

Department of History
Battelle-Tompkins 137
College of Arts and Sciences
American University
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016-8038

Civil War Institute

“With malice toward none,
with charity for all . . .”

—Abraham Lincoln

Civil War Institute

Department of History
American Studies Program
College of Arts and Sciences



www.american.edu/cwi

 COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES
American University
Washington, D.C.

The Civil War Institute

The Civil War is the single most significant event in all of U.S. history, and Americans continue to struggle to come to terms with its relationship to American politics, nationhood, and race relations. Well over 65,000 books have been written on the subject and new ones appear every year. There are Civil War societies throughout the world. Battlefield reenactments draw participants from many countries as far away as Germany and Japan. The venerable statesman Sir Winston Churchill wrote, “The American Civil War has given me my only two heroes: Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee.” From 1861 through 1865, the Potomac River divided the United States into two nations at war, making Virginia and the Washington, D.C., area the center of the storm that ravaged and remade the nation.

The Civil War Institute is a weeklong special summer program designed to introduce participants to the key causes and consequences of the Civil War by exploring the remnants and remembrances of the era that remain in the nation’s capital. The institute combines morning lectures with afternoon thematic study tours to important historical sites in the D.C. area, providing students with a sense of history as it was lived. Institute co-directors Alan Kraut, professor of history, and Ed Smith, professor of anthropology and director of the American Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences of American University, will lecture, lead discussions, and guide the thematic tours of local sites.



Program of Activities

Lectures begin each morning on the campus of American University at 9:00 a.m., following breakfast. At noon, the class breaks for lunch (box lunches are provided), after which participants are transported by air-conditioned bus to the day's site. Participants return to the campus each day by approximately 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 6:00P.M.

Opening Banquet and Orientation Meeting

MONDAY

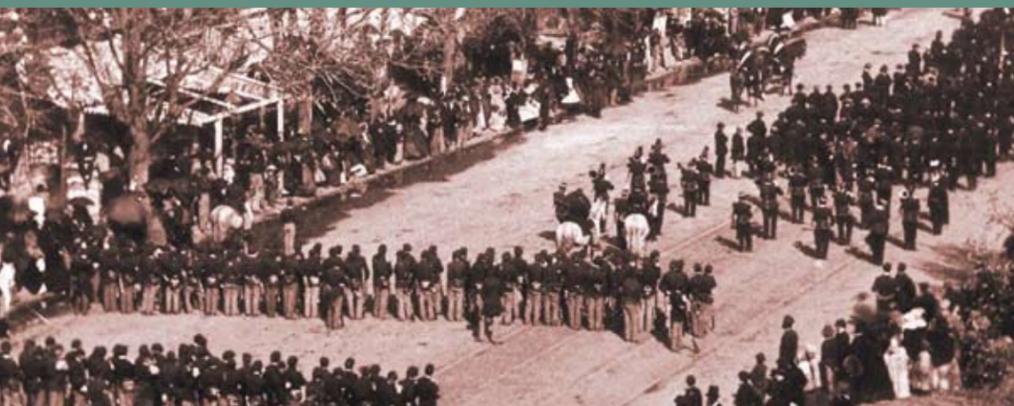
Morning Lecture: "Why the War Was Fought: States' Rights vs. Slavery"

Afternoon Study Tour: A visit to Antietam Battlefield, the site of the single bloodiest day (September 17, 1862) in all of American history.

TUESDAY

Morning Lecture: "Portraits of Political Strategy: Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis"

Afternoon Study Tour: A tour of Arlington National Cemetery, the former home of Robert E. Lee, which became a cemetery for Union dead in 1864 for the most punitive of purposes . . . revenge. Participants visit the Lee Mansion and Museum and the grave sites of many Civil War soldiers and generals.



WEDNESDAY

Morning Lecture: "The Army of the Potomac vs. the Army of Northern Virginia"

Afternoon Study Tour: Visits to memorials for Generals Grant, Sherman, Meade, and Hancock. Participants also visit Ford's Theatre; the Summer White House on the grounds of the Old Soldier's Home; Rock Creek Cemetery; the African American Civil War Memorial; and Fort Stevens, the location of the only Civil War battle fought inside the city's boundaries.

THURSDAY

Full-Day Thematic Study Tour of the Capital of the Confederate States of America, Richmond, Virginia: Visits to the world famous Monument Avenue; the Confederate Museum and White House; the State Capitol; St. Paul's Church; the Valentine Museum; the Jefferson Hotel; Hollywood Cemetery, where many famous confederates are buried; and Tredegar Iron Works museum.

FRIDAY

Morning Lecture: "Frederick Douglass's Influence on the President's War Strategy and the Crucible of 1864"

Afternoon Study Tour: Participants visit Cedar Hill, Douglass's magnificent home in Anacostia, and the Emancipation Proclamation Memorial in Lincoln Park. The group also visits Frederick Douglass Hall, on the campus of Howard University; the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church; the Charles Sumner School; and the Metropolitan AME Zion Church, where Douglass's funeral was held in 1895.

Friday's events will be followed by a farewell banquet.

Costs and Course Information

Students may earn three undergraduate or graduate credits upon successful completion of course work. A special fee in addition to tuition covers opening and closing banquets, five breakfasts, five box lunches, entrance fees, and bus transportation to all sites (campus parking is not included). A non-credit option is also available for a reduced cost. Please visit the Web site for registration and withdrawal deadlines.

For More Information

Please contact:

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Phone: 202-885-2401

Fax: 202-885-6166

E-mail: history@american.edu

Web: www.american.edu/cwi

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