1. **Title of the module:**

HIST5102/HIST6102 (HI5102/HI6102) Civil War America, 1848-1877

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module:** School ofHistory
2. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7):**

Levels 5 & 6

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents:**

30 credits/15 ECTS credits.

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern):**

Spring Term

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**:

None

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes:**

BA (Hons) History and other related honours and joint honours programmes.

BA (Hons) American Studies and other related honours and joint honours programmes.

Could also be taken as a wild module.

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes:**

**On successfully completing the module, Level 5 students will be able to:**

8.1 Appreciate the main themes of American history across the middle decades of the nineteenth century.

8.2 Critically understand key concepts and developments in the period, including the sectional crisis of the 1850s; the reasons for the secession of southern states from the Union in 1860-61; the wartime development of total war policies by both the Confederacy and the United States; the evolution of emancipation during the war, and the development of Reconstruction policy (1863-77).

8.3 Critically understand the range of causal factors that brought about the Civil War, and the factors that both encouraged and limited the development of post-war Reconstruction, both in high politics and on the ground.

8.4 Appreciate the significance of both continuity and change across the Civil War and post-war periods.

8.5 Critically understand the impact of the Civil War on both the shape and future direction of the United States, including the republic’s politics, its culture, its economy and the structure of American society in the later decades of the nineteenth century.

8.6 Critically understand the broader significance of armed conflicts as not only military events in history, but as opportunities to uncover social, economic, cultural and political change as well.

8.7 Critically understand key historiographical debates and approaches relating to the study of the coming of the Civil War and its outcome, as well as the broader approaches of scholars who set the war and its aftermath against a broader global canvas.

**On successfully completing the level 6 module students will also be able to:**

8.8 Critically engage with the main themes of American history across the middle decades of the nineteenth century.

8.9 Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the key concepts and developments of the period, including the sectional crisis of the 1850s; the reasons for the secession of southern states from the Union in 1860-61; the wartime development of total war policies by both the Confederacy and the United States; the evolution of emancipation during the war, and the development of Reconstruction policy (1863-77).

8.10 Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the range of causal factors that brought about the Civil War, and the factors that both encouraged and limited the development of post-war Reconstruction, both in high politics and on the ground.

8.11 Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of both continuity and change across the Civil War and post-war periods.

8.12 Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the impact of the Civil War on both the shape and future direction of the United States, including the republic’s politics, its culture, its economy and the structure of American society in the later decades of the nineteenth century.

8.13 Critically engage with the broader significance of armed conflicts as not only military events in history, but as opportunities to uncover social, economic, cultural and political change as well.

8.14 Critically engage with key historiographical debates and approaches relating to the study of the coming of the Civil War and its outcome, as well as the broader approaches of scholars who set the war and its aftermath against a broader global canvas.

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes:  
   On successfully completing the module students at Levels 5 and 6 will be able to:**

9.1 Demonstrate their ability to present ideas and arguments in oral and written form;

9.2 Demonstrate their ability to present ideas in written work in both essays and in smaller assignments, as well as critically reflect on their work and the development of their transferrable skills.

9.3 Demonstrate their ability to analyse, synthesise and precis secondary literature;

9.4 Demonstrate their ability to work both independently and as part of a team, through individual preparation for seminars, as well as group work during seminars;

9.5 Demonstrate their ability to produce work for a deadline;

**Level 6 students will also be able to:**

9.6 Demonstrate their ability to present complex ideas and arguments coherently, in oral and written form;

9.7 Demonstrate enhanced skills in presenting ideas in written work in both essays and in smaller assignments, as well as critically reflecting on their work and the development of their transferrable skills.

9.8 Demonstrate their ability to analyse, synthesise and critique complex written material, through primary and secondary source analysis;

9.9 Demonstrate enhanced skills in problem solving, influencing and negotiation.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

Between the founding of the republic and the middle decades of the nineteenth century, the United States came of age. The nation’s population increased tenfold; its territory more than doubled. Driven by the high-minded ideals out of which the country had been founded, and the restless energy that saw a nation of thirteen colonies grow into a territorial republic of immense size, the United States became a symbol of a tumultuous century. In time, however, the republic would become a casualty of its own success. As the 1850s wore on, a battle over slavery and its place in a rapidly changing nation unraveled into sectional conflict, secession, civil war and a decade’s long struggle after the war ended. The result was the largest forced emancipation of slaves in world history, and a conflict of barely calculable carnage. For better and for worse, the Civil War and its aftermath would become the great crucible into which a modern United States was born.

This module surveys the origins, conflicts and outcomes of the Civil War by not only understanding how the war altered the United States but understanding the Civil War and its aftermath in a broader context. Students will examine the causes and consequences of the conflict, by looking backwards to the roots of sectionalism and secession, and forwards into the postwar period, known as Reconstruction. The purpose of this module is to understand how all of these historical forces sowed the seeds of the republic's demise, while at the same time examining what kind of new nation Americans created in the ashes of the old one. Out of the war would come not only a new nation, but a fundamentally different United States. The violent collapse of slavery and the destruction of the plantation system brought profound change and innumerable conflicts, long after the South capitulated and two national armies laid down their weapons. In the wake of the war, Americans would attempt to construct a new republic, born as Abraham Lincoln urged in 1864, out of a ‘new birth of freedom.’ The problems with that birth, and the contradictions that would endure, would mark the country right up to the present-day.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton: A New History of Global Capitalism* (London, 2014).

Eric Foner, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877* (New York, 1988).

Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South From Slavery to the Great Migration* (Cambridge MA, 2003).

James Oakes, *Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865* (New York, 2013).

Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South* (Cambridge MA, 2010).

James McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (New York, 1988).

David M. Potter, *The Impending Crisis, 1848-1861* (New York, 1976).

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours = 30

Total private study hours = 270

Total study hours = 300

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods:

Essay (4,000 words) 45%

Portfolio (2,500 words) 35%

Seminar Presentation 5%

Seminar Participation 15%

13.2 Reassessment methods:

100% coursework (4,000 word essay OR 2,500 word portfolio)

1. ***Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1  8.8 | 8.2  8.9 | 8.3  8.10 | 8.4  8.11 | 8.5  8.12 | 8.6  8.13 | 8.7  8.14 | 9.1  9.6 | 9.2  9.7 | 9.3  9.8 | 9.4  9.9 | 9.5 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |  | **X** |
| Seminars | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Lectures | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Seminar Participation | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |  | **X** | **X** |  |
| Seminar Presentation | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Portfolio | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Essay | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

In both the topic of the module and in the approach adopted throughout, the aim is to encourage students to not only appreciate the importance of the Civil War and its aftermath to U.S. history, but to the broader history of the world in the 19th century. To this end, students are encouraged in Learning Outcomes 8.7 and 8.14 to think broadly and comparatively about the topic, and to draw connections from their existing knowledge of the period. The written work for the module will also encourage those students who are interested, to see the broad international connections between the war and Reconstruction periods, and other historical forces/events in other parts of the world.

**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
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