History 457: Civil War:
Professor James Mohr

The Civil War produced more American casualties than all of the nation's other wars to the present time combined; and the Civil War remains the greatest single turning point in our nation's history. This course is structured around two major questions. First, how did Americans manage to plunge themselves into such an unprecedented bloodbath; and second, how did the war itself actually unfold? The first part of the course explores the troubling failure of the political system to find a peacefully accepted democratic resolution of the slavery question. The second part of the course explores the actual fighting and the ways in which Lincoln's Union and Davis's Confederacy waged the war, even while implementing momentous changes in governmental policy.