

HISTORY 288

Civil War & Reconstruction

Dickinson College / Spring 2024

Tue / Thu 3pm

Classroom: Denny 112

URL: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-288pinsker>

Matthew Pinsker

Office: 61 N. West St

Hours: Wed, 9am to 12pm

Email: pinskerm@dickinson.edu

“Human-nature will not change. In any future great national trial, compared with the men of this, we shall have as weak, and as strong; as silly and as wise; as bad and good. Let us, therefore, study the incidents of this, as philosophy to learn wisdom from, and none of them as wrongs to be revenged.”

--Abraham Lincoln, November 10, 1864

Books

- Elizabeth R. Varon, *Armies of Deliverance: College Edition* (New York: Oxford, 2021)

Additional Readings

- David W. Blight, “For Something Beyond the Battlefield,” *JAH* 75 (March 1989): 1156-1178. [JSTOR]
- Dickinson & Slavery (House Divided): Sectional Crisis, Freedom’s Legacy [WEB]
- Essential Civil War Curriculum (Virginia Tech): Etcheson // Meyers // Woods [WEB]
- Knowledge for Freedom (KFF) (House Divided): Constitution, Dred Scott, Reconstruction Amendments [WEB]
- Emancipation Digital Classroom (House Divided): Guide to Lincoln Movie [WEB]
- Civil War & Reconstruction (House Divided): Gettysburg tour [WEB]
- Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *American Yawp*, (Stanford University Press, 2023-24 ed.), [WEB]
- Lincoln’s Writings (House Divided): Lincoln and War Powers [WEB]
- NPS UGRR Handbook (House Divided): Bordewich // Foner // Harrold // Johnson // Oakes // Sinha [WEB]
- Matthew Pinsker, “After 1850: Reassessing the Impact of the Fugitive Slave Law,” (Pargas, 2018) [WEB]

Course Policies

Attendance is expected and participation will be evaluated and count toward final grades. Those who miss class for any reason must email a short reflection (about a paragraph or two) on the missed reading assignment within a week of the absence. For further details on course policies, including those regarding electronics, accommodations for disabilities, plagiarism and general learning objectives, please consult the course website: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-288pinsker/course-policies/>

First Essay –Coming of Civil War

On **Monday, Feb. 26**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a coming of Civil War topic provided to them in class on Thursday February 22. All essays must include material from sources featured on the course site properly cited using Chicago-style footnotes. Outside research is allowed but not required. Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Essays will be graded on depth of analysis, use of evidence, and quality of prose. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points each day.

Second Essay –Wartime

On **Monday, April 1**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a topic about wartime politics or military affairs provided to them in class on Thursday, March 29. All essays must include material from Varon's book and from other sources featured at the course site, properly cited using Chicago-style footnotes. Outside research is allowed but not required. Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Essays will be graded on depth of analysis, use of evidence, and quality of prose. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points each day.

Final Web Projects

The highlight of this semester will be a website project that students will undertake to explain the significance of an important political, military, or social reform campaign from the Civil War era. By **Monday, April 29**, students must submit an 8- to 10-page narrative essay on their subject, relying on a range of primary and secondary sources, and employing Chicago-style footnotes. Papers will receive provisional or temporary grades. By **Tuesday, May 14**, students should revise this essay and transform it into website on the free platform Weebly. Each website should include an array of properly credited and captioned images as well as at least one embedded short video (about 1 to 2 minutes). Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Projects will be graded on depth of analysis, research effort, and quality of prose. Late project submissions will be penalized 5 points per day.

Grade Distribution

Class Participation	20 percent
Coming of War Essay	25 percent
Wartime Essay	25 percent
Final web projects	30 percent

Day	Date	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignment
Tuesday	1/23	Methods & Expectations	
Thursday	1/25	Sectional Crisis Overview	Yawp, chap 13
Tuesday	1/30	Constitution & Slavery	KFF: US Constitution
Thursday	2/1	Fugitive Slave Law	Pinsker article
Tuesday	2/6	Underground Railroad	NPS UGRR: Sinha, Oakes, Bordewich
Thursday	2/8	Slave Stampedes	NPS UGRR: Foner, Harrold, Johnson
Tuesday	2/13	Kansas Territory	Etcheson article
Thursday	2/15	Dred (and Harriet) Scott Case	KFF: Dred Scott
Tuesday	2/20	Election of 1860	Meyers article
Thursday	2/22	Secession Crisis	Woods article + Dickinson & Slavery
Monday	2/26	Coming of War essay due	By 5pm
Tuesday	2/27	1861: War Begins	Varon, intro + chap 1
Thursday	2/29	Spring 1862: Shiloh	Varon, chap 2
Tuesday	3/5	Summer 1862: Peninsula	Varon, chap 3
Thursday	3/7	Fall 1862: Antietam	Varon, chap 4
Tuesday	3/12	NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK	
Thursday	3/14	NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK	
Tuesday	3/19	Winter 1862: Fredericksburg	Varon, chap. 5
Thursday	3/21	Spring 1863: Emancipation	Varon, chap 6
Tuesday	3/26	Spring 1863: Homefront	Varon, chap 7
Thursday	3/28	Summer 1863: Turning Points	Varon, chap 8
Thursday	3/28	LECTURE: Harold Holzer	Stern Great Room, 7pm
Monday	4/1	Wartime essay due	By 5pm
Tuesday	4/2	Fall 1863: Wartime reconstruction	Varon, chap 9
Thursday	4/4	Spring 1864: Hard War	Varon, chap 10
Tuesday	4/9	Lincoln and War Powers	Lincoln's Writings
Thursday	4/11	Fall 1864: Turning Points	Varon, chap 11
Saturday	4/13	Field trip to Gettysburg	Depart 10am // Return by 4pm
Tuesday	4/16	Spring 1865: Endgame	Varon, chapter 12
Thursday	4/18	Southern Reconstruction	Varon, conclusion + Yawp, chap. 15
Tuesday	4/23	Second Founding	KFF: Reconstruction Amendments
Thursday	4/25	Frederick Douglass and Lost Cause	Blight article
Monday	4/29	Final project essays due	By 5pm
Tuesday	4/30	North During Reconstruction	Dickinson & Slavery
Thursday	5/2	Lessons & Legacies	
Tuesday	5/14	Final web projects due	By 5pm