

HIS 397
The Civil War in Art and Memory
UC 214
Mondays
6:00 P.M.-8:45 P.M.
Office Hours by Appointment Only
Telephone: (760) 807-3615
E-MAIL: CUTRER@ASU.EDU

The course will deal exclusively with the cultural impact of the American Civil War, 1861-1865. We will study the literature, art, music, sculpture, and film inspired by the War and the way that each successive generation since 1861 has interpreted the event in light of its own times. We will, of course, have a look at the War, itself, but will be more concerned with its mythic impact on American life and the making of the American mind.

Why did my father write? I know he saw
History clutched as a wraith out of blowing mist
Where tongues are loud, and a glut of little souls
Laps at the too much blood and the burning house.

* * * * *

The rest must pass to men who never knew
(But on a written page) the strike of armies,
And never heard the long Confederate cry
Charge through the muzzling smoke or saw the bright
Eyes of the beardless boys go up to death.

28 January: Introductions and expectations

The War: An Overview

The Genesis of the Myth of the Lost Cause

4 February: "Ethnogenesis," Henry Timrod

"First Inaugural Address," Jefferson Davis

"Second Inaugural Address," Jefferson Davis

"The Bonny Blue Flag," Harry McCarty

"Maryland, My Maryland," Ryder Randall

"Riding a Raid," Anonymous

"Jine the Cavalry," Anonymous

"Stonewall Jackson's Way," John Williamson Palmer

"Southern Soldier Boy," Anonymous

"Homespun Dress," attr. to Carrie Bell Sinclair

"John Haralson," from the Selma Sentinel

11 February: "The Last Greeting between Stuart and Jackson," (from Surry of Eagle's Nest),
John Esten Cooke

"General Order No. Nine," Robert E. Lee

"Little Giffin," Francis O. Ticknor

"The Conquered Banner," Abraham J. Ryan

"I'm A Good Old Rebel," James Randolph

"Ode, Sung on the Occasion of Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead, at
Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, S C, 1866," Henry Timrod

18 February: Spring Break; Classes Excused

The War's Generation:

The Northern View

25 February: "First Inaugural Address," Abraham Lincoln

"Second Inaugural Address," Abraham Lincoln

"Richmond is a Hard Road to Travel," Anonymous

"Barbara Fritchie," John Greenleaf Whittier

Selections from *Battle-Pieces*, Herman Melville

“When Lilacs Last Round the Door-yard Bloom’d,” Walt Whitman

“Oh, Captain, My Captain,” Walt Whitman

“The Battle Cry of Freedom,” George F. Root

“Battle Hymn of the Republic,” Julia Ward Howe

“Marching through Georgia,” Henry C. Work

The War as Myth and Symbol

4 March: “The Locomotive Chase in Georgia,” William Pittenger

from *The Unvanquished*, William Faulkner

Buster Keaton’s “The General”

Walt Disney’s “The Great Locomotive Chase” (excerpts)

11 March: D. W. Griffith’s “Birth of a Nation”

18 March: Spring Break. Classes Excused.

25 March: “Ode, Sung on the Occasion of Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead, at Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, S C, 1866,” Henry Timrod

“Marse Chan,” Thomas Nelson Page

“Carraway Plays Courtier” (from *The Deliverance*), Ellen Glasgow

FIRST ESSAY DUE

1 April: from *The Red Badge of Courage*, Stephen Crane

“The Red Badge of Courage” (excerpts from the movie, with Audie Murphy)

“An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge,” Ambrose Bierce

The Twentieth Century

8 April: “Mountain Victory,” William Faulkner

“Lee in the Mountains,” Donald Davidson

“The Last Rider,” Donald Davidson

“Two Studies in Idealism: Short Survey of American, and Human, History,” Robert Penn Warren

“Ode to the Confederate Dead,” Allen Tate

“The Burning,” Eudora Welty

15 April: “A Late Encounter with the Enemy,” Flannery O’Connor

“A Tribute to the General,” Charles East

“Reunion,” John William Corrington

“Gettysburg” (from *Intruder in the Dust*), William Faulkner

from *John Brown’s Body*, Stephen Vincent Benet

22 April: “The Littlest Rebel” (excerpts from the movie, with Shirley Temple)

“Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight,” Vachel Lindsay

“Johnny Reb,” Johnny Horton

“Sail Away,” Randy Newman

29 April: “Fifty-fourth Massachusetts” documentary

“Glory” (excerpts from the movie)

6 May: “For the Union Dead,” Robert Lowell

“Dedication Speech,” William James

“Dedication of the Shaw Memorial,” Booker T. Washington

13 May: *FINAL ESSAY DUE*

The semester’s grade will be based upon two written assignments, formal essays of from seven to ten double-spaced pages (in the Courier New, 12 point font with standard one-inch margins). Students will be presented a list of topics from which to choose or may work out a topic in consultation with the instructor. These essays will be due on 25 March and 13 May.

Thomas W. Cutrer is a professor emeritus of history and American studies at Arizona State University. He is the author of several books on the Civil War and Southern cultural history, including *Parnassus on the Mississippi; The Southern Review and the Baton Rouge Literary Community* (Louisiana State University Press, 1984), *Ben McCulloch and the Frontier Military Tradition* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993), *Longstreet’s Aide: The Civil War Letters of Maj. Thomas Jewett Goree* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995), *Brothers in Gray: The Civil War Letters of the Pierson Family* (Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1997), “*What a Loansome Time I Had*”: *The Civil War Ordeal of an Alabama Family* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2002), “*Our Trust is in the God of Battles: The Civil War Letters of Robert Franklin Bunting, Chaplain, Eighth Texas Cavalry* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2006), and *The Mexican War Diary and Letters of George B. McClellan*

(Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2009); *Empire of Sand: The Struggle for the Southwest, 1862* (State House Press, 2015); “*Theater of a Separate War*”: *The Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017); and *Dorie Miller, Pearl Harbor, and the Genesis of the Civil Rights Movement* (Texas A&M University Press, 2017). Cutrer is also an advisory editor for *Military History of the West* and managing editor of the *Handbook of Texas* and assistant editor of *The Encyclopedia of the Mexican-American War: A Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-Clio, 2013).