

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY  
HISTORY 176--THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR  
Syllabus: Spring 2005  
M 1800-2045 DMH 163

Instructor: Jeff Hummel

Office: DMH 144

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Email: Since I check email as infrequently as possible, it is obviously NOT a good way to try to contact me.

Office Hours: Monday, 4:00-5:00 P.M.; Wednesday, 4:00-6:00 P.M.; and by appointment.

Course Objective: The Civil War ranks as the bloodiest in all U.S. History. It also brought profound changes to American government and society, and historians debate many of the war's aspects almost as hotly today as the combatants fought then. Through readings, lectures, and discussions, students will explore the war from myriad angles: its causes, especially black chattel slavery; its military, political, diplomatic, economic, and social dimensions; its consequences, including Reconstruction in the South; and the scholarly controversies that surround all of these.

Required Books:

(1) Jeffrey Rogers Hummel, *Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men: A History of the American Civil War*.

(2) Eugene D. Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made*.

(3) Michael Shaara, *The Killer Angels: A Novel*.

(4) David Herbert Donald, ed., *Why the North Won the Civil War*.

(5) Michael Les Benedict, *The Impeachment and Trial of Andrew Johnson*.

Schedule of Reading Assignments and Examinations:

Jan 31

Feb 7 Hummel, preface, prologue, ch. 1; Genovese, Book One.

14 Hummel, ch. 2; Genovese, Book Two.

21 Hummel, ch. 3; Genovese, Part 1 of Book Three.

28 Hummel, ch. 4; Genovese, Part 2 of Book Three.

Mar 7 Hummel, ch. 5; Genovese, Book Four.

14 first examination.

21 Hummel, ch. 6; Shaara, the beginning through The First Day.

Apr 4 Hummel, ch. 7; Shaara, The Second Day through the Afterword.

11 Hummel, chs. 8, 9.

18 Hummel, ch. 10; Donald, pp. 1-57.

25 Hummel, ch. 11; Donald, pp. 58-122.

May 2 second examination.

9 Hummel, ch. 12; Benedict, preface, chs. 1-3.

16 Hummel, ch. 13, epilogue; Benedict, chs. 4-6, epilogue.

23 final examination, 5:15 to 7:30 P.M.

I also will assign and hand out short, supplementary readings.

Grading: The final examination, which will be comprehensive, is worth 40 points out of the total of 100 for the course. Each of the other two examinations is worth 20 points toward the total. In addition, there will be short, objective quizzes on each of the assigned readings worth another 20 points. Each quiz individually is worth 2.5 points, allowing students to drop or miss four out of the twelve quizzes. There will be no makeups for any quizzes. Although I shouldn't have to mention this, cheating on any quiz or exam will result in an automatic F for the entire course.

(over)

Because class participation helps enliven the course, it is greatly appreciated and can earn students up to one extra point toward their final grade. Class attendance is not mandatory and will not *directly* affect a student's grade. My experience, however, is that students who miss several classes, in addition to dropping quizzes, consign themselves to doing *extremely* poorly on their exams. I therefore strongly encourage students to attend fully every class.

Finally, if you experience any difficulty in this course, please do not hesitate to come to me for help. I am available not only during office hours but also by phone, and I am always happy to clarify hard concepts, resolve any lingering confusion, or otherwise assist you in making this course enjoyable and rewarding.

Converting number grades to letter grades:

97-100	A+	83-86	B	70-72	C-
93-96	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
		below 60	F		