

# NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Title:** The U.S. Civil War

**Course #:** HIS 226

**Course Description:** 3 Credits

The class will be divided into two parts. The first section will encompass the Antebellum period. Topics for discussion will include slavery, the origins and rise of sectional conflict and the birth of the Republican Party. In the second section, we will deal primarily with the war itself and the period known as Reconstruction. Special attention will be paid to important battles/campaigns and their effects on both the soldiers and the country as a whole.

**Pre-requisite:** Prerequisites: ENG\* 101 or ENG\* 101W with a "C" or better OR ENG\* 101 with concurrency or consent of the instructor.

**Goals:**

- to analyze the major social, economic and political movements from the Early National Period through the Reconstruction Era.
- to look at history and historiography from the perspective of different cultural groups with attention to race, gender, ethnic and class issues.
- to foster a better overall understanding of the American Civil War and its relevance to life today.
- to recognize the complexity of American history and its relevance to life today.
- to appreciate the importance of both war and politics in American history

**Outcomes:** At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Analyze primary and secondary historical sources.
- Describe and define the concept of historical agency
- Analyze the development of sectionalism
- Discuss the history and development of slavery in America
- Interpret the reasons for the coming of the Civil War
  - o Identify and discuss the importance of the following
    - Abolitionism
    - Containment vs. expansion of slavery
    - Missouri Compromise
    - Mexican American War
    - Compromise of 1850
    - Kansas Nebraska Act
    - popular sovereignty
    - the Republican Party
    - Dred Scott
    - Abraham Lincoln
- Discuss the war and its effects on the nation
  - o Identify and discuss the importance of the following
    - Fort Sumter
    - Hard Hand of War
    - Eastern Battles, incl. First Bull Run, Peninsular Campaign, 2nd Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Grant's Overland campaign, Petersburg, Appomattox
    - Western Battles, incl. Shiloh, New Orleans, Vicksburg, Atlanta, the March to the Sea

- Analyze the development of the "Hard Hand of War"
- Describe the Reconstruction Period and its long term effects on the nation
  - o Identify and discuss the importance of the following
    - Presidential versus Congressional Reconstruction
    - Radical Republicans
    - Military Reconstruction Act
    - Ku Klux Klan
    - Black Codes
    - the Election of 1876