

HIS 3942

Practicum: Abraham Lincoln

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MWF | Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM)

FLI 0113

Office Hours MW 3:00-5:00 and by appointment
352-227-3368

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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 Edna Greene Medford's short, but dense, book *Lincoln and Emancipation* (2015) as an introduction to Lincoln's life and his approach to race and emancipation. You will also read various articles that address aspects of Lincoln's life and times. Much of our 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 occasional traditional lectures with other classes devoted to 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>.

In fact, the official language of "making up" work usually makes no sense. If circumstances require that you miss class, you will be given additional work.

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 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:

- Edna Greene Medford, *Lincoln and Emancipation* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2015). ISBN: 0-8-93-3363-5. This book must be acquired as a book (not a digital product), and you should bring it to class whenever pages are assigned.
- 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.
- Movie: "Lincoln." This is available on DVD. You may watch it in any format you can find, but you are required to watch the full movie *and take good notes on it*.
- You will also read and assess various scholarly articles linked to this syllabus.

Assignments and Grading

This course will be graded on a 200-point scale.

The 7 numbered assignments will be worth 10 points each:

1. Find and assess a piece of evidence	10
2. Assess a citation	10
3. Assess a paragraph	10
4. Newspaper Research Assignment	10
5. Assess an Essay	10
6. Identify a Research Project	10
7. Assess a Movie	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 meet with me in the first week of the semester.*

Instructor Course Evaluation

Students in this class are participating in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF's CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_ufl.bluera.com_ufl_&d=DwIGaQ&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=1qtWVKU2uNohMAWR5pYYVu0F_ty9jxk4wI-DcSEfmKub76k8eaDIYyGQkZMpCQZ6&m=KCQMaruvDccGkQ95LBWWejChKpHp_d3olzGps63zo0Ao&s=2ry1lk1Sd2MT9xMTXgaRslOLmzE7-Mky8W2E_HUO3wQ&e= . Please note your other classes this semester may be evaluated in the current GatorRater online evaluation system at [\[https://evaluations.ufl.edu<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/\]https://evaluations.ufl.edu<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/>](https://evaluations.ufl.edu) . Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.

CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS (these are subject to minor tweaking)

1. W Aug 21 *Introductions*
2. F Aug 23 *How to read a Primary Source?*
Rampolla, 1-21
“How to Read a Primary Source.”
Bowdoin Writing Guide.

PRIMARY SOURCES

3. M Aug 26 *Reading Primary Sources*
Read: Medford, *Introduction*
4. W Aug 28 *Reading Primary Sources*
5. F Aug 30 *Reading Primary Sources*

INTRODUCING ABRAHAM LINCOLN

- M Sept 2 Labor Day
6. W Sept 4 *Lincoln: Early Origins*
Read: Medford, *Chapter 1*
7. F Sept 6 *Using Evidence*
Assignment #1: Assess a Piece of Evidence

CITATIONS

8. M Sept 9 *Lincoln, Race and Law*
Read: Roger D. Billings, Jr., “Abraham Lincoln and the Duty of Zealous Representation: The Matson Slave Case,” *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal* 14 (Spring-Summer 2015): 179-206.
9. W Sept 11 *A House Divided*
10. F Sept 13 *Citations*
Read: Rampolla, 106-144.

WRITING ABOUT HISTORY

11. M Sept 16 *Writing Papers*
Read: Rampolla, 22-76.
12. W Sept 18 *Analyzing Essays: Lincoln in Love*
Read: Douglas Wilson, “Abraham Lincoln and ‘That fatal First of January’” *Civil War History* Volume 38, Number 2 (June 1992).
Assignment #2: *Assess a Footnote*
13. F Sept 20 *Lincoln and Press Freedoms*
Read: Craig D. Tenney, “To Suppress or Not to Suppress: Abraham Lincoln and the Chicago Times,” *Civil War History* Volume 27 (September 1981).
Assignment #3: Assess a Paragraph

ELECTION AND WAR

14. M Sept 23 *Lincoln Gets Elected: 1860*
Read: Medford, *Chapter 2*
15. W Sept 25 *Cartoons and Other Ephemera*
16. F Sept 27 *Newspaper Research Discussion*
Assignment #4: Newspaper Research

FROM UNION TO EMANCIPATION / NEWSPAPERS

17. M Sept 30 *The Road to Emancipation*
Read: Medford, *Chapter 3*.

- Kate Masur, "The African American Delegation to Abraham Lincoln: A Reappraisal," *Civil War History* 56 (June 2010): 117-144.
18. W Oct 2
F Oct 4 **Assignment #5: Assess An Essay**
Homecoming

EMANCIPATION AND RACE / PHOTOGRAPHS

19. M Oct 7 **Photographs and the Civil War**
20. W Oct 9 **A New Birth of Freedom**
Read: Medford, Chapter 4.
21. F Oct 11 **Photographs of Black Soldiers**

WHO FREED THE SLAVES? / COMPETING ESSAYS

22. M Oct 14 **Images of Race**
Read: Medford, *Chapter 5*.
23. W Oct 16 **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), 111-2.
24. F Oct 18 **Who Freed the Slaves?**

REELECTING LINCOLN

- M Oct 21 No Class
25. W Oct 23 The Blind Memo

26. F Oct 25 **The Second Inaugural Address**
Read: Medford, *Chapter 6*
Second Inaugural Address

VICTORY AND BEYOND

27. M Oct 28 **Plagiarism**
Read: Rampolla, 89-92; 98-105.
Read: University policy at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm>.
28. W Oct 30 **Planning a Research Project**
29. F Nov 1 No class: Gallman out of town

PLANNING A RESEARCH PAPER

30. M Nov 4 Read: Rampolla, 77-97.
31. W Nov 6 **Assignment #6: Identify a Research Topic**
32. F Nov 8 No class: Gallman out of town
Review: Medford, *Chapter 6*

- M Nov 11 **Veteran's Day**
33. W Nov 13 Spielberg's Lincoln
Watch movie: "Lincoln"
34. F Nov 15 **Assignment #7: Assess a Movie**

35. M Nov 18 Meetings with Dr. Gallman
36. W Nov 20 Meetings with Dr. Gallman
37. F Nov 22 Meetings with Dr. Gallman

38. M Nov 25 **Final Quiz on Abraham Lincoln**
Read: Medford, *Epilogue*

39. W	Nov 27	Thanksgiving
40. F	Nov 29	Thanksgiving
41. M	Dec 2	<i>Final Research Proposal Due in Class</i>
42. W	Dec 4	Last Day of Classes