



Certificate of Higher Education Courses 2014-15 Course Information Document

In this document you will find key information regarding the course's aims and learning outcomes, when the course takes place, the assessment involved, minimum course requirements for assessment and possible prerequisites and suggested preliminary reading.

You will also find information about which Certificates this course's credits count towards.

Course Name: The American Civil War in Context, 1845-1877

Course Tutor(s): Dr Robert Lynch BA PhD

Credits and Level: 20 credits at level 1

These credits can be counted towards any of the following 120 Credit, Certificates in Higher Education:

- Historical studies.

See our website for further details: www.gla.ac.uk/courses/openstudies/certhe/

Introduction

This course explores the causes, course, and consequences of the American Civil War, from the 1840s to 1877. Particular focus will be given to the themes of slavery and emancipation; societal and personal experience of total war and the ambiguous legacies of Reconstruction.

Aims

The course aims to build on the historical skills and transferable skills promoted in earlier courses or to encourage the development of those skills for those studying history for the first time. The specific aims are:

- to allow students to explore major themes in American history and culture in the Civil War era;
- to investigate the impact of Civil War upon different social groups and upon the wider social, economic, and political development of the United States
- to evaluate the changing dynamics of race, gender, and class relations in the United States in the context of total war;
- to acquaint students with a wide variety of primary sources appropriate to the study of the period;
- to introduce students to some of the most important scholarly debates in the field.

Intended learning outcomes

By the end of this course students will:

- be able to demonstrate an understanding of the main developments and themes in American history and culture during the Civil War era;
- develop an understanding of the differing effects of the war's impact on different social groups in American society;
- have a familiarity with some of the important scholarly debates relating to the Civil War era;
- be able to analyse in depth a range of primary sources and place them in historical context;
- be able to find, use and critically evaluate a variety of primary and secondary source materials relevant for interpreting American history and culture during the Civil War era;
- be able to evaluate conflicting historical interpretations;
- gain an appreciation of the complexity and diversity of the past.

Prerequisites: none

What will I be expected to do to complete the course successfully?

You will be expected to attend the **22** meetings held at the main university campus on **Saturday** from **10:00 - 12:00**, starting on **27/09/2014** and finishing on **28/03/2015**.

The course is designed for students who want to undertake assessment to gain credit to use either as part of the Certificate of Higher Education, or another higher education qualification (see the brochure for more information on this). Students who choose not to undertake all or some of the assessment are welcome to attend, but should be aware that assessment forms a key part of the course.

In order to achieve credits, students must complete at least 75% of the course summative assessment listed below:

	Assessment Type	Percentage of final grade	Assessment Due:	
1	Essay 1 (2000 words)	50%		Week 10-semester 1
2	Essay 2 (2,000 words)	50%		Week 10-semester 2

Some suggested preliminary reading: A full list will be given to students at the start of the course.

Bruce Levine, Half Slave and Half Free: The Roots of the Civil War. Hill and Wang.

David Blight, Why the Civil War Came. New York: Oxford University.

Charles R. Dew, Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War. University of Virginia Press.

Drew G. Faust, Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War. University of North Carolina Press.

E. L. Doctorow, The March. Random House.

Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction, 1863-1877. Harper & Row.

Gary Gallagher, The Confederate War: How Popular Will, Nationalism, and Military Strategy Could Not Stave Off Defeat Harvard University Press.

James M. McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom. Oxford University Press.

Michael P. Johnson, ed., Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War. Bedford Books.

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