPherson, *Ordeal*, 373-424), and discussion of Faust, *Mothers of Invention*
Week IX:
  Nov 26:  Lincoln and the Decision to End Slavery  
            (No additional assignment)

  Nov 28:  Thanksgiving (thanks to Lincoln): no class, no additional assignment

Week X:
  Dec 03:  The Union War Effort, Part II  
            (McPherson, Ordeal, 425-494)

  Dec 05:  The End of the War and the Roots of Reconstruction  
            (McPherson, Ordeal, 495-526)

FINAL EXAM :  Dec 10 at 0800. Professor Mohr is NOT responsible for picking this time 
              or day, but please make any departure plans appropriately

PAPER ASSIGNMENT:

  The Knight Library holds the New York Times newspaper (both on microfilm and by 
  means of electronic access) from its first issue in 1851 through the end of the Civil War in April 
  1865. Using the Times as your chief source, you are to do the following for your seven-to-nine 
  page paper:

  Select any one week between January 1, 1852 and May 1, 1865 and read the Times 
  thoroughly for that week (articles, editorials, ads, everything). Then write a paper that (a) 
  summarizes one (or more) of the chief issues of that week and how the Times dealt with it (or 
  them), or (b) discusses any aspect of American everyday life that was revealed in the pages of 
  the Times during the week you chose. You may explore subjects beyond your chosen week and 
  in sources other than the Times, if you wish to do so, but you are not required to do so, and your 
  paper must be based principally on the materials you found in the Times itself for your week.

  Your papers may vary a great deal depending upon what you decide to write about, what 
  context you place the materials into, and which themes you develop for analysis. There is no 
  right or wrong approach, and this assignment is not intended to make you wrestle with huge 
  general questions about this period of US history. Instead, it is designed to let you think 
  seriously about a tiny snippet of American history (the material that appeared in one newspaper 
  for one week), and to give you a free hand in writing something from a genuinely original 
  historical source – the same paper that the people we are studying picked up and read for 
  themselves every day that week.