

English/SST 236: Civil War Memory

One hundred and fifty years ago, the United States fought a civil war that threatened to dissolve the union. A century and a half later, the war's memory continues to inflame passions and inspire historical revision. This course will use history, literature, and film to examine how the war's memory has evolved and to understand why the war still matters.

Professor

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Course Objectives

- To study the social, historical, and cultural aspects of the Civil War by discussing scholarly, literary, and experiential sources.
- To cultivate essential skills in reading comprehension, analysis, and critical thinking.
- To practice oral and written communication.



Course Requirements & Grading Policies

English 236 is a discussion-based course that uses a modified seminar format. Your success in this course depends upon attending every session fully prepared to contribute to our mutual understanding of the topic. Attendance constitutes 17% of your course grade. Attendance grades are computed according to the following scale:

Absence	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Grade	100	97	93	85	75	60	40	20	0	Failure

Entering class after attendance has been taken will count as a tardy, and three tardies will count as an absence. Missing class for a verifiable family emergency, participation in a

university-sanctioned athletic event, or religious holidays will not result in a deduction from your final grade, but it is your responsibility to inform me of your absence.

During the semester I will administer six unannounced quizzes that will cover the reading assigned for the day of the quiz. Quizzes constitute 18% of your course grade. You may replace up to two quizzes by writing replacement assignments. The replacement assignment requires that you write a seven hundred word synopsis of the reading assignment due the day of the missed quiz. Replacement assignments should be submitted on the day of the second class meeting after the missed quiz. Any missed quizzes beyond the two replacement assignments will factor into your quiz grade as a zero.

Other assignments will allow you to practice research skills and to develop a significant level of expertise on the topic. You will deliver an eight-minute presentation on a book related to the day's reading assignment. The presentation will constitute 10% of your course grade. One week after the presentation, you will submit an eight-hundred word review of your book. The review will constitute 10% of your course grade. You will also write a brief analytic paper, which will constitute 10% of your course grade. At midterm, you will complete a take-home exam, which will constitute 10% of your course grade, and at the end of the semester you will complete a take-home final exam, which will constitute 15% of your grade.

Papers and exams will be submitted to my email, davis_da@mercerv.edu, by 6:00 pm on the due date. I will grade the paper electronically in Microsoft Word and return it with embedded comments. Papers will be returned to the initiating address, so be sure to send the paper from your own email account.

You may rewrite and resubmit written assignments—the book review and the paper—after they have been graded. Revised papers should be submitted at the beginning of the class meeting immediately after original papers have been returned. Revised papers should be accompanied by a self-critical analysis that explains how the paper has been improved. In cases of revision, the revised grade will be added to the original grade and averaged into the overall paper grade. Keep in mind that revising means more than correcting minor errors. In fact, a cursory revision could result in a lower grade. Papers submitted after the due date will automatically receive an F, but they may be revised to improve the final grade. The midterm and final exams are not eligible for revision.

This course requires your participation in several out of class events, including two film screenings, several lectures, and a trip to Andersonville. After the trip, you will write a brief reflection paper worth 5%, and your participation in other events will be worth another 5% of

your grade. If you cannot participate in an event or in the trip for a legitimate, excusable reason, you will be expected to complete a replacement assignment.

The students of Mercer University have a proud tradition of honorable conduct, and I expect all students in this class to continue that tradition. Cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic misconduct will result in prosecution from the honor court, who may censure, suspend, or expel a guilty student. If you ever have any concerns about plagiarism, please consult me, and I will be happy to discuss your situation confidentially.

Students with a documented disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting or as soon as possible. If you are not registered with Disability Services, the instructor will refer you to the Student Support Services office for consultation regarding documentation of your disability and eligibility for accommodations under the ADA/504. In order to receive accommodations, eligible students must provide each instructor with a Faculty Accommodation Form from Disability Services. Students must return the completed and signed form to the Disability Services office on the 3rd floor of the Connell Student Center. Students with a documented disability who do not wish to use accommodations are strongly encouraged to register with Disability Services and complete a Faculty Accommodation Form each semester. For further information please contact Disability Services at 301-2778 or visit the website at http://www.mercer.edu/stu_support/swd.htm.

