

A New Birth of Freedom: How the Civil War Era Made a New America

Lincoln to Reconstruction

Professor Akhil Reed Amar
Professor Steven Smith
Syllabus and Reading List

NOTE: This is a sample of a short excerpt from a sample program. It is NOT the syllabus for any of this year's programs, and it is not an entire program. It is offered to show the depth, quality, and curation of EverScholar reading lists.

Preliminary:

Background reading:

Allen Guelzo, *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President*

Richard Brookhiser, *Founders' Son: A Life of Abraham Lincoln*

James McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*

Monday: Status quo ante (bellum)

Seminar 1: 18th and 19th century thinking on slavery and abolition. Professor Smith.

Declaration of Independence (provided as .pdf)

Declaration of Independence, draft copy (provided as .pdf)

Benjamin Franklin, "From the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery" (provided as .pdf)

William Lloyd Garrison, "Address to the American Colonization Society," "Declaration of the National Antislavery Convention," "No Compromise with Slavery" (provided as .pdf)

David Walker, "An Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World" (provided as .pdf)

R. W. Emerson, "The Fugitive Slave Law" (provided as .pdf)

H. D. Thoreau, "On Captain John Brown" (provided as .pdf)

Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" July 5, 1852 (provided as .pdf)

Wendell Phillips, *The Constitution: A Pro-Slavery Compact* (1856), pp. 5-65 (provided as .pdf)

Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno*

George Fitzhugh, selections from *Sociology for the South* and *Cannibals All!* (provided as .pdf)

Andrew Delbanco, *The War Before the War* (optional but recommended; book provided)

Seminar 2: Antebellum America: Antislavery Constitutionalism and the Constitutional Biography of Slavery. Professor Amar.

Don E. Fehrenbacher, *The Slaveholding Republic*

William Wiecek, *The Sources of Antislavery Constitutionalism in America, 1760-1848*

Akhil Reed Amar, *America's Constitution: A Biography*. Chapters 2, 4 (on the three-fifths clause in House elections and in the Electoral College), Chapter 9 (on slavery's role in the 1800-01 Jefferson-Burr-Adams election and subsequent 12th Amendment)

Guest Professor: "Defining Freedom: Runaways, Fugitives, and Contraband." Professor Crystal Feimster.

"What If I am a Woman: Black Women's Campaigns for Sexual Justice and Citizenship" from Downs and Masur, *The World the Civil War Made*, pages 249-268 (provided as .pdf)

Feimster, *Truth Be Told: Rape and Mutiny in Civil War Louisiana*. Pre-publication manuscript, Chapters One and Two (provided as .pdf)

Tuesday: The Sectional Crisis.

Seminar 1: Lincoln and the 1850's. Professor Smith.

[Note: "Lincoln Speeches" and "Lincoln Writings" are found in *The Writings of Abraham Lincoln (Rethinking the Western Tradition)* unless otherwise specified]

Speech on the Kansas-Nebraska Act (October, 1854)

Eulogy on Henry Clay (July, 1852)

Speech on the Dred Scott Decision

The House Divided Speech (June, 1858)

Address to the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society (Sept, 1858)

Address to Cooper Union (February, 1860)

Letter to Joshua Speed (August 1855)

Letter to George Robertson (August 1855)

Fragment on Slavery, 1854

On Slavery and Democracy (1858),

Letter to Oliver P. Hall (February, 1860)

Letter to Henry L. Pierce and others (April, 1859)

James McPherson, *The Battle Cry of Freedom*, chaps. 4-6 (note: already assigned as background reading)

David Potter, *The Impending Crisis*, chaps. 11-13 (note: already assigned in Prof. Amar's session below)

Seminar 2: Civil War Causation and Constitutional Structure; Dred Scott. Professor Amar.

David M. Potter, *The Impending Crisis, 1848-1861*

Amar, *America's Constitution: a Biography*, Chapter 7

Scott v. Sandford, 60 U.S. 393 (1857) (provided as .pdf)

Fehrenbacher, *The Dred Scott Case: Its Significance in American Law and Politics*

Guest Professor: "Frederick Douglass and the Second Founding." Professor David W. Blight.

Blight, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*

"Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: A Relationship in Language, Politics, and Memory,"

from Blight, *Beyond the Battlefield: Race, Memory, and the American Civil War*, pp. 76-92

(provided as .pdf)

Wednesday: The Secession Crisis

Seminar 1: Lincoln and Secession. Professor Smith.

Autobiography written for campaign (June, 1860)

Fragment on the Constitution (January, 1861)

First Inaugural Address (March 1861)

Message to Congress in Special Session (July, 1861)

Letters to Beriah Magoffin, John C. Frémont, and Orville Browning (August, September, 1861)

Letter to Alexander Stephens (December, 1860)

Farewell Address at Springfield (February, 1861)

Alexander Stephens, "Cornerstone Address" (provided as .pdf)