

War and Freedom in the Mississippi Valley Syllabus

Instructor

Alisea Williams McLeod

Quarter: Summer 2024

Start – end date: June 12 – Aug 7, 2024

Session day/time: Wednesdays, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Course Code and Section: KNOW11031 24U1

Email

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Course Overview**Modality**

Remote learning

Since the start of the observation of Juneteenth as a federal holiday in 2021, Americans have increased their interest in narratives of emancipation. While emancipation in Galveston, Texas has inspired heightened interest, dating and experiences of transition to freedom differed based on where enslaved people resided. For this reason, emancipation is best studied at local and regional levels. This course will focus on war and emancipation in the Mississippi Valley, offering students primary documents as well as novel scholarly research from which to draw conclusions and create alternative narratives. Students will be introduced to archival research via the Internet and to African American genealogy.

Students may opt to visit Chicago’s Newberry Library.

Required texts (Texts in bold must be purchased.)

Blight, David. *Race and Reunion, the Civil War in American Memory*. (0-674-00819-7) (Chapter 9 only). (digital copy will be made available)

Campbell, Tom. *Fighting Slavery in Chicago, Abolitionists, the Law of Slavery, and Lincoln*. (978-098181262-5) (Part III only) (digital copy will be made available)

Downs, Jim. *Sick from Freedom, African-American Illness and Suffering During the Civil War and Reconstruction* (978-0-19-975872-2) (Introduction and Chapters 1-3).

Frankel, Noralee. *Freedom’s Women, Black Women and Families in Civil War Era Mississippi*. (02533334950) (digital copy will be made available)

Garrett-Scott, Shennette. *Banking on Freedom, Black Women in U.S. Finance Before the New Deal*. (978-0-231-18391-8) (Chapter 1 only) (digital copy will be made available)

Harris, William C. *The Day of the Carpetbagger, Republican Reconstruction in Mississippi*. (0-8071-0366-7) (Chapters 1-3) (digital copy will be made available)

Hicken, Victor. *Illinois in the Civil War*, Second Ed. (0-252-06165-9) (digital copy will be made available) (Chapters 1-6)

Manning, Chandra. *Troubled Refuge, Struggling for Freedom in the Civil War* (978-0-307-45637-3) (Introduction and Chapter 2-4).

Smith, John David, Ed. *Black Soldiers in Blue, African American Troops in the Civil War Era*. (0-8078-2741-x) (digital copy will be made available) (Introduction and Chapter 9).

*Books can be purchased online through the [University of Chicago Bookstore](https://bookstore.uchicago.edu/).

Course readings

*Course Pack will be digitized and made available via Canvas

Week	Author	Reading Assignment
Week 1	Campbell Hicken	Part III Chapters 1-3
Week 2	Hicken Blight	Chapters 4-6 Chapter 9
Week 3	From Course Pack Manning	TBA Introduction and Chapters 2-4
Week 4	From Course Pack Downs	Chapters 1-3 TBA
Week 5	Frankel From Course Pack	TBA TBA
Week 6	Smith From Course Pack	Introduction and Chapter 9 TBA
Week 7	Garrett-Scott Harris	Chapter 1 Chapters 1-3
Week 8	From Course Pack	TBA

Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

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The University and its faculty are committed to creating a safer and more inclusive learning environment for all students. At the University, all faculty, staff, graduate student instructors, and teaching assistants are considered “Individuals with Reporting Responsibilities” and are required to let the University’s Title IX Coordinator know about any disclosures they receive from students about experiences of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment). This includes disclosures of experiences that happened before their time at the University. This is to ensure that all students who have experienced sexual misconduct receive support, options, and information about their rights and resources. Students are not obligated to respond to this outreach, and this will not generate a report to law enforcement.

For more information, please see [this handout for students](#) as well as the [University’s Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct](#) and [Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment](#). You can also reach out directly for services and support from the [Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support](#) by emailing titleix@uchicago.edu.

If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zmel@uchicago.edu.