



**HIST 498/598: Civil War Battlefields
Fayard 238; Interim 2006**

Dr. H. S. Laver

Fayard 341, 549-5385, hlaver@selu.edu

Readings

Shelby Foote, *The Beleaguered City: The Vicksburg Campaign*, 1995.

James Lee McDonough, *Shiloh: In Hell Before Night*, 1977.

Course Objective: The objective of this course is to provide a comprehensive study of two of the most significant battles of the American Civil War, Shiloh and Vicksburg. We will examine the battles through readings, classroom study, and most important, by walking the battlefields themselves. To make the field experience as meaningful as possible, it is essential that you undertake sufficient study of each battle before we visit the National Parks. Seeing, walking, and experiencing the battlefield terrain will only make sense if you have a good understanding of each engagement. In addition to written work, oral participation is required and expected of all students.

Requirements:

Reading Study Questions	(20%) 200 Points
Take-home Exam	(30%) 300 Points
Deep Delta Civil War Symposium Summaries	(30%) 300 Points
Class participation	<u>(20%) 200 Points</u>
	(100%)1000 Points

Official communication: Beginning in January 2003 Southeastern will exclusively use your Southeastern e-mail account to communicate information about your curriculum, classes, assignments, and other important information. You can access your e-mail account from Webmail on Southeastern's home page. The instructor will not respond to student e-mail from any other e-mail addresses. You should check your e-mail regularly for messages. Announcements applying to the whole class may be posted on the Blackboard website for this class.

Syllabus form: By the end of the second class meeting, all students must sign a form acknowledging that they has received a copy of the syllabus, have read and completely understood the syllabus, and are bound by all of its terms.

Quality of written work: All written work must be neat, well-written, grammatically correct, with proper word usage and spelling, and free of typographical errors. This is a minimum standard for college work. Grades will be lowered for papers not meeting these specifications. Written work not turned in by **5:00PM** on the due date will receive a grade reduction of 10% for each calendar day late, including weekends. Software and hardware problems are NOT acceptable excuses for late papers.

Backing up computer files: If you use a computer word processing program, keep a copy of your work on a backup disk and back up your files regularly. Loss of a computer file will not be accepted as an excuse for not turning in work on time.

Grades: in the 90s are As; 80s, Bs; 70s, Cs; 60s, Ds; below 60, Fs.

Incomplete (I) grades: University policy states that the grade of "I" (incomplete) will be given only for work which is of passing quality at examination time but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control, is not complete. This means, first of all, that students may receive an "I" grade only in the case of sudden dire emergencies, for example, severe and prolonged illness or injury requiring lengthy hospitalization. Students may not receive an "I" grade for prolonged absences over which they do have some control, for example, incarceration or court-ordered rehabilitation for chemical dependency. Secondly, instructors may give a student an "I" grade only if the student has completed all required assignments with due dates prior to the date of the emergency, with a passing grade. In those rare and extraordinary cases in which an "I" grade is given, the instructor and student must complete an "I" Contract form in the department office and obtain the department head's approval. No "I" grades can be given after the end of the

final exam period. Students who receive “I” grades must follow the procedure for removing the “I” described in the current *Southeastern General Catalogue*, or the grade will become an “F”.

Cheating: Written assignments will be checked for plagiarism. It is your responsibility to know what plagiarism is and to avoid it. Anyone caught cheating or turning in plagiarized work will fail the course and will be reported to appropriate university officials.

Attendance: To receive credit for this course, you must attend **ALL CLASS MEETINGS, ALL BATTLEFIELD SESSIONS, AND ALL CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS.**

Military service: The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System has a policy governing students called up for military service during the course of a semester. Southeastern adheres to that policy.

Official class roll: Students who are not listed on the official class roll are not properly registered for the course, will not be allowed to attend class, and will not receive a grade for the course under any circumstances. Students bear the responsibility for ensuring that they are listed on the official class roll.

Use of tape recorders: Students registered in this class may use tape recorders to record the instructor’s lectures for their personal use only. Any unauthorized sale or duplication of such recordings or of transcripts of such recordings is prohibited.

Students with disabilities: If you are a qualified student with a disability seeking accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to self-identify with the Office of Student Life, Room 203, Student Union.

Student behavior/classroom decorum: **Cell phones must be turned off for all class meetings, including while we are on the battlefields.** Free discussion, inquiry, and expression are encouraged in this class. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of students to benefit from the instruction is not acceptable. Examples may include routinely entering class late or departing early; use of beepers, cellular telephones, or other electronic devices; repeatedly talking in class without being recognized; talking while others are speaking; or arguing in a way that is perceived as "crossing the civility line." In the event of a situation where a student legitimately needs to carry a beeper/cellular telephone to class, prior notice and approval of the instructor is required, and students who have such approval must use the device that vibrates instead of ringing.

Students may not bring to class any children, family members, friends, or others not registered for the course except for sign-language interpreters, note-takers, or other helpers allowed by the ADA and approved by the Office of Student Affairs. No animals are allowed in the classroom except for approved seeing-eye dogs. Eating and smoking in class are prohibited. Students may consume non-alcoholic beverages in class but must properly dispose of bottles/cans/cups.

Class Schedule:

Tuesday May 16, 6-8PM	The Coming War
Thursday May 18, 6-8PM	The First Engagements
Tuesday May 30, 6-8PM	The Battle of Shiloh For additional information on the battlefield, visit the Park’s website: www.nps.gov/shil McDonough study questions due.
Thursday June 1, 6-8 PM	The Battle of Vicksburg For additional information on the battlefield, visit the Park’s website: www.nps.gov/vick Foote study questions due.
Friday June 2 – Sunday June 4	Battlefield Experience (June 2: Depart Hammond at 2:45 PM; June 4: Return to Hammond approximately 7:30PM)
Saturday June 10	Deep Delta Civil War Symposium (Student Union Theater, SLU campus)
Friday June 16	Take-home exam and Deep Delta Civil War Symposium summaries due by 5:00pm (You may email these to hlaver@selu.edu)
Wednesday June 21	Book reviews due on Horwitz’s <i>Confederates in the Attic</i> and other selected book (You may email these to hlaver@selu.edu)

Hist 598, Civil War Battlefields, Graduate Reading Assignments, 2006

Graduate students are required to read two additional books and write a three-page book review on each.

The first book is required: Horwitz, Tony. *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War*. New York, 1998.

For the second, select one book from the lists below:

The Battle of Shiloh

Daniel, Larry, *Shiloh: The Battle that Changed the Civil War*, 1997.

Engle, Stephen D., *Struggle for the Heartland: The Campaigns from Fort Henry to Corinth*, 2001.

Fellman, Michael, *Citizen Soldier: A Life of William Tecumseh Sherman*, 1995.

Foote, Shelby, *Shiloh: A Novel*, 1952.

Frank, Joseph Allan, and George A. Reaves, "*Seeing the Elephant*": *Raw Recruits at the Battle of Shiloh*, 2003.

Hirshson, Stanley P., *The White Tecumseh: A Biography of General William T. Sherman*, 1997.

Martin, David G., *The Shiloh Campaign: March – April, 1862*, 1996.

McFeely, William S., *Grant: A Biography*, 1981.

Roland, Charles P., *Albert Sidney Johnston: Soldier of Three Republics*, 1964.

Sword, Wiley, *Shiloh: Bloody April*, 1974.

Wallace, Isabel, *Life and Letters of General W.H.L. Wallace*, 2001.

Williams, T. Harry, *P.G.T. Beauregard: Napoleon in Gray*, 1954.

The Battle of Vicksburg

Arnold, James R., *Grant Wins the War: Decision at Vicksburg*, 1997.

Ballard, Michael B., *Pemberton: A Biography*, 1991.

_____, *Vicksburg: The Campaign That Opened the Mississippi*.

Bearss, Edwin C., *Rebel Victory at Vicksburg*, 1963; reprinted 1989.

Coombe, Jack D., *Thunder Along the Mississippi: The River Battles that Split the Confederacy*, 1996.

Grabau, Warren E., *Ninety-Eight Days: A Geographer's View of the Vicksburg Campaign*, 2000.

Richard, Allan C. Jr., and Mary Richard, *The Defense of Vicksburg: A Louisiana Chronicle*, 2004.

Simpson, Brooks, *Ulysses S. Grant: Triumph over Adversity, 1822-1865*, 2000.

Walker, Peter F., *Vicksburg: A People at War, 1860-1865*, 1960.

Winschel, Terrence J., *Triumph and Defeat: The Vicksburg Campaign*, 1999.

_____, *Vicksburg: Fall of the Confederate Gibraltar*, 1999.

Remember, writing a book *review* is a different exercise from writing a book *report*. The purpose of a book report is simply to retell the story's main events. A book review requires the skill to identify the book's thesis, to succinctly summarize the book's key evidence, AND the ability to analyze and evaluate the author's argument. Your task as a reviewer is threefold: to clearly state the author's topic and thesis (and there is a difference), to provide a synopsis of the author's evidence, and to give your opinion of the author's success or failure in proving the thesis. I will grade the reviews based upon content AND writing skills. The reviews are **due Wednesday, June 21, 2006**. They may be emailed to hlaver@selu.edu.

Worth repeating: Written assignments will be checked for plagiarism. It is your responsibility to know what plagiarism is and to avoid it. Anyone caught cheating or turning in plagiarized work will fail the course and will be reported to appropriate university officials.