**The Unwritable War: Civil War Tales and Poems of Melville, Whitman, Bierce, Crane, and Faulkner**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>DATES AND TIMES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles and Amy Thomas Elder</td>
<td>COURSE LENGTH: 10 Weeks DATES: January 8 to March 12</td>
<td>Remote Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMAIL: <a href="mailto:elder@uchicago.edu">elder@uchicago.edu</a>, <a href="mailto:amythomas@uchicago.edu">amythomas@uchicago.edu</a></td>
<td>DAY OF THE WEEK: Saturday TIMES: 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC 50090 PREREQUISITES: At least 2 years of the Basic Program</td>
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Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit [https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts](https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts) to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Its interior history will not only never be written, its practicality, minutia of deeds and passions, will never even be suggested . . . I say, will never be written—perhaps must not and should not be. (Whitman, *Memoranda During the War*, p. 7)

It was the war that could not be written, according to Walt Whitman, and yet he and others wrote it—obsessively, profoundly, with deep conviction and inconsolable sorrow. Whatever else it may be, the Civil War was our forging as a nation—in addition to redefining the nature of war.

We begin the memoirs and poetry of Walt Whitman, then move to fiction of Ambrose Bierce, Crane’s *The Red Badge of Courage*, and conclude with the newspaper dispatches of James Henry Gooding of the Massachusetts 54th; in the tutorial, we begin with Whitman’s *Drum-Taps*, proceed through a selection of Melville’s war poems, and conclude with Faulkner’s “too little appreciated but brilliant novel” (Cleanth Brooks), *The Unvanquished*.

We will also look briefly at the highly regarded film adaptations of *Red Badge*—by noted American director, John Huston; “An Occurrence”—by Robert Enrico (made famous by its presentation on *Twilight Zone*), and justly popular film, *Glory*, directed by Edward Zwick—“the heart-stopping story of the first black regiment to fight for the North in the Civil War,” chronicled in Gooding’s dispatches.

*Required texts (continues onto next page):*

Bierce, *Ambrose Bierce's Civil War: Annotated Warbler Classics Edition*  
- 978-1734029246

- 978-0393319545

Faulkner, *The Unvanquished: The Corrected Text* (Vintage)  
- 978-0679736523
WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

- 978-0870237454

Melville, *Selected Poems of Herman Melville* (Penguin Classics)
- 978-0143039037

Whitman, *Memoranda During the War* (Oxford)
- 978-0195307184

Whitman, *Drum Taps* (NYRB Poets)
- 978-1590178621

*To be posted on Canvas:*
- Lowell, Robert, “For the Union Dead”

Students can purchase books at the Gleachter Center Bookstore online at [https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks](https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks) using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.
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<td><strong>DAY</strong></td>
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| WEEK 1                   | Whitman    | Seminar: *Memoranda During the War* (pp. 3-64)  
                              Tutorial: *Drum-Taps* pp. 3-50 |
| Jan. 8                   |            |                         |
| WEEK 2                   | Whitman    | Seminar: *Memoranda During the War* (pp. 64-133)  
                              Tutorial: *Drum-Taps*, pp. 51-100 |
| Jan. 15                  |            |                         |
| Jan. 22                  |            |                         |
| WEEK 4                   | Seminar: Bierce  
                              Tutorial: Crane | Seminar: “War Memories,” (pp. 1-54)  
                              Tutorial: *The Red Badge of Courage: An Episode of the American Civil War*, entire text [for discussion: Parts I-VI (pp. 1-34)] |
| Jan. 29                  |            |                         |
| WEEK 5                   | Seminar: Bierce  
                              Tutorial: Crane | Seminar: “One Of The Missing,” “The Story Of A Conscience,” and “One Kind of Officer” (pp. 86-97, 144-59)  
                              Tutorial: *The Red Badge of Courage* [Parts VII-XVI (pp. 35-73)] |
| Feb. 5                   |            |                         |
| WEEK 6                   | Seminar: Bierce  
                              Tutorial: Crane | Seminar: “A Horseman in the Sky” and “An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge” (pp. 55-71)  
                              Tutorial: *The Red Badge of Courage* [Parts XII-VI (pp. 74-109)] |
| Feb. 12                  |            |                         |
| WEEK 7                   | Seminar: Melville  
                              Tutorial: Faulkner | Seminar: *Battle Pieces* (sel.):  
                              The Portent (7)  
                              Misgivings (8)  
                              The Conflict of Convictions (9-11)  
                              The March Into Virginia (14-15)  
                              Dupont's Round Fight (37-38)  
                              A Utilitarian View of the Monitor's Fight (37-38)  
                              Shiloh (39)  
                              The House-Top (42)  
                              Tutorial: *The Unvanquished* (pp. 3-76) |
| Feb. 19                  |            |                         |
| WEEK 8                   | Seminar: Melville  
                              Tutorial: Faulkner | Seminar: *Battle Pieces* (sel.):  
                              The College Colonel (56-7)  
                              "The Coming Storm" (72)  
                              "Formerly a Slave" (77)  
                              On the Slain Collegians (78-9)  
                              America (80)  
                              Verses Inscriptive and Memorial (83-86)  
                              Lee in the Capitol (112-117)  
                              A Meditation (118-120)  
                              Supplement (121-132)  
                              Tutorial: *The Unvanquished* (pp. 77-154) |
| Feb. 26                  |            |                         |
## WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

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<th>Seminar: Gooding</th>
<th>Tutorial: Faulkner</th>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td>March 5</td>
<td><strong>On the Altar of Freedom:</strong> <em>A Black Soldier's Civil War Letters from the Front</em> (pp. 4-73)</td>
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<td>Tutorial: The Unvanquished (pp. 155-210)</td>
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<td>WEEK 10</td>
<td>March 12</td>
<td><strong>On the Altar of Freedom:</strong> <em>A Black Soldier's Civil War Letters from the Front</em> (pp. 73-132)</td>
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<td>Tutorial: The Unvanquished (pp. 211-254)</td>
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Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

**DISABILITY INFORMATION**

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.