Bemidji State University

HST 3137: The American Civil War

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

This course will explore the economic, political, and cultural causes of the Civil War. It will address how and why slavery ended during the Civil War, as well as the legacy of race and racism in America. It will analyze the development of national sectionalism beginning in the 1840s, the influence of Manifest Destiny and frontier expansionism, the growth of southern nationalism, southern secession and the establishment of the Confederate States of America, and the military and economic dimensions of the war. Finally, it will analyze whether violent conflict was necessary to resolve the nation's differences.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/06/2021 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. 1862
2. A House Dividing
3. Campaigns of 1864: Battles & Politics
4. Challenge of Reconstruction
5. Confederate Collapse
6. Destructive War
7. Emancipation: The War Redefined
8. First Campaigns in the East, 1861-62
9. First Campaigns in the West, 1861-62
10. Going to War: A Soldier's Life
11. Hard Hand of War: Home Fronts
12. John Brown's Raid
13. Lincoln's Death & David's Dress
14. Romantic Appeal
15. Sectional Compromise
16. Slavery & Anti-Slavery
17. Succession & Ft. Sumter
18. U.S. at Mid-Century
19. War's Legacy

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)
1. recognize and examine the key people, events, and themes of the Civil War era. Students will interpret how and why the Civil War impacted America.

2. refine their critical thinking, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will read several hundred pages of text, analyze and evaluate these readings, and present their interpretations in writing and discussion.

3. develop sound historical arguments. Students will both investigate primary sources and debate historians’ clashing views on history in order to practice the skills that historians use to interpret the past.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies
   None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted