This course begins with the premise that ideas about race and categories of race are not timeless or unchanging. Rather, such ideas have a history, and continue to change over time and across geography. Alongside the fabricated nature of race, we will study the powerful social, cultural, and political effects that race has exerted in United States history from the colonial era to the present.

**Reading:** The reading packet is available at Die UniKate, Hinter der Kirche 2. Students are not required to read footnotes, but may wish to skim them.

**Presentations:** Students should summarize, contextualize, assess, and reflect upon the additional reading, speaking for 15 – 20 minutes.

**14 April. Introduction**

**21 April. Race as a Social Construction**

**Reading:**


**Presentation topic:** Science and race


**28 April. The History of Racism**

**Reading:**

**Presentation topic:** Explaining racism

5 May. Natives and Newcomers

Reading:
Karen Ordahl Kupperman, “Reading Indian Bodies,” in *Indians and English: Facing Off in Early America* (2000), pp. 41-76; please read the captions under the many illustrations.


Presentation topic: Visions of race in Europe

12 May. African and African American Slavery

Reading:


Presentation topic: Slavery in global perspectives

19 May. The Problem of Whiteness

Reading:


Presentation topic: International discussions of race

26 May. No class meeting.
2 June. Law and Racial Classification
Reading:


Presentation topic: Citizenship and race

9 June. National Identity and Racial Classification
Reading:

Presentation topic: Eugenics and gender

16 June. Crossing Borders
Reading:


Presentation topic: European influences on American racial thought

23 June. Sexuality and Racial Classification
Reading:


[week 11 continued on next page]
Presentation topic: Sex and race in the courts


30 June. Defying Classification

Reading:


Presentation topic: The problem of segregation


7 July. Recent Inquiries

Reading:


Presentation topic: Hurricane Katrina and questions of race


14 July. Thinking Back and Looking Ahead

Reading:
Kenneth Prewitt, “Racial Classification in America: Where Do We Go From Here?,” Daedalus 134 (Winter 2005), pp. 5-17.


No presentations this week.
This course investigates the era of the Civil War and Reconstruction from the perspective of social and cultural history, with attention as well to politics and economics. We will study the central conflict between the Union and the Confederacy over slavery, alongside class conflicts in the North; conflicts between masters and slaves in the South; and conflicts among African Americans, white Northerners, and white Southerners after the war.

Note well: This is not a course in military history.

Readings: The reading packet is available at Die UniKate, Hinter der Kirche 2. Students are not required to read footnotes, but may wish to skim them.

20 April. Significance and Context of the American Civil War

27 April. African American Slavery
Reading:
Solomon Northup, Twelve Years a Slave (1853), pp. 145-58.


4 May. Ideologies: Anti-Slavery, Free-Labor, Pro-Slavery
Reading:


11 May. Politics in the 1850s and the Meaning of the West
Reading:

18 May. Southern Secession, Northern Response
Reading:

During this class, students will receive a hand-out lecture, “Fighting the War.”
25 May. Fighting the War
No class meeting.
Reading:
Hand-out lecture, “Fighting the War.”

James M. McPherson, “This War is a Crusade” and “The Cause of Liberty,” in *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War* (1997), pp. 3-13, 104-16.

1 June. University holiday

8 June. African American Soldiers and Emancipation
Reading:

15 June. The Home Front
Reading:

22 June. Union Victory and Confederate Defeat

29 June. Suffrage, Land, Labor, and Violence
Reading:

6 July. Counter-Revolution and the Color Line
Reading:

13 July. Legacies and Memories of the Civil War
Reading: