

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
WINTER 2008

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HISTORY 610-401

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appointment.

**HISTORY 610 , SECTION 401
GENDER, RACE AND NATION IN CIVIL WAR AMERICA**

Course Description

This graduate level course invites students to engage a series of issues about nationalism, state formation, and citizenship presented forcefully in the United States in the context of civil war. At that crucial moment, a war of unprecedented scope drove a process of state building in the United States, and a policy of state-sponsored slave emancipation which ultimately reconfigured the nation and remade the terms of political membership in it. Less well understood is the process of nation building that was simultaneously underway in the Confederate States, the massive expansion of state power that involved, the racial state and white citizenship Confederates envisioned, and the significance of those developments for region and nation in the post-war period. Finally, neither of these regional literatures has yet to grapple meaningfully with the question of gender and nation: the gendered apparatus of nation-making, the configuring of women within the state and their relation to state authority, or the hard boundaries of male citizenship that emerged in the period of constitutional revision in the postemancipation period. Using the Civil War as a pivotal moment, the course ranges back to the early national period and forward to the late nineteenth century to trace out the nexus of gender, race, and nation in the Civil War era.

Teaching Method

The course follows the format of a weekly seminar. It opens with a selection of primary sources to encourage students to pose their own questions for historical analysis. It proceeds through a set of readings in the secondary literature on nationalism and state formation, race, slavery and emancipation, feminist theory, gender and citizenship, and on race and memory in the postwar period. The course is designed to introduce students to critical issues and literatures in American history and to help those considering dissertation work in the field to identify research questions and topics.

Evaluation Method

Students will be required to write a book review and one 20 page paper on a topic formulated in consultation with Professor McCurry. Papers can be either broadly historiographical or focus on a particular research topic. Students will also be asked to report on one additional book in the course of the semester. Attendance at all meetings is mandatory.

Reading List:

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*
Richard Bense, *Yankee Leviathan*
David Blight, *Race and Reunion*
Nancy Cott, *Public Vows*
Drew Faust, *The Creation of Confederate Nationalism*
Eric Foner, *Reconstruction*
Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet*
Herman Hattaway and Archer Jones, *How the North Won the Civil War*
Linda Kerber, *No Constitutional Right to Be Ladies*
Partha Chatterjee, *The Politics of the Governed in Most of the World*
Amy Stanley, *Bondage and Contract*

All books are available at the Penn Book Center.

Selected primary documents, articles and book chapters will be available for copying.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE**JANUARY 22**

Introductory Meeting

JANUARY 29**ESSAYING THE TERRAIN: THE VIEW FROM THE PRIMARY SOURCES**

Reading:

Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, *Opinion of the Court in Dred Scott*.

Alexander Stephens, "Cornerstone Address," March 1861.

"Preliminary Report . . . Made to the Secretary of War by The American Freedmen's Inquiry Commission," June 30, 1863, 38th Congress, First Session, Senate, Executive Document, No. 53.
Women's National Loyal League, *Proceedings of the Meeting . . . May 14, 1863*.

Edward Bates, "Citizenship," U.S. Attorney General's Office, November 1862, *Official Opinions of the Attorneys General*, Vol. 10 (1866).

Patrick Cleburne to Commanding General . . . January 2, 1864, *War of the Rebellion*, Series 1, Vol. 52, Pt. 2, pp. 586-92.

"Minutes of an Interview Between the Colored Ministers . . . With Maj-Gen Sherman," in Berlin et al, *Free At Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War*, pp. 310-19.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Speech at Lawrence," and "Gerrit Smith on Petitions."

**PART ONE
STATE AND NATION****FEBRUARY 5****NATIONS AND NATIONALISM IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*

Report: Eric Hobsbawm, *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality*

FEBRUARY 12

THINKING ABOUT THE STATE IN THE CIVIL WAR ERA

Richard Bense, *Yankee Leviathan: The Origins of Central State Authority in America, 1859-1877*

Report: Iver Bernstein, *The New York City Draft Riots: Their Significance for American Society and Politics in the Age of the Civil War*

FEBRUARY 19

THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

Drew G. Faust, *The Creation of Confederate Nationalism: Ideology and Identity in the Civil War South.*

Report: Anne Rubin, *A Shattered Nation: The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy, 1861-1868*

FEBRUARY 26

BATTLES, WARS AND CONFEDERATE DEFEAT

Herman Hattaway and Archer Jones, *Why the North Won the Civil War: A Military History of the Civil War*

Report: Gary Gallagher, *The Confederate War: How Popular Will, Nationalism and Military Strategy Could Not Stave Off Defeat*

MARCH 4

THE RE-UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Eric Foner, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution: 1863-1877*

Report: David Montgomery, *Beyond Equality: Labor and the Radical Republicans, 1862-1872*

PART TWO RACE AND NATION

MARCH 11
SPRING BREAK

MARCH 18
THE SLAVES' CIVIL WAR

Ira Berlin et al., *Slaves No More: Three Essays on Emancipation and the Civil War*

Report: Armstead Robinson, *Bitter Fruits of Bondage: The Demise of Slavery and the Collapse of the Confederacy, 1861-1865*

MARCH 25
THE SLAVES' NATION

Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: African American Political Life in the American South from Slavery to the Great Migration*

Report: Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation and Revolution, 1868-1898*

PART THREE
GENDER AND NATION

APRIL 1
CITIZEN WIVES?

Linda Kerber, *No Constitutional Right to Be Ladies: Women and the Obligations of Citizenship*, Introduction and chapters 1, 2, and 5.

Nancy Cott, *Public Vows: A History of Marriage and the Nation*, Introduction and chapters 3 and 4.

Stephanie McCurry, "Citizen Wife," *Signs*, 2005.

Report: Nancy Bercau, *Gendered Freedoms: Race, Rights and the Politics of Household in the Delta, 1861-1875*

APRIL 8
GENDER AND EMANCIPATION

Amy Dru Stanley, *From Bondage to Contract: Wage Labor, Marriage, and the Market in the Age of Slave Emancipation*, Introduction and chapters 1, 4 and 5.

Stephanie McCurry, "War, Gender and Emancipation in the Civil War South"

Elsa Barkely Brown, "Negotiating and Transforming the Public Sphere: African American Political Life in the Transition from Slavery to Freedom."

Hannah Rosen, "The Rhetoric of Miscegenation and the Reconstruction of Race," in Scully and Paton, *Gender and Slave Emancipation in the Atlantic World*, pp. 289-309.

Ellen DuBois, *Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of An Independent Women's Movement in America, 1848-1869*, chapters 2 and 3.

Report: Pamela Scully and Diana Paton, *Gender and Slave Emancipation in the Atlantic World*

PART FOUR CIVIL WAR IN NATIONAL MEMORY

APRIL 15 THE BROTHERS' WAR

David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*

Report: Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*

APRIL 22 THE POLITICS OF THE DISFRANCHISED IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Partha Chatterjee, *The Politics of the Governed in Most of the World*

Report: James Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*

APRIL 29 NO CLASS