

**CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY  
WINTER EVENING SEMESTER, 2001  
HISTORY 302: AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ERA  
TRIPLER**

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WE '01  
HS 30230

ORGANIZATION: The course consists of 10 classes on Wednesday evenings from January 10 through March 14. Classes begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 9:40 p.m. The format of the course is lecture, but there will be film presentations and class discussions.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Impending Crisis 1848-1861, David M. Potter  
Ordeal By Fire: Vol. II -- The Civil War, James M. McPherson

GRADES: Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance on the mid-term and final examinations and on your research paper. The mid-term and paper will account for 30% each and the final will count for 40%. However, your final exam will be given greater consideration should it demonstrate substantial improvement over your mid-term. Each exam will consist of essay questions that will require you to write a series of paragraphs composed of complete sentences. Please bring paper, preferably 8 1/2" x 11", to the exams. If you would like to have your final returned, and/or you would like to receive your grade for this course from the instructor, please bring a self-addressed stamped envelope during any of the next 9 classes. This is the **ONLY** way to receive your grade from the instructor. Your grade for the course will be written on your final examination paper. No one will pass the course unless both examinations and the research paper are completed.

ATTENDANCE: The policy of the University is that attendance be taken and that instances of two (2) consecutive unexcused/unreported absences be reported to the Dean. The instructor will adhere to that policy. In addition, it is virtually impossible to be successful in this course without attending the classes.

PROCEDURES: Please feel free to ask questions at any time during the classes. The use of tape recorders is strongly discouraged as they will inhibit your academic development.

GENERAL OVERVIEW: This course is a study of the issues of sectionalism and slavery which brought about the Civil War and Reconstruction of the Union from 1815 to 1877.

Jan. 10:	Course Introduction, The Missouri Compromise
Jan. 17:	The Jacksonian Era
Jan. 24:	Slavery
Jan. 31:	Texas, California
Feb. 7:	Mid-term, Popular Sovereignty
Feb. 14:	Dred Scott - The Outbreak of War
Feb. 21:	The War Years
Feb. 28:	Reconstruction
Mar. 7:	Reconstruction
Mar. 14:	Final

RESEARCH PAPER: The purpose of this assignment is to expand your horizons and allow you to pursue an area of particular interest and express your interpretation. You may select any topic within the scope of this course. Your topic **MUST** be relevant to the material covered in this course. Any paper not relevant to this course will receive a failing grade. It is **STRONGLY** preferred that you consult sources with conflicting interpretations. Review the conflicting views and discuss your findings. No paper that does not consult sources with conflicting views of the topic selected will be considered "excellent." The grade for your paper will be determined as follows: 60% on "what" you say and 40% on "how" you say it. The paper should be a minimum of three (3) pages. It should be turned in on or before March 7.

**The following are the criteria which will be employed when evaluating research papers:**

**Thesis:** The paper should present a clear thesis. After the opening paragraph there should be no doubt in the reader's mind of the direction of the paper.

**Historical Content:** This includes accuracy and the awareness of and reference to opposing viewpoints.

**Analysis:** The writer needs to display an understanding of "how" and "why" events occurred rather than merely listing them.

**Sources:** Appropriate sources should be used and cited when necessary. The "Internet" as a sole source is unacceptable at this time.

**Organization:** The ideas and topics should be clearly and logically arranged and effective transitions should be used between paragraphs.

**Grammar and Mechanics:** Sentences should be constructed with due regard for proper grammar. The paper should remove all doubt that it has been carefully proof read. **There is no such thing as a paragraph composed of less than three sentences in a scholarly paper.**