HIS 3942
Practicum: Abraham Lincoln

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Department of History

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MWF 1:55-2:45; Flint 011
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Course Summary
The Practicum is a required course for all History majors. It functions as an introduction to the study of History. In brief, that means that you will complete a series of modest assignments that introduce (or reintroduce) you to some of the essential skills of being an historian. The course concludes with an extended discussion of how to organize a major research project, culminating in a final proposal.

The particular Practicum is about Abraham Lincoln. You will be reading Eric Foner Pulitzer Prize winning The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery. You will also read various articles that address aspects of Lincoln’s life and times. And, much of time will be spent examining a wide range of primary sources (newspapers, speeches, cartoons, photographs etc.) that provide the historian with evidence about the Civil War era. Note: Your independent work will not have to be about Lincoln, it will only have to be about this period of history.

Class Meetings and Preparation
This course will combine very occasional traditional lectures with the intensive discussion of a wide range of readings and documents. Attendance is mandatory. More than two absences will result in automatic deductions from your final grade. You are expected to attend all classes with notes on the assigned readings. You will have periodic open note quizzes on the assigned readings.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Canvas Web Site
This class will make limited use of the class web site on Canvas.
I will link this syllabus and the assignments on Canvas.
I will also create links to additional assigned readings.
And, finally, there will be a page with links to useful primary sources.
We will not use Canvas for class discussions or grades.
Readings for Purchase
The following two books should be available in the campus bookstore, and also for purchase on line:

- Eric Foner, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* (Norton, 2010). This is a wonderful biographical study, with a focus on Lincoln's relationship with slavery and race. This is (sort of) the course textbook. We will read and discuss this book throughout the semester, and it will become a key background for your research project.
- Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, 7th* edition (Bedford). This is an excellent guide to all the tools that go into reading and writing in History. You should acquire this book and continue to use it in all of your History courses.

Assignments and Grading
This course will be graded on a 200-point scale.
The 7 numbered assignments will be worth 10 points each:

1. Assess a Piece of evidence 10
2. Assess a Footnote 10
3. Discuss a paragraph 10
4. Newspaper Research Assignment 10
5. Summarize an Argument 10
6. Assess a Web Page 10
7. Research Topic and Plan (question; annotated bibliography) 10

- **Final Project** 50
  - Title and Title Page
  - Question
  - Research Plan
  - Secondary Sources
  - Sample Evidence
  - Outline
  - Introduction

- **Final Quiz on Lincoln** 30
- **Weekly Discussion and Preparation** 50

TOTAL 200

All assignments should be submitted on the assigned dates.
Students must pass all assignments in order to pass the course.

Participation Grades Will Reflect
- Coming to class on time prepared to discuss readings. (i.e. with notes)
- Active engagement in discussions.
- Success on very simple 10 point (unannounced) reading quizzes, which measure preparation.
- After two absences, the final grade number will be for each additional unexcused absence.
- If a student is habitually late, this will result in a reduction off the final grade.
Academic Honesty

In writing papers or short assignments, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and is unacceptable. Please review the University's honesty policy at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm.

In addition to these regulations on plagiarism, please understand that I will take any instance of cheating or intentional dishonesty very seriously. This would include any form of dishonesty on the most minor quiz or offering an untrue excuse for a missed class or late assignment.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Instructor Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

(these are subject to minor tweaking)

1. W Jan 6 Introductions
   F Jan 8 No class: Gallman at a conference

PRIMARY SOURCES
2. M Jan 11 How to read a Primary Source?
   Rampolla, 1-21.
   “How to Read a Primary Source.” Bowdoin Writing Guide.
3. W Jan 13 Reading Primary Sources
4. F Jan 15 Reading Primary Sources

INTRODUCING ABRAHAM LINCOLN
5. M Jan 18 Holiday
6. W Jan 20 Lincoln: Early Origins
   Read: Foner, chapters 1-3.
6. F Jan 22 Using Evidence
   Assignment #1: Assess a Piece of Evidence

CITATIONS
7. M Jan 25 A House Divided
   Read: Foner, chapter 4.
8. W Jan 27 Citations
Read: Rampolla, 106-144.

9. F Jan 29  Assignment #2: Assess a Footnote [from Foner, first 4 chapters]

WRITING ABOUT HISTORY
10. M Feb 1  Writing Papers  
Read: Rampolla, 22-76.
11. W Feb 3  Analyzing Essays  

ELECTION AND WAR
13. M Feb 8  Lincoln Gets Elected  
Read: Foner, chapter 5
14. W Feb 10  Cartoons and Other Ephemera
15. F Feb 12  Cartoons and Other Ephemera

FROM UNION TO EMANCIPATION / NEWSPAPERS
16. M Feb 15  The Road to Emancipation  
Read: Foner, chapter 6-7
17. W Feb 17  Assignment #4: Newspaper Research
18. F Feb 19  Class meets at Harn Museum for 4:00 Lecture  
[Professor Gary Gallagher (UVa) will speak on “Robert E. Lee and the Question of Loyalty.”]

EMANCIPATION AND RACE / PHOTOGRAPHS
19. M Feb 22  Photographs and the Civil War
20. W Feb 24  A New Birth of Freedom  
Read: Foner, chapter 8
21. F Feb 26  Photographs of Black Soldiers

SPRING BREAK

WHO FREED THE SLAVES? / COMPETING ESSAYS
22. M Mar 7  Images of Race
23. W Mar 9  Who Freed the Slaves?  
24. F Mar 11  Who Freed the Slaves?  
Assignment #5: Summarize an Argument

REELECTING LINCOLN
25. M Mar 14  The Blind Memo
26. W Mar 16  The Second Inaugural Address  
Read: Foner, chapter 9
Second Inaugural Address
27. F Mar 18  Guest Lecture: Lincoln and Obama

VICTORY AND BEYOND
28. M Mar 21 Read: Foner, Epilogue


30. F Mar 25 Assignment #6: Assess a Web Page


32. W Mar 30 To be determined

33. F Apr 1 Assignment #7: Identify a Research Topic

34. W Apr 13 Preparing an Outline

35. F Apr 15 Final Quiz on Abraham Lincoln

36. M Apr 18 Finishing Touches

37. W Apr 20 Final Research Proposal Due in Class
Department of History. We work with graduates and researchers who contribute to both the discipline and to the wider community. Set within the magnificent setting of Durham's World Heritage Site. We are passionate about researching, learning and teaching history in its wide variety of forms. We offer opportunities to help you become critically and socially engaged.
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