Course Syllabus

Instructor Information:

Name: Brian S. Wills, Professor of History
Address: Office 3014, SO Bldg. #22, Kennesaw State University, Ga.
Email address: bwills2@kennesaw.edu
Phone number: (470) 578-2966
Office Hours: Mon. and Wed., 8:00-9:30 AM
            Tues. and Thurs., 9:00-10:00 AM

Textbooks:
Clinton, Catherine and Nina Silber, Divided Houses: Gender and the Civil War.

Other readings to be provided or assigned.

Description and Format: In History 4499/03 you will explore facets of the home front in the
American Civil War and engage in research of your own that will enable you to display your
skills and capabilities as a historian and scholar. This class will have an unusual format in that
much of the work you will do will be outside of the classroom. A heavy component of the
course will include individual meetings with the instructor as needed for ideas, assistance, etc.

Forms of Communication: Students will find Office Hours listed below. The University
provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address
“students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and
other data, this is the sole email account that we are to use. My email is above and must be used
via your “students.kennesaw.edu” account for me to respond. The practical fact is that messages
sent otherwise have a tendency to bounce back, so use the “students.kennesaw.edu” method to
ensure delivery of response and security.

Learning Objectives: The objective for this class is for you to learn the material
described above in “Description and Format” and assessed through “Tests and Final Course
Grade” below. Your success in learning depends upon at least two key factors: your ability to
obtain and process the information provided to or obtained by you through your reading and
evaluation of class materials and presentations, and your capability of answering the test/exam
questions correctly. You can only do this best through attending class regularly and studying
effectively in a College/University environment that requires attentiveness and effort on the part
of each student enrolled in the course.
**Attendance and Requirements:** Because of the limited classroom time, regular attendance is expected. While some absences may be unavoidable, you should make it a point to attend class. These sessions will be important in determining your final grade, both as to the types of information you will be tested on and as part of a class participation grade. Obviously you will have to attend class in order to participate.

Any outside reading is required as noted on the syllabus or announced in class. You will be responsible for material on the dates shown or announced. The readings will constitute a major part of the tests, discussions and final grade for the course.

**Electronic Devices:** In this modern age of communication where devices rule, it should be understood that learning is difficult enough without external distractions. If you cannot avoid having messages delivered to you and/or answered by you in the prescribed class period, or you prefer gaming, entertainment or gathering generic information for nonacademic reasons rather than participating in the class itself, you should not plan to bring any electronic device with you. Since no electronics are permitted in the classroom during examinations, according to KSU policy, learning to take notes with old-fashioned implements such as pens will ease your transition from regular classroom days to exam days. You will be supplied with all proper written materials for the exams themselves, but will be expected to bring blue or black pens for writing your answers.

**Personal Conduct:** Be respectful of each other and the instructor. Discussion and debate are parts of the process, but should be conducted in a civilized manner. Classes are not press conferences from which one enters or departs as one wishes, answers cell phones, texts or catches up on social network lapses and opportunities or lack of sleep, etc. If you need or prefer to be somewhere else or do something other than the class, please do so.

**Tests and Final Course Grade:** There will be one mid-term assignment and the final paper, but no final exam. Grades will be associated with the mid-term exercise and with your paper as outlined below. Missing any assignments without notification to the instructor does not constitute an excused absence. In English, if you are ill, have a family emergency, etc., you will need to contact the instructor or have someone contact him on your behalf before you have missed a deadline. Your failure to do so puts the instructor under no obligation to give you a make-up or make allowances.

Absences from the class or failure to meet deadlines will be extremely detrimental to your final grade! Try your best to avoid ANY absences, even those for which you might be able to obtain excuses.

**Grading Scale:** A final course grade for this course will be based upon the following: the mid-term assignment grade (20%), a final paper grade (50%) and a class attendance/participation grade (30%). The participation piece will include assessments of submission of outlines, annotated bibliographies, rough drafts and oral presentations, as well as indications of your attendance and involvement in the classroom and discussions as evaluated by the instructor.

The scale for the class will be based on: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69 and F=0-59. The instructor reserves the right to assess any fractional consideration.
PLEASE NOTE: ALL SUBMISSIONS, INCLUDING OUTLINES, ANOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES, ROUGH DRAFTS AND FINAL PAPERS, NEED TO BE TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, IN 12 POINT TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT.

Office Hours: As a general rule, I will be available throughout the semester, but specifically from 8:00-9:30 A.M. on most MW. I will also be available to meet on TTh from 9:00-10:00 A.M. The exceptions will be when I am in meetings or out of town attending conferences. I am frequently in the office at other times as well as being available by appointment.

Note on Academic Integrity: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5.C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.
See also https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct

ADA Compliance: Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disabilities