Lincoln at 200: From 1809 to 2009

During the year 2009, as the United States and the world are celebrating the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, his legacy is being reaffirmed and reassessed in everything from TV documentaries to new books, newspaper and magazine features, and in the speeches of President Obama. Why does Lincoln remain both a figure of enduring appeal and enduring controversy?

This course will explore both Lincoln’s historical importance and his ever-evolving status as a political and cultural icon. We will not only learn about Lincoln's life and career, we will address controversies about him (such as his attitudes and motives regarding slavery, racism, and emancipation).

Readings will include a short biography, a book about his friendship with Frederick Douglass, and Lincoln's own speeches and writings. Lincoln’s own words will remain our primary source throughout the semester, not only for what he said but how he said it. Lincoln’s skills as a precise and succinct writer will be an ongoing focus; hence, assignments will emphasize the drafting, revising, and polishing of short essays, rather than the memorization of facts.

Grading will be based upon four short essays (worth, respectively, 10, 10, 15, and 20 percent of your semester grade), a longer final paper (25 percent), and participation (20 percent). Logically, in order to participate you have to attend.

Required Books for Purchase:


Michael P. Johnson, editor, Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War: Selected Writings and Speeches (Bedford)

Joshua Wolf Shenk, Lincoln’s Melancholy: How Depression Challenged a President and Fueled His Greatness (Mariner/Houghton Mifflin)


Andrew Ferguson, Land of Lincoln: Adventures in Abe’s America (Grove Press)
Directions for Using Turnitin.com

Setting Up Your User Profile

All Turnitin users have a unique user profile, which consists of an email address, user password, personal user information, and user preferences.

To create a user profile:

2. Click “Create a User Profile” on the homepage and follow onscreen instructions.
3. You will be asked for the Turnitin class ID and Turnitin class enrollment password:

   **Turnitin Class ID:** 2823149
   **Turnitin Enrollment Password:** emancipate

   You will then be asked to create your own password. You will use this password to login from the Turnitin.com homepage. Choose a password you will remember.

To login to Turnitin:

2. At top right, enter your email and unique user password (created in your user profile.)
3. Click login to open your Turnitin homepage.

Submitting a Paper

Open your class portfolio by clicking a course name on your homepage.

1. Click the submit button next to the desired assignment in your class portfolio.
2. Select “file upload” from the submission pulldown menu.
3. Enter a title for your submission and an ID (optional).
4. Click the browse button and locate the paper you want to submit.
5. Click submit. On the following page you will be asked to confirm the text of your submission. If the text checks out, click “yes, submit” to finalize your submission.

**IMPORTANT:** An electronic receipt will be sent to your email address. If you do not get a receipt, assume that your paper was NOT submitted and retry
Week One:

Tue, 25 Aug: Introductory Discussion


Week Two:

Tue, 1 Sept: Guelzo, Lincoln: A Very Short Introduction (pp. 1-8); and Johnson, ed., Selected Writings, pp. 13-22

Thu, 3 Sept: Guelzo, ch. 1; and Selected Writings, pp. 22-23, 30-35

Week Three:

Tue, 8 Sept: Guelzo, chs. 2-3; and Selected Writings, pp. 38-42, 23-29

Thu, 10 Sept: Guelzo, ch. 4; and Selected Writings, pp. 285-286, 43-54

First essay due at 9am on paper and by 11:59pm at http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html

Week Four:

Tue, 15 Sept: Shenk, Lincoln’s Melancholy, introduction and ch. 1

Thu, 17 Sept: Shenk, chs. 2-3

Week Five:

Tue, 22 Sept: Shenk, chs. 4-5; and Selected Writings, p. 36

Thu, 24 Sept: NO CLASS TODAY BUT CONTINUE READING SHENK

Shenk, chs. 6-8

Week Six:

Tue, 29 Sept: Shenk, chs. 9-10

Thu, 1 Oct: Shenk, Epilogue
Week Seven:


*Second essay due at 9am on paper and by 11:59pm at http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html*

Week Eight:

Tue, 13 Oct:  Guelzo, ch. 5; and 
Selected Writings, pp. 54-71

Thu, 15 Oct:  Selected Writings, pp. 72-93, 103

Week Nine:

Tue, 20 Oct:  Oakes, Radical/Republican, Intro and ch. 1; and 
Blackboard: Frederick Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” [excerpts]

Thu, 22 Oct:  Oakes, chs. 2-3; and 
Selected Writings, pp. 107-108, 126-137

Week Ten:

Tue, 27 Oct:  Oakes, chs. 4-5; and Selected Writings, pp. 108-115, 179-185, 190-192, 200-204

Thu, 29 Oct:  NO CLASS TODAY BUT READ ASSIGNMENTS BELOW

Finish reading Oakes, chs. 6-7; and 
Lerone Bennett, Jr., "Was Abe Lincoln a White Supremacist?" Ebony 23 (1968), 37+.

