This course surveys a period of crisis in American political, social, and constitutional history as the North and South continued to battle over the division of political power, the economic, legal, and political status of former slaves, and the proper way to reconstruct the Union that had been broken by secession and war. To better understand the period and the forces which shaped it, we will be examining major events in a time of great political complexity and perplexity as well as focusing on important people and topics. Course objectives are to foster a fuller comprehension of this period, to survey historiographical interpretations, especially recent ones, and to further students' analytical and writing abilities.

Students are expected to keep up with the reading assignments and attend regularly. Because this class is conducted as a seminar, class participation is very important. While students who can answer questions will not be penalized for quietness, excellent participation can raise a borderline grade. In addition to the midterm and final, students will be expected to give an in-class report on a book linked to the readings and answer questions about it. (see below for book suggestions.) This is a way to extend the class’s collective historiographical knowledge. An analytical book review of 6 to 9 double-spaced, typed pages that compares the assigned reading with the chosen book will be due one week after the oral report. (Ph.D. students read three additional books for their written report which is due Dec 1.) A penalty of 1/2 letter grade per day will be assessed on late papers unless arrangements have been made with the instructor. Students who have any questions or difficulties with the class materials should drop by during office hours or schedule an appointment.

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

midterm exam (take home) : 25%    written review :  30%
final exam (take home): 35%    oral presentation: 5%
class participation 5%

Required books (available in campus bookstore)
Eric Foner, Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877
Dan Carter, When the War Was Over: The Failure of Self-Reconstruction in the South, 1865-1867.
Mary Farmer-Kaiser, *Freedwomen and the Freedmen's Bureau: Race, Gender, and Public Policy in the Age of Emancipation*

David O. Stewart, *Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy*

Baggett, James Alex. *The Scalawags: Southern Dissenters in the Civil War and Reconstruction*

William Gillette, *Retreat from Reconstruction, 1869-1879*

LeeAnna Keith, *The Colfax Massacre: The Untold Story of Black Power, White Terror, and the Death of Reconstruction*

Heather Cox Richardson, *The Death of Reconstruction: Race, Labor, and Politics in the Post-Civil War North, 1865-1901*

Jane Turner Censer, *The Reconstruction of White Southern Womanhood, 1865-1895*

Leslie Schwalm, *Emancipation's Diaspora: Race and Reconstruction in the Upper Midwest*

David Quigley, *Second Founding: New York City, Reconstruction, and the Making of American Democracy*

Sept. 1 Orientation to Class. The Civil War and Reconstruction.

6 LAST DAY TO ADD CLASS

8 The Neo-Revisionist View of Reconstruction. Read Foner, chs. 1-5

15 Andrew Johnson and the Failure of Self Reconstruction. Read Carter; and Foner, ch. 6


22 Reconstruction and the Freedmen’s Bureau. Read Farmer-Kaiser

**Possibilities for review:** Paul Cimbala, *Under the Guardianship of the Nation: The Freedmen’s Bureau and the Reconstruction of Georgia, 1865-1870* OR William McFeely, *Yankee Stepfather: General O.O. Howard and the Freedmen* OR Carol Faulkner, *Women’s Radical Reconstruction: The Freedmen’s Aid Movement*

29 Impeachment and Constitutional Change. Read Stewart.

**Possibilities for review:** Hans Trefousse, *The Impeachment of a President* OR William Gillette, *The Right to Vote: Politics and the Passage of the Fifteenth Amendment* OR William E. Nelson, *The Fourteenth Amendment: From Political Principle to Judicial Doctrine*
30 LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS

Oct. 6 The Reconstruction Turns Radical. Read Baggett; and Foner, ch. 7. Possibilities for review: OR Ruth Currie-McDaniel, Carpetbagger of Conscience: A Biography of John Emory Bryant OR Mark Elliott, Color Blind Justice: Albion Tourgee and the Quest for Racial Equality from the Civil War to Plessy v. Ferguson PICK UP TAKE HOME MIDTERM

Oct. 13 NO CLASS. Return or Mail Midterm.

20 Radical Reconstruction. Read Foner, chs. 8-11


24 NO CLASS.
Dec. 1  Reconstruction and African Americans. Read Schwalm. 
**Possibilities for review:** Robert Engs, Freedom’s First Generation: Black Hampton, Virginia, 1861-1890 OR Sharon Holt, Making Freedom Pay: North Carolina Freedpeople Working for Themselves  OR Jeffrey Kerr-Ritchie, Freedpeople in the Tobacco South

8  Another Side to the Reconstruction Era. Read Quigley. 
**Possibilities for review:** David O. Stowell, Streets, Railroads and the Great Strike of 1877  OR Mitchell Snay, Fenians, Freedmen and Southern Whites: Race and Nationality in the Era of Reconstruction OR Andrew Slap, The Doom of Reconstruction: The Liberal Republicans in the Civil War Era  
PICK UP TAKE HOME FINAL.

15  FINAL EXAM DUE