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 online:

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

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

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

**TOTAL**

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  
   F Jan 8  
   **Introductions**  
   No class: Gallman at a conference

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

5. M Jan 18  
   Holiday

6. W Jan 20  
   **Lincoln: Early Origins**  
   Read: Foner, chapters 1-3.

7. F Jan 22  
   **Using Evidence**  
   Assignment #1: Assess a Piece of Evidence

8. W Jan 27  
   **A House Divided**  
   Read: Foner, chapter 4.

9. W Jan 27  
   **Citations**  
   Read: Foner, chapter 4.
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
    Read: Douglas Wilson, “Abraham Lincoln and ‘That fatal First of January’”
    Civil War History Volume 38, Number 2 (June 1992).
    Alan Guelzo, “Houses Divided: Lincoln, Douglass, and the Political Landscape
    of 1858,” Journal of American History (September 2007).

12. F Feb 5
    Read: Philip S. Paludan, “Lincoln and Negro Slavery: I Haven’t Got Time for
    Assignment #3: Assess a Paragraph

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?
    Read:
    James McPherson, James, “Who Freed the Slaves?” in Drawn With the Sword
    (NY, 1996).
    W. Blight, Union and Emancipation: Essays on Politics and Race in the
    Civil War Era (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1997), 111-112.

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
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<td>28. M Mar 21</td>
<td>Read: Foner, Epilogue</td>
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| 29. W Mar 23 | **Plagiarism**  
Read: Rampolla, 89-92; 98-105.  
Read: University policy at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm) |
| 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** |
|  | Apr 4-8 | **INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS ON YOUR RESEARCH** |
|  | M Apr 11 | No Class: Gallman at Conference |
| 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** |
Your donations directly support the History Department. Meet with one of our faculty by sending them an email to make an appointment for a Zoom or phone conference. Are you having difficulty enrolling in a History Course? Use the Enrollment Authorization System (EASy) to request permission to enroll. Enrollment Authorization System. Events. News. History Department Rises to #30 in new U.S. News Rankings. The Department of History at Harvard University (also known as the Harvard History Department) is a department of history located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States. The school offers bachelor's degrees in history, master's degrees in history, doctorate degrees in history, and a certificate in digital history. The Harvard University Department of History is home to some of the world's leading and most renowned scholars in history. The department focuses on multiple areas within history About Us. Home. Department History. Department History. The Department of State has grown significantly over the years. The first Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, oversaw a small staff of one chief clerk, three other clerks, a translator, and a messenger and only maintained two diplomatic posts, in London and Paris, as well as 10 consular posts. World War I (1914–1918) and World War II (1939–1945) brought vastly increased global responsibilities to the United States as it emerged as a preeminent power.