Location:  Cavanaugh Hall, Room 215
Time:  Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 to 4:15 p.m.
Instructor:  Richard Gantz
  Office Hours:  Mondays 4:15 to 5:00 p.m. and other times by appointment.
  Cavanaugh Hall, Room 243E (through 243D)
  Telephone:  278-3247
  E-mail:  rgantz@iupui.edu

Course:  This course will examine the United States as the nation wrestled with the issue of slavery and the nature of the union. From 1840 to 1865 the nation was torn between the forces of nationalism and sectionalism. These conflicting forces and arguments over the continued existence of slavery affected many aspects of life in the United States from politics and government to physical expansion of the nation, society, religion, and cultural development. Ultimately political systems broke down, and war seemed the only way to resolve the issues of the day.

This course will seek to incorporate many of the educational goals as outlined in the “IUPUI Principles of Undergraduate Learning.” These principles include basic skills in communication, critical thinking, and analysis to understand society and culture. Just as America did not develop in a vacuum, history is part of a larger stream of human experience that includes art, literature, culture, science, different societies, religion, and technology. Students are encouraged to apply knowledge from other disciplines to the study of historical movements and events. A copy of the “Principles of Undergraduate Learning” is posted on the Department of History’s Home Page at www.iupui.edu/~history.


Follow the reading assignments as listed in the syllabus; the instructor will note any exceptions to the published schedule. Check the Original Oncourse for changes and assignments.
Semester Schedule:

January 8 – Introduction: the United States in 1840.
January 10 – Politics and Reform Movements. Read McPherson, Ch. 1.
January 15 – Martin Luther King Day. No class.
January 17 – Cultural Life of the Nation. Read McPherson, Ch. 2.
January 22 – Oregon, Texas, Mexican War. Read McPherson, Ch. 4.

Graduate book lists are due.

January 24 – Nature of Slavery. Read Rakove, Yetman (all).

First written assignment due.

January 29 – Abolition Movement/Southern Response. Read McPherson, Ch. 3.
January 31 – Compromise of 1850. Read McPherson, Ch. 5.
February 5 – Kansas. Read McPherson, Ch. 6. First graduate book review due.
February 7 – Dred Scott & Harper’s Ferry. Read McPherson, Ch. 7.
February 12 – Election of 1860/Secession. Read McPherson, Ch. 8.
February 14 – Fort Sumter. Read McPherson, Ch. 9. Second written assignment due.
February 19 – The Border States. Read McPherson, Ch. 10.
February 21 – Mobilizing for War. Read McPherson, Chs. 11 & 12.
February 26 – First Battles. Read McPherson, Ch. 13.
February 28 – Midterm Examination.

March 5 – War in the West. Read McPherson, Ch. 14.
March 7 – McClellan’s Efforts. Read McPherson, Ch. 15; Rhodes, 1861 & 1862.
March 12 & 14 – Spring Break. No class.
March 19 – Confederate Counteroffensives. Read McPherson, Ch. 16.

Second graduate book review due.

March 21 – Emancipation. Read McPherson, Ch. 17; Rhodes, 1863.
March 26 – Union Failures. Read McPherson, Ch. 18; Rhodes, 1864.
March 28 – Soldier’s Life. Read Rhodes, 1865. Third written assignment due.
April 2 – Gettysburg & Vicksburg. Read McPherson, Ch. 19.
April 4 – The Home Fronts. Read McPherson, Chs. 20 & 22.
April 9 – Technology of War. Read McPherson, Ch. 21. Third graduate book review due.

April 11 – Diplomacy.
April 16 – Grant’s Strategy. Read McPherson, Ch. 23.
April 18 – Election of 1864. Read McPherson, Ch. 24.
April 23 – Last Campaigns. Fourth written assignment due.
April 25 – Why the North Won.
April 30 – Final Examination.

Grading: The grading scale is as follows:

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<th>Grade</th>
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For Undergraduates: The semester grade will be based on:

- Attendance and class participation 14%
- Four written assignments 32%
- Midterm examination 27%
- Final examination 27%

Written Assignments: You will receive detailed instructions for each written assignment. Unless directed otherwise, students should use complete sentences and an essay format in the written assignments. Back up your statements and conclusions with explanations and examples cited from the readings and materials that you used. Written assignments are due on the days noted in the semester schedule (January 24, February 14, March 28, and April 23). If you are ill on a day that an assignment is due, you may either e-mail the assignment to me or put it in my mail box in the History office (Cavanaugh Hall, Room 504M). Make sure that you keep a copy of your paper. Grades on late papers will be reduced by a grade step (B to B- for example) for each day that it is late. If you e-mail your paper to me, I will always e-mail back to you that I have received and printed out your paper.

Examinations: The examinations will cover the readings in the texts, class lectures, and other materials presented in class in handouts and audio-visual presentations. Students will be expected to know significant facts, causes, and results and connections between different aspects of national development in the 1840-1865 period. It is more important to know the sequence of events, since this relates to cause and effect, rather than simply memorizing dates. Students should also be able to use critical thinking to interpret and compare ideas, episodes, and movements from the different parts of the time period.

Plagiarism: Cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication of research or work will result in a zero for the paper, test, or project involved. This includes use of another student’s work or use of published and/or Internet materials without citations. Students will be expected to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct as adopted by IUPUI.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation in class discussions are important. The entire class will benefit from your ideas, questions, and reactions. In addition to attending class, students must contribute to the class discussions to receive full credit in this category. Students will be docked for each unexcused absence; those who miss half or more of class time will receive a zero for the attendance/participation portion of the semester grade.

Makeup Policy: There will not be makeup examinations. If a student has an excused absence due to illness or a provable emergency on the day of an examination, the other test score will be increased in weight to compensate for the excused work.

Cell Phones: Cell phones and pagers are disruptive to everyone in the class. All cell phones and pagers must be turned off and put away during class.
For Graduates: The semester grade will be based on:

- Attendance and class participation: 11%
- Four written assignments: 28%
- Three book reviews: 21%
- Midterm examination: 20%
- Final examination: 20%

The above policies for attendance, make-ups, written assignments, plagiarism, and cell phones also apply to graduate students.

In addition to the undergraduate requirements, graduate students must complete three book reviews on monographs covering some aspect of the 1840-1865 era. Graduate students must submit a list of 6 proposed monographs by January 22 for approval. Each review should indicate the author, full title of the book, the edition (if other than a first edition), and date of publication. Briefly summarize the content of the book, the major ideas and themes. Evaluate the author’s research; do the cited sources support the subject matter and conclusions? Do you agree with the author’s arguments; why or why not? Do you agree with the author’s conclusions? How useful is this book for research or for understanding U.S. history? Under what circumstances would you recommend the book? The book reviews are due on February 5, March 19, and April 9.