

Gettysburg: Its Context in the American Civil War

Jeffrey C. Hall

Kalman 302 [the oldest science building, flanked by Bassine and Edison-Lecks; connected by an overpass to Friedland and at a right-angle to Bassine]

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alternative for written contact course website: Bulletin Board or Private E-mail (recommended between beginning of course and March 1)

office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30-to-9:30 AM and 5-to-6 PM; or by appointment, any time, any day (Sunday through Saturday): make appointments by phone or e-mail (the latter best)

Evaluation:

1. MID-TERM EXAM

- in class (**March 8 or 12**): open-notes, open-book(s)
- based largely on lectures, but essay readings also come into play (marginally)

2. PAPER

- analytical, research-related, on a highly specific subtopic to be chosen by each student in consultation with instructor; length, ~6-10 (double-spaced) pages; 10 pages **max**.
- 4 stages:
 - conferences with instructor to formulate topic, and develop preliminary list of reading material as well as suggestions for how to seek sources
 - brief outline of paper topic - what will be researched covered? using what (preliminary) bibliographic materials?: due Tues. **Feb. 26**
 - **draft** of the paper (optional) - if submitted, to be turned in by Fri. **Apr. 26**
 - **final version** - due Tues. **May 7** (day of last class)

3. FINAL EXAM

- orals (**May 9-16**)
- based largely on lectures
- ~ 1 hour per student

Principal reading material:

- Shaara, M. (1974) *The Killer Angels* (a novel) - available from Hall
- Hartwig, D.S. (1996) *A Killer Angels Companion* - available from Hall
- Wheeler, R. (1987) *Witness to Gettysburg* [an annotated collection of primary materials, covering the entire Gettysburg campaign] - available from Hall in various forms
- 3 compilations of essays, often provocative ones; several of the individual essays will be assigned in conjunction with the pertinent lecture sub-topics:
 - Gallagher, G.W. (ed.) (1999) *Three Days at Gettysburg* [2/3 of this work - reprinted from 1992, 1993]
 - Gallagher, G.W. (ed.) (1994) *The Third Day at Gettysburg & Beyond*
 - Boritt, G. (ed.) (1997) *The Gettysburg Nobody Knows*
- a textbook on the Gettysburg campaign:
 - Hall, J.C. (2002) *The Stand of the U.S. Army at Gettysburg*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, IN, in press - to be handed out in class, chapter-by-chapter, throughout the semester

Approx. No.

Classes

Topics

Source material (examples only)

0.5	Introduction to Gettysburg: why a course about it? - is this merely an emotionally overcharged component of CivilWar buffery? how we'll deal with the subject - history & historiography; other features of the course, including its requirements, mechanics	Shaara <i>The Killer Angels</i> ; Hartwig <i>A Killer Angels</i>
3	I. Leading up to Gettysburg in the broad sense: overview of the Civil War, 1861-1863	McPherson <i>Battle Cry of Freedom</i> ; Brogan <i>A Fresh Appraisal of the Civil War</i> (1961)
0.5	II. Participants at Gettysburg: Comparison of soldiers in the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia, includ- ing an introduction to the key small- unit commanders, and discussions of cultural and social differences involving the different sources for these armies	Catton <i>Glory Road</i> ; Welcher <i>The Union Army</i> ; Katcher <i>The Army of Robert E. Lee</i> ; McMurry <i>Two Great Rebel Armies</i>
1	III. Leading up to Gettysburg in the immediate sense: The Battles of Chancellorsville and Brandy Station; movements northward - on foot and on horse; introduction to the controversies revolving round the latter	Sears <i>Chancellorsville</i> ; Gallagher (ed) <i>Chancellorsville</i> ; Wittenburg <i>Brandy Station Seminar</i> ; Nye <i>Here Come the Rebels</i> ; Palmer <i>Lee Moves North</i> ; Kegel <i>North with Lee and Jackson</i> ; Nesbitt <i>Saber and Scapegoat</i> ; <i>J.E.B. Stuart and the Gettysburg Controversy</i> ; Longacre <i>The Cavalry at Gettysburg</i>
1	IV. Attack vs. defense: Gettysburg as an exemplary means for discussing these phenomena and issues: military and cultural perspectives	McWhiney & Jamieson <i>Attack and Die</i> ; Griffith <i>Battle Tactics of the Civil War</i> ; Luvaas <i>The Military Legacy of the Civil War</i> ; Hegerman <i>The American Civil War & the Origins of Modern Warfare</i> ; Bilby <i>Civil War Firearms</i>

- 3 V. The First Day at Gettysburg: How elements of the armies collided there; role of Buford and his cavalry; fighting withdrawals and counter-attacks; a key mnemonic: 2/7 of the Union infantry large-units were "defeated," but the Army of the Potomac found a perfect place to make its stand
- Hassler *Crisis at the Crossroads*; Martin, *Gettysburg July 1*; Pfanz *Gettysburg - The First Day*, Shue *Morning at Willoughby Run*; Phipps & Peterson *The Devil's to Pay*;; Herdegen & Beaudot *In the Bloody Railroad Cut at Gettysburg*, Smith *The Story of Lee's Headquarters*
- 1 VI. Commanders of the armies at Gettysburg: Lee vs. Meade - biographies; the roles they played in the war before the summer of '63
- Freeman *Lee* (abridged); Thomas *Robert E. Lee*; Nolan *Lee Considered*; Gallagher (ed) *Lee the Soldier*; Bonekemper *How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War*; Cleaves *Meade of Gettysburg*; Pennypacker *General Meade*
- 2 VII. How do we know what happened at the Battle of Gettysburg (and in the others of this war)? contemporary accounts of participants vs. those written retrospectively
- The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I. Vol. XXVII, Parts I, II, & III*; Brandy, Freeland & Bearss (eds.) *The Gettysburg Papers*; Ladd & Ladd (eds.) *The Bachelder Papers, John Bachelder's History of the Battle of Gettysburg*; Luvaas & Nelson (eds.) *U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Gettysburg* (primary action accounts); Buel & Johnson (eds.) *Battles & Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. III*; McLean & McLean *Gettysburg Sources, Vols. 1, 2, & 3*; Leerberger (ed) *Army of the Potomac, Parts 1 & 2*; Chamberlain, *Through*