Week Eleven:

Tue, 3 Nov:  Guelzo, ch. 6; and Selected Writings, pp. 204-209, 217-219, 255-259

Thu, 5 Nov:  Blackboard: James M. McPherson, “Who Freed the Slaves?” and Selected Writings, 317-319

*Third essay due at 9am on paper and by 11:59pm at http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html*
Week Twelve:

Tue, 10 Nov: Guelzo, ch. 7; and Selected Writings, pp. 262-263, 295-297, 306

Thu, 12 Nov: Guelzo, Epilogue; and Selected Writings, pp. 320-322, 327-333

Week Thirteen:

Tue, 17 Nov: Ferguson, Land of Lincoln, chs. 1-2

Fourth essay due at 9am on paper and by midnight at http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html

Thu, 19 Nov: Ferguson, chs. 3-5

Week Fourteen:

Tue, 24 Nov: Ferguson, chs. 6-8

Thu, 26 Nov: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Finish Ferguson, chs. 9-10, postscript

Week Fifteen:

Tue, 1 Dec: Blackboard: Scott Sandage, “A Marble House Divided;” and W.E.B. Du Bois, excerpt from The Crisis (1922); and Langston Hughes, "Lincoln Monument" (1927)

Thu, 3 Dec: Final discussion

* * * * * * * * * *

>> THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM for this class, but I have asked The Hub to schedule a final exam day/time. This will set a deadline for your final essay <<
Note: A copy of this sheet MUST be stapled as a cover sheet for both required essays. Check boxes to indicate that your paper meets the following requirements.

Yes    No
☐  ☐ I have read the grading criteria on page 6 of the syllabus, and my paper meets all of them

☐  ☐ My paper answers all parts of the assignment

☐  ☐ My paper develops an analytical argument that is marked in boldface type or with an otherwise useless hi-liter

☐  ☐ My paper does not begin "According to Webster's..."

Yes    No
☐  ☐ I have stated my analytical argument clearly in the first paragraph of my essay

☐  ☐ Each paragraph explicitly advances my argument

☐  ☐ The first sentence of every paragraph is a "topic sentence" that advances my main argument and makes clear the how the paragraph relates to my main argument

☐  ☐ My paper quotes and interprets course readings to help support my argument

Yes    No
☐  ☐ I am not submitting a first draft; I have revised my paper [___] times to improve its organization, argument, and writing style

☐  ☐ I have proofread my paper with my eyeballs, not relying only on computer spell-checking

☐  ☐ My paper has a title that conveys my argument

Yes    No
☐  ☐ This paper is stapled together

☐  ☐ The pages of my essay are numbered

☐  ☐ This paper is printed on one-side only

☐  ☐ I have cited all sources consulted, including materials from libraries, internet, friends, or anywhere else, and I have put quotation marks around any words not my own

Yes    No
☐  ☐ This paper is entirely my own work

☐  ☐ I accept the definitions and penalties explained on page 9 of the course syllabus, and I have carefully read the university statements and policies referenced there.

_____________________________      ____________
Student Signature                  Date signed
Your One and Only Warning:  
Zero Tolerance of Cheating & Plagiarism

Plagiarism means using words, ideas, or arguments from another person or source without acknowledgment. Cite all sources consulted to any extent (including material from the internet), whether or not assigned and whether or not quoted directly. For quotations, four or more words used in sequence must be set off in quotation marks and the source must be identified.

Any form of cheating on assignments will immediately earn you an ‘R’ grade for the entire course. By choosing to remain enrolled in my course, you consent to this policy.

In addition, I will seek the harshest official penalties under CMU’s cheating and plagiarism policies:

http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/theword/academic_standards/integrity.html

and

http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Cheating.html

as well as the university statement on academic integrity:

http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/theword/academic_standards/creative/cheating.html

You are also urged to obtain a copy of CMU’s booklet on Promoting Academic Integrity or read it online at

http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/acad_integrity/acad_int.html

Many students are surprised that CMU's definition of cheating encompasses a wide range of actions that you might not expect to be prohibited. One example is unauthorized collaboration with others students.

If you have never taken time to read these guidelines in the student handbook, it is in your best interest to do so today. Save us both some time and grief, OK?
STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: ________________________  Major(s): _______________________
Email: _________________________ Phone: __________________________
Disabilities or special needs: _______________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Class year: _____________ Hometown: _____________________________
Your hero(es): __________________________________________________
Favorite book(s): _______________________________________________
Anything else I need to know about you? ____________________________
_________________________________________________________________

* * * * * * * *

STUDENT GRADE RECORDS

First Essay:    ____ out of 10 points
Second Essay:   ____ out of 10 points

MID-SEM LETTER GRADE: __________

Third Essay:   ____ out of 15 points
Fourth Essay:   ____ out of 20 points
Final Essay:    ____ out of 25 points
Participation:    ____ out of 20 points

TOTAL:    ____ OUT OF 100 POINTS

Comments on Participation: _______________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Dates Absent: ________________________________________ Total ___

FINAL SEMESTER LETTER GRADE: ____