History 457:  RECONSTRUCTION

Winter Quarter, 2013: T & R, 12:00 to 13:20, 185 Lil

Professor:  James C. Mohr
Office:  383 McKenzie
Office Hours:  T&R 10:30-11:30 and by appointment
Phone:  346-5903
E-mail:  jmohr@uoregon.edu

Required Readings:

Foner,  Reconstruction, America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877
Jones,  Soldiers of Light and Love:  Northern Teachers and Georgia Blacks, 1865-1873
Bledstein,  “The Culture of Professionalism,” posted on Blackboard
Carlson,  “Technology and America as a Consumer Society,” posted on Blackboard

(The books are paperback and available in the Bookstore; the first three articles are available through Knight Library electronic services; the final two will be posted on Blackboard)

This course allows us to take a close look at one of the most tumultuous, fascinating, and significant periods in our national history: the so-called Reconstruction, when Americans faced the daunting task of trying to rebuild their republic after the cataclysm of the Civil War. The decisions they made at that time laid the foundations upon which the modern United States evolved, and many of those decisions still reverberate clearly into our own times.

This will be primarily a lecture course, with some discussion interspersed along the way and one class session set aside specifically for discussion of the Jones book.
For undergraduates your final grade will be based on a mid-quarter exam (35%); a paper of five to seven pages (30%); and a final exam (35%). For graduate students, there will be a second paper and all four exercises will count 25% each toward your final grade.

Week I:
Reading: Foner, *Reconstruction*, 1-76.

Lectures: Jan 08: Outline and introduction
Jan 10: Wartime roots of post-war policy

Week II:
Reading: Foner, *Reconstruction*, 77-280

Lectures: Jan 15: Johnson's Failure, 1865-1867
Jan 17: The impeachment episode

Week III:
Reading: Foner, *Reconstruction*, 281-345; begin Jones, *Soldiers*

Lectures: Jan 22: Congressional, or "Radical," Reconstruction
Jan 24: Radical Reconstruction in Practice in the South

Week IV:
Reading: Foner, *Reconstruction*, 346-411; finish Jones, *Soldiers*

Lectures: Jan 29: Reconstruction in the North
Jan 31: Freedpeople and the Southern Economy

Week V:

Lectures: Feb 05: *Readers only* discussion session on Jones, *Soldiers of Light and Love*
Feb 07: Grantism

Week VI:

Lectures: Feb 12: **MID-QUARTER EXAM**
Feb 14: Counter-Reconstruction in the South

Week VII:
Reading: Foner, *Reconstruction*, 563-612; work on your *Times* paper.
Lectures: Feb 19: Counter-Reconstruction at the National Level  
Feb 21: The Election of 1876 and the Crisis of 1877

Week VIII:  

Lectures: Feb 26: The “Compromise” of 1877 and its aftermath  
Feb 28: Reconstruction legal history and its aftermath

Week IX:  
Reading: No additional assignment; finish Times paper, which is due Tuesday.

Lectures: Mar 05: PAPERS DUE (at beginning of class)  
American Indian policy 1865-1887  
Mar 07: The Consolidation of a New Era, Part I: Trends in the New Economy and Some of Their Implications

Week X:  
Reading: Bledstein, “The Culture of Professionalism,” and Carlson,“Technology and America as a Consumer Society.”

Lectures: Mar 12: The Consolidation of a New Era, Part II: The Foundations of Modern America  
Mar 14: Overview and Review

Week XI: Mar 19: FINAL EXAM (Thursday at 8:00 a.m. Please note the time and date, and make departure plans accordingly)

Paper Assignment:

The Knight Library holds the New York Times newspaper for the entire period we will be looking at in this course. It is on microfilm, and also available electronically. You are to select any one week between July 1, 1865 and December 31, 1882 and read the Times thoroughly for that week; every page, editorials, ads and all. Then write a paper that reviews what you found and addresses one of the chief issues of that week or addresses an aspect of American everyday life revealed in the Times during that week. If you wish to do so, you may explore your subject beyond the week you chose, and you may explore your subject in sources other than the Times. But you are not required to do so, and the focus of your paper must remain on the original material from the week you chose. Identify the week you read at the beginning of your paper.