*Blood and Fire at
Gettysburg*; Hawkes et al. (eds)
*The Civil War Recollections of
General Ellis Spears*; Gerrish
Army Life; Lafantasia (ed)
Haskel and Oates;
Philadelphia Weekly
Times Annals of War; Frassanito
Gettysburg (photographic analysis);
Haskell *The Battle of Gettysburg*;
Rollins (ed.) *Pickett's
Charge: Eyewitness Accounts*;

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VIII. The Second Day at Gettysburg: extra-ordinary complexity involving the Union left made comprehensible(?); key mnemonic: the wrongheaded maneuver by a "political" General "foiled Lee's hopes;" the Battle for Little Round Top: how did our understanding of it drift into mythology, and how was this problem solved? historiographical lessons of Little Round Top for another war: Hill 107 on the Allied left in the Battle of Crete (fell); the Elsenborn Ridge on the Allied left in the Battle of the Bulge (held); redeployments and counterattacks; fighting withdrawals large and small; the forgotten battle on the Union right & Rebel left: the stand of Greene's Brigade and the 137th New York

Pfanz *Gettysburg: The
Second Day*; *Gettysburg*;
Swanberg *Sickles the Incredible*;
Adelman and Smith *Devil's Den*;

Norton *The Attack & De-
fense of Little Round Top*;
Pullen *The 20th Maine*;
Desjardin *Stand Firm
Ye Boys from Maine*;
Oates *The War Between
the Union and the Confederacy*;
U.S. Army Leadership Manual FM22-100;
Beever *Crete*; MacDonald
A Time for Trumpets;
Bigelow *The Peach Orchard [at] Gettys-
burg*; Moe *The Last Full Measure*;
Pfanz *Gettysburg: Culp's Hill &
Cemetery Hill*; Murray *A Perfect
Storm of Lead*; Archur
The Hour Was One of Horror

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IX. Large-unit (Corps) commanders at Gettysburg: James Longstreet and Winfield Scott Hancock

Piston *Lee's Tarnished
Lieutenant*; Wert *Longstreet*;
Nofi *James Longstreet*;
Tucker *Lee and Longstreet at
Gettysburg*; Tucker *Hancock the
Superb*; Jordan *Winfield Scott
Hancock*; Gambone *Hancock at
Gettysburg*

4	<p>X. The Third Day at Gettysburg: hours of further fighting at the top of the field; preludes: planning and bombardment "the 8 brigades that advanced and the 26 regiments that stood"; "high water mark" - double envelopment - repulse; key mnemonic: the stand of the 8th Ohio and how the destruction of Pickett's Charge seemed to flow from it</p>	<p>Pfanz <i>Gettysburg: Culp's Hill & Cemetery Hill</i>; Stewart <i>Pickett's Charge</i>; Wert <i>Gettysburg - The Third Day</i>; Hess <i>Pickett's Charge</i>; Priest <i>Into the Fight</i>; Harrison and Busey <i>Nothing But Glory</i>; Christ <i>The Struggle for the Bliss Farm</i>; Shultz <i>Double Canister at Ten Yards</i>; Brown <i>Cushing of Gettysburg</i>; Sawyer <i>The 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry</i>;</p>
2	<p>XI. The (forgotten) cavalry battles of July 3 & after; the retreat to and the escape across the Potomac</p>	<p>Wittenberg <i>Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions</i>; Schildt <i>Roads from Gettysburg</i></p>
[1	<p>Field trip (optional): tour of the battlefield at Gettysburg; visit to the Park Service's archives</p>	<p>Luvaas & Nelson (eds.) <i>U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Gettysburg</i>]</p>
1	<p>XIII. The meaning of Gettysburg in the narrow sense: the mid '60s to the end of the century; the Confederate high tide? the turning point? impacts on Southern views of and writings about the war; this battle as the war in microcosm: could the South have succeeded at Gettysburg? - as way to discuss whether they could have won the war; why did they fight at Gettysburg?--as a way to discuss this question in terms of the entire war; broad aspects of Gettysburg historiography</p>	<p>Dowdey <i>The Death of a Nation</i>;</p> <p>Reardon <i>Pickett's Charge in History and Memory</i></p> <p>Robertson <i>Soldiers Blue & Gray</i>; Mitchell <i>Civil War Soldiers</i>; McPherson <i>What They Fought For, For Cause and Comrades</i>; Sauers <i>A Caspian Sea of Ink</i>; Sauers (ed.) <i>The Gettysburg Campaign: Bibliography</i></p>
1	<p>XIV. Meaning of Gettysburg in the broader sense: why is the event within the War and in American history "etched deep in the national memory"? symptoms of this phenomenon</p>	<p>Gramm <i>Gettysburg: A Meditation on War and Values</i>; Kinsel <i>From these Honored Dead: Gettysburg in American Culture, 1863-1938</i>; Wills <i>Lincoln at Gettysburg</i>; Linenthal <i>Sacred Ground: Americans and their Battlefields</i>; Cohen <i>Hands Across the Wall</i></p>

LaFantasie *Feeling the
Past at Gettysburg,*
Harrison *Momuments,*
Markers & Tablets