

## Abraham Lincoln as Statesman

Professor Flagg Taylor  
GO 251D, Spring 2017  
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### Course Description:

This course will explore Lincoln's confrontation with the problem of slavery and the American regime. It will consist primarily of a close analysis of Lincoln's speeches and writings. Lincoln's speeches and deeds have been said by some scholars to constitute a completion of the American founding or a second American revolution. We will explore the origins and nature of Lincoln's impact, trying to understand Lincoln's project from the perspective of Lincoln himself. Lincoln reflected deeply on America's founding ideals as expressed in its public documents, as well as particular historical realities confronting the nation in the 1800s. Our course of study will therefore attempt to mimic these reflections.

### Required Texts:

*The Language of Liberty: The Political Speeches and Writings of Abraham Lincoln*, Revised Bicentennial Edition (Gateway Heritage)  
by Joseph Fornieri (Editor)  
ISBN-13: 978-1596980846

*Crisis of the House Divided: An Interpretation of the Issues in the Lincoln-Douglas Debates*, 50th Anniversary Edition Enlarged Edition (University of Chicago)  
by Harry V. Jaffa  
ISBN-13: 978-0226391182

*Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power* (Vintage)  
by Richard Carwardine  
ISBN-13: 978-1400096022

Packet of Readings

### Course Requirements:

1 5-6 pg essay 25%  
1 8-10 pg essay 30%  
Short papers/presentations 15%  
Final exam 30%

Introduction to course (1/25)

What is Statesmanship? (1/27)

- Isaiah Berlin, "Political Judgement"
- Carnes Lord, "Leadership and Statecraft"

## I. Prelude to Crisis

- A. Slavery and the Founding (2/1)
1. "Slavery and the Moral Foundations of the American Republic," Herbert Storing (reserve)
  2. "Slavery and the Constitutional Convention: Making a Covenant with Death," Paul Finkelman (reserve)
  3. Fehrenbacher, "Slavery in the Federal Territories," pp. 253-256 (reserve)

### NO CLASS on 2/3

- B. Slavery and Expansion, part 1 (2/8)
1. Fehrenbacher, "Slavery in the Federal Territories," pp. 256-266
  2. MO Comp speeches from the House of Representatives and Senate  
Go To: <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llac&fileName=033/llac033.db&recNum=142>  
Go To: pp. 1169-1191
- C. Slavery and Expansion, part 2 (2/10)
1. Fehrenbacher, "Slavery in the Federal Territories," pp. 266-276

## II. Lincoln and the Crisis of the House Divided

- A. *The Political Philosophy of a Young Whig*, 1838-1852
1. Carwardine, ch. 1, pp. 3-26  
Resolutions on Slavery in IL Assembly, March 3, 1837 (2/15)  
*Lincoln's Virtues*, William Lee Miller, pp. 116-129
  2. Lyceum Address, January 27, 1838 (2/17)  
Wendell Phillips, "The Murder of Lovejoy" (packet)  
Martin Van Buren, Inaugural Address, March 4, 1837  
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1165>
  3. Carwardine, ch. 1, pp. 26-44  
Temperance Address, February 22, 1842 (2/22)  
Letter to Joshua Speed, January 3, 1842  
Letter to Speed, July 4, 1842
- B. *The Breakdown of Compromise*, 1854-58
1. Carwardine, ch. 2, pp. 45-70 (2/24)  
Fragments: On Slavery, [July 1, 1854]  
Peoria Speech, October 16, 1854 (on the repeal of the MO Compromise)  
To George Robertson, August 15, 1855  
To Joshua Speed, August 24, 1855
  2. Carwardine, ch. 2, pp. 70-79 (3/1)

Fehrenbacher, "Slavery in the Federal Territories," pp. 276-285 (reserve)  
 The Dred Scott decision, June 26, 1857  
 A House Divided, June 16, 1858

- C. *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates*, 1858,
1. Carwardine, ch. 2, pp. 79-90 (3/3)  
 Jaffa, *Crisis*, chs. 1-2  
 Fehrenbacher, "Slavery in the Federal Territories," pp. 286-294 (reserve)
  2. Ottawa, August 21, 1858 (3/8)
  3. Freeport, August 27 (3/10)

