

History A304
Sectionalism and Civil War

James Haw
Spring 1991
Office: CM203; phone 481-6694
Hours: MWF 8:30-8:50, 10:00-11:50, and by appointment

Required Reading:

James McPherson, *Ordeal by Fire*, vols. 1 and 2
Stephen Oates, *With Malice Toward None*
Merton Dillon, *The Abolitionists*

Other requirements and grades:

Undergraduate credit:
Two examinations during the semester 20% each
Final examination 25%
Map quiz 10%
Term paper 25%

Graduate credit:

All three examinations 20% each
Map quiz 10%
Term paper 20%
Book review or reviews 10%

Term Paper:

On a topic in U.S. history, 1840-1865, selected by the student and approved by the instructor. A topic built around an interpretive or analytical question is preferable to a simple narrative of events. Use of primary sources is encouraged where possible. Length: roughly 12-15 pages, typed double-spaced, footnoted using the style of Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 5th ed.; bibliography is optional. Papers that are seriously defective in footnote style will not be accepted. Papers will be graded on the basis of quality and breadth of research, analytical or interpretive quality, organization, writing style, and correctness of grammar, usage, spelling and punctuation.

Your topic must be selected and approved no later than Friday, Feb. 1. Please see me in the office to discuss it.

Optional: A first draft of your paper may be submitted for an ungraded critique if I receive it by April 10.

Final papers are due in class on Wednesday, April 24.

Graduate students only: Read two additional books (or one if it is more than 500 pages) that have been approved in advance by the instructor, on a topic or topics in U.S. history, 1840-1865, other than the topic of your term paper. Submit brief (3-4 pages each) book reviews of each book, or if you prefer, a

longer joint review of both books if they deal with the same or closely related topics. A book review should go beyond a simple summary of the book to evaluate it as history: Are its thesis or interpretive conclusions sound and well supported by evidence? What are the book's strong and weak points? What contribution does it make to a better understanding of its topic? The review or reviews may be submitted together or separately at any time through May 1.

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero on the assignment in question.

Tape recorders: History Department policy does not allow the use of tape recorders in the classroom. Exceptions will be made on request for handicapped students who are unable to take notes.

Course outline and assignments:

Jan. 14 Introduction; U.S. in 1840

16 North-South conflicts before 1840 (McPherson, ch. 1)

21 Slavery and the Souths (McPherson, ch. 2)

23 The abolitionists, proslavery response (McPherson, ch. 3; Dillon, chs. 1-7)

28 Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too

30 Polk and Manifest Destiny (McPherson, pp. 53-58)

Feb. 4 Mexican War

6 FIRST EXAMINATION

11 Slavery and the Territories (McPherson, pp. 58-70)

13 Crisis and Compromise of 1850 (Dillon, ch. 8)

18 Kansas-Nebraska Act, Ostend Manifesto, party realignment (McPherson, chs. 5-6; Dillon, ch. 9)

20 Bleeding Kansas (Dillon, ch. 10)

25 Dred Scott, Lecompton (McPherson, ch. 7)

27 Discussion: Rise of Lincoln (Oates, pp. 1-158)

Mar. 4 Lincoln and Douglas (Oates, pp. 161-174); John Brown (McPherson, ch. 8)

6 Election of 1860 (Oates, pp. 174-207)

Spring Vacation

18 Secession and civil war (McPherson, ch. 9; Oates, part 6)

20 SECOND EXAMINATION

25 The rival governments; the border states (McPherson, ch. 10)

27 Resources of North and South (McPherson, chs. 11-12)

Apr. 1 MAP QUIZ; Campaigns of 1861 (McPherson, pp. 206-215; Oates, part 7)

3 Campaigns of 1862 (McPherson, ch. 14, 15, 17; Oates, part 8)

Apr. 8 Campaigns of 1862

10 Campaigns of 1862

15 Emancipation, Civil War diplomacy (McPherson, ch. 16, pp. 215-220, 342-344; Dillon, ch. 11)

17 Campaigns of 1863 (McPherson, ch. 18, 19)

22 Campaigns of 1863

24 Wartime politics and civil liberties (McPherson, chs. 20-22); campaigns of 1864

TERM PAPERS DUE

29 Campaigns of 1864 (McPherson, chs. 23-24; Oates, part 10)

May 1 Campaigns of 1865 (McPherson, ch. 25; Oates, part 11)

FINAL EXAMINATION Wednesday, May 8, 1-3 p.m.