In an ongoing effort to improve the quality of instruction, each student enrolled in this course is required to complete an end-of-semester course evaluation, to be administered on blackboard during the last week of class. Students failing to submit the evaluation by May 11 will be assigned the grade of "Incomplete," which will automatically turn into an "F" if the evaluation is not submitted by the midterm of the very next semester.

As a final note, I realize that you are busy and that unexpected crises sometimes arise, but as a general rule I do not give extensions on any assignments. I also do not excuse absences. If you have a major emergency or extended illness, you should contact Associate Dean Ed Weintraut to intervene on your behalf. I do not ever give extra credit assignments.

Schedule

January 11	Introduction
January 13	Masur, <i>The Civil War</i> , Ch. 1 & 2
January 16	King Holiday
January 18	Masur, Ch. 3 & 4

January 20	Masur, Ch. 5 - epilogue
January 23	Blight, <i>Race and Reunion</i> , Prologue - Ch. 2
January 25	No class
January 26	Lamar lectures (11:00 am and 7:30 pm)
January 27	Lamar lecture (10:00 am)
January 30	Blight, Ch. 3 & 4
February 1	Blight, Ch. 5 & 6
February 3	Blight, Ch. 7 & 8
February 6	Blight, Ch. 9 – Epilogue
February 8	Film: <i>The Birth of a Nation</i>
February 10	Faulkner, <i>The Unvanquished</i> , Ch. I & II
February 13	Faulkner, Ch. III & IV
February 15	Faulkner, Ch. V & VI
February 17	Faulkner, Ch. VII
February 20	Charles Frazier, <i>Cold Mountain</i> , 1-70
February 22	Fitz Brundage
February 24	Frazier, 71-135
February 27	Frazier, 136-204
February 29	Frazier, 205-281
March 2	Frazier, 282-356
March 5	Spring Break
March 7	Spring Break
March 9	Spring Break
March 12	William Marvel, <i>Andersonville</i> , Ch. 1 & 2
March 14	Marvel, Ch. 3-5
March 16	Marvel, Ch. 6 & 7
March 17	Trip to Andersonville
March 19	No class
March 21	Cook, <i>Troubled Commemorations</i> , Introduction – Ch. 2
March 23	Cook, Ch. 3 & 4
March 26	Cook, Ch. 5 & 6
March 28	Cook, Ch. 7 & Epilogue
March 30	No class
April 2	Robert Cook
April 4	Film: <i>C.S.A.: The Movie</i>
April 6	Good Friday
April 9	Tony Horwitz, <i>Confederates in the Attic</i> , Ch. 1 & 2

April 11	Horwitz, Ch. 3 & 4
April 13	Horwitz, Ch. 5 & 6
April 14	Lanier Prize
April 16	Horwitz, Ch. 7 & 8
April 18	No class
April 20	Horwitz, Ch. 9 & 10
April 23	Horwitz, Ch. 11 & 12
April 25	Horwitz, Ch. 13 - 15
April 27	Conclusion

Assignments

Presentation

You will sign up at the beginning of the semester to give an eight-minute presentation on a book related to class discussion. After class on the day of your presentation, I will give you a brief critique on the four key criteria of a presentation: structure, content, delivery, and interest.

Book Review

Seven days after your presentation, you will submit an eight hundred word review of your book for *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. Your review should demonstrate insightful analysis, it should cite sources in MLA style, and it should include a list of about five sources for further information. Keep in mind for the entry that you are an expert writing for a general audience. Exemplary entries will be published online.

Paper

The Atlanta Journal Constitution is running a retrospective series on the Civil War. You have been assigned an aspect to describe. In a 1,000 word article, explain the issue your editor assigned in a way that the paper's readership can understand. Remember that good newspaper articles usually tell stories from the perspective of a specific individual and that they strive to consider as many different opinions as possible.

Reflection

After the trip to Andersonville, write a five hundred word reflection paper. How did the trip change your imagination of events in the movement? The reflection is due March 26.

Midterm

At the midpoint of the semester you will complete a take-home exam. I will invite you to write interpretive discussion questions for the exam, and I will tweak these questions and give you a set to answer in short essays. The midterm is due March 2 at 6:00 pm.

Final

At the end of the semester, you will complete another, slightly longer, take-home exam. I will again invite you to write interpretive discussion questions for the exam, and I will tweak these questions and give you a set to answer in short essays. The final is due April 30 at 6:00 pm.