

HIS 3942

Practicum: Abraham Lincoln

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Keene-Flint 203

MWF 1:55-2:45; Flint 011

Office Hours MW 10:30-11:30 and by appointment

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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

- M Jan 18 Holiday
5. 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*

9. F Jan 29 Read: Rampolla, 106-144.
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 the Pain," *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* (Summer, 2006): 1-23.
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).
Ira Berlin, "Who Freed the Slaves? Emancipation and Its Meaning," in David 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

28. M Mar 21 Read: Foner, Epilogue
29. W Mar 23 **Plagiarism**
Read: Rampolla, 89-92; 98-105.
Read: University policy at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm>.
30. F Mar 25 **Assignment #6: Assess a Web Page**

PLANNING A RESEARCH PAPER

31. M Mar 28 Read: Rampolla, 77-97.
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**

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.