The Civil War is undoubtedly the most controversial and, even today, the most hotly debated event in the history of the United States. It has an enduring cultural legacy, creating a significant link between events of the past and contemporary culture. The Civil War has induced hundreds of historians – professional and amateur – to study all possible aspects of the war, but it has also left its imprint on literature, cinema, music, visual arts, electronic media, and various forms of popular culture. This seminar course for M.A. students intends to provide an insight into the various cultural manifestations of the Civil War and explore the many ways in which Americans remember their civil war.

COURSE GOALS

The course will help students develop a range of skills:

- the capability to deliver discipline-specific oral presentations to their peers
- the ability to utilize technological resources in research,
- data analysis and presentation
- the ability to read critically historical as well as contemporary sources.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student is required to choose a research topic relatively early into the semester: the topic-choice is due by 12.00 on February 22. Please, when in doubt, come and see me in my office hour or contact me via e-mail: I will be more than happy to discuss your topic with you. Everyone is to create a research blog called My Civil War Memory Blog using one of the many free blog-hosting sites and write a blogpost once a week analyzing digital resources, videos, images, articles, blogs or any document of their choice that is relevant to their particular research paper. This will help you make steady progress in your individual project, at the same time, it will also create the group’s “treasure chest” of resources related to the memory of the Civil War. The blog posts are always due by 16.00 THE DAY PRIOR TO CLASSES. The “end-
Dr. István Kornél Vida’s The American Civil War in Historical Memory class

product” of the semester’s work will be a research paper summarizing your most important findings: it should be ten pages long, properly footnoted and referenced. (Please consult the 14th edition of The Chicago Manual of Style). The papers must be typed (hand-written submissions will not be accepted), double-spaced, in an ordinary font (e.g., Times New Roman 12). It is important that your peers can also learn about your findings, therefore, each student is required to deliver a presentation summarizing the work they have done throughout the semester. You are also required to prepare a PowerPoint presentation. Bear in mind: you CANNOT read out the presentation, as you are the expert, you have to be familiar with your own research topic! A written End-Term Test closes the semester.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

A paper without proper documentation is unacceptable. Failure to acknowledge the use of another writer’s words or ideas constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is both unethical and illegal. Previous problems concerning plagiarism have resulted in a strict code of academic honesty to which all students will be held accountable. Please, consult the Institute webpage Some Observations on Student Conduct. (http://ieas.unideb.hu/index.php?p=910&l=en) Plagiarism will result in a FAILURE of the course, with no chance for making up the assignment dishonestly performed for the first time.

GRADING:

Your grade will be based on your performance in a variety of assignments. Your End Term In-Class Examination will count 25% of your final grade. The presentation will earn you 15%. The Research Blog and the Research Paper will each count 25-25% towards your grade. In this seminar course special emphasis is to be laid on your actual participation in class discussions will also earn you 10%. As it is a MUST that you come to class PREPARED you can be asked to complete a written bellwork test at ANY seminar without it having been announced beforehand. Failing to complete these will result in a reduction of your grade.

FURTHER RULES

- You MAY NOT miss more than three classes. Please, keep in mind that you should spare the three absences for CASES OF EMERGENCY. More than three absences will not be tolerated, NOT EVEN with written documentation from your doctor. Participation in a seminar is crucial, please, also bear this in mind. If you must miss a class, you are REQUIRED to contact the instructor inquiring how to make the necessary arrangements to complete any work missed. Missing a class is NOT an acceptable excuse for turning in assignments late or coming to class unprepared.
- Should you have any questions, concerns, please, do not hesitate to contact me.

And most importantly: don’t forget that our primary goal is to have fun!
UNIT TOPICS, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1 (February 14) - Orientation

WEEK 2 (February 21) - History and Memory


WEEK 3 (February 28) - The Civil War

Faust, Drew Gilpin. "'We Should Grow Too Fond of It': Why We Love the Civil War," *Civil War History, Volume 50, Number 4, December 2004,* pp. 368-383.


WEEK 4 (March 7) - The Historical Memory of the Civil War


WEEK 5 (March 14) - Race and the American Civil War


WEEK 6 (March 21) - Confederate Revivalism


WEEK 7 (March 28) - Movie Session

WEEK 8 (April 4) - Consultation week

WEEK 9 (April 11) - Abraham Lincoln in American Memory
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**WEEK 10 (April 18) - The Civil War Soldier in American Memory**


**WEEK 11 (April 25) - Rewriting the Civil War Along Racial and Gender Lines**


**WEEK 12 (May 2) – The Civil War on the Movie Screen**


**WEEK 13 (May 9) - The Civil War Battlefield; Presentations I.**


**WEEK 14 (May 16) – Presentations II.**

**WEEK 15 (May 23) – End-term Exam**