College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of History
George Mason University
The Civil War and Borderlands
Summer 2015 Syllabus

Instructors: Dr. Brian Platt and Graduate Lecturer Alan Capps
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Classes meet Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6.00 – 8.00pm, Stone Bridge High School, Ashburn, VA.

Course Objectives:

The aim of this course is two-fold: the first half a focus on the American Civil War from a transnational perspective; the second half a focus on borderlands history.

Examining the Civil War from a transnational perspective and as part of a broader sweep of global history will allow us to bring the war out from its temporal isolation. In doing so, we will examine causes and consequences in a different light, and to view the war as part of the worldwide memory.

While the focus on borderlands is not new, the notion being espoused back in the 1920s, borderlands history and its study has, over the last decade, seen a remarkable surge in scholarship. There has been a new emphasize placed on agency, fluidity and contingency in both transimperial and transnational contexts.

We will link both of these topics to Lynn Hunt’s thesis contained in her 2014 book Writing History in the Global Era.

Readings

Given the compressed nature of this summer class the emphasis is placed on articles with just two assigned books.


The Civil War

Week One
June 23 – Introductions, course overview


June 25 - Chapters 1 and 2 of Gleeson/Lewis

Week Two

June 30 – Chapters 3 & 4 of Gleeson/Lewis

July 1 – Chapters 5 & 6 of Gleeson/Lewis

July 2 – Chapters 7 & 8 of Gleeson/Lewis

Week Three

July 7 – Chapters 9 & 10 of Gleeson/Lewis

July 8 – Chapters 11 & 12 of Gleeson/Lewis

July 9 – Chapter 13 of Gleeson/Lewis. Wrap up of Civil War section and discussion using Lynn Hunt book.

Borderlands

Week Four


July 16 – Michael Baud and Willem Van Schendel “Toward a Comparative History of Borderlands.” *Journal of World History.* 8 (Fall 1997) 211-42.
**Week Five**


**Week Six**