**SPRING BREAK    SPRING BREAK    SPRING BREAK**

4. Jonesboro, September 15 (3/22)  
 Galesburg, October 7 (in part: S.D. 442-446; A.L. 451-455, 458-462)  
 Quincy, October 13 (in part: A.L. 478-481; S.D. 489-493; A.L. 499-502)
- D. *Principles Defended*, 1858-60
1. Carwardine, ch. 3, pp. 91-97  
 Speech at Cincinnati, OH, September 17, 1859 (3/24)  
 Fragment on Free Labor, September 17, 1859  
 Address to the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, September 30, 1859  
 (packet)
  2. Carwardine, ch. 3, pp. 97-134 (3/29)  
 To Lyman Trumbull, December 11, 1858 (packet)  
 To H.L. Pierce & Others, April 6, 1859  
 To Salmon P. Chase, June 9, 1859 (packet)  
 To Salmon P. Chase, June 20, 1859 (packet)  
 To Nathan Sargent, June 23, 1859 (packet)  
 Address at Cooper Institute, February 27, 1860

**III. Lincoln and the Civil War**

- A. *Preserving the Union*, 1860-62
1. Carwardine, ch. 4, pp. 135-149 (3/31)  
 Letters, etc. written between Nov. 16, 1860 and Feb. 4, 1861 (packet)  
 Farewell Address at Springfield, February 11, 1861 (packet)  
 Address in Independence Hall, February 22, 1861
  2. Carwardine, ch. 4, pp. 149-155 (4/5)  
 James Buchanan, Annual Message to Congress, December 3, 1860  
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=29501#axzz1jv4uxyHj>  
 First Inaugural, March 4, 1861  
 Alexander H. Stephens, "Cornerstone" Address, March 21, 1861  
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=76>
- B. *Toward Emancipation*, 1861-63

1. Carwardine, ch. 4, pp. 155-176 (4/7)  
Message to Congress in Special Session, July 4, 1861
  2. Carwardine, ch. 4, pp. 177-190 (4/12)  
Letter to O.H. Browning, September 22, 1861  
Annual Message to Congress, December 3, 1861
  3. Carwardine, ch. 5, pp. 191-210 (4/14)  
Proclamation Revoking General Hunter's Order of Emancipation, May 19, 1862  
Appeal to Border State Representatives, July 12, 1862  
Address on Colonization to a Committee..., August 14, 1862 (packet)  
To Horace Greeley, August 22, 1862
  4. Carwardine, ch. 5, pp. 211-228 (4/19)  
Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, September 22, 1862  
Final Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863  
To John McClelland, January 8, 1863 (packet)
- C. *A New Birth of Freedom*, 1863
1. Carwardine, ch. 6, pp. 249-260 (4/21)  
To Erastus Corning & Others, June 12, 1863  
To General N. P. Banks, August 5, 1863  
To James C. Conkling, August 26, 1863  
Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863
- D. *Toward Reconstruction*, 1863-64
1. Carwardine, ch. 5, pp. 229-244 (4/26)  
Proclamation of Amnesty & Reconstruction, December 8, 1863
  2. To Albert G. Hodges, April 4, 1864 (4/26)  
Sanitary Fair Address at Baltimore, April 18, 1864  
To Henry W. Hoffman, October 10, 1864  
Fragment: The Constitution and the Union, [1860?]
- E. *With Malice Toward None*, 1864-65
1. Carwardine, ch. 5, pp. 244-248 (4/28)  
Annual Message to Congress, December 6, 1864  
Second Inaugural, March 4, 1865
  2. Meditation on the Divine Will, September, 1862 (4/28)  
Last Public Address, April 11, 1865  
To Mrs. Bixby, November 21, 1864

**FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 8, 1:30-4:30**

*Essays:*

These are formal essays where you are expected to have an identifiable thesis with arguments to support it. They should demonstrate a command of the text at hand, and a thoughtfulness about the claims made therein. I will hand out topics approximately 2-3 weeks before the essays are due.

*Final Exam:*

This will be a comprehensive, essay exam taken during the exam period.

*General Expectations:*

You are expected to read the assignments carefully and reflectively, remaining open to the possibility that what you are reading is right. Your first duty as an attentive reader is to understand what is being said. This means grasping the argument of the author—identifying central claims and seeing how these claims are supported. When you encounter something you strongly disagree with, make sure you first understand the argument. You are expected to give reasons for your opinions.

You will be attentive in class and always display the demeanor of one who is interested in the material and respectful of others. You will take your share of responsibility for the quality of class time, coming prepared to discuss the assignments thoughtfully.

**No laptops are permitted in class unless you have a medical problem that prevents you from taking notes by hand. Cell-phone use is also strictly prohibited.**

*Attendance:*

After two absences, each subsequent absence will bring your final grade down by four points.

*Academic Honor:*

**I take violations of the honor code very seriously. At minimum, plagiarism will merit a “0” for that assignment, with failure for the course likely. In cases that I deem particularly egregious, I will seek to have you suspended or expelled from Skidmore College.**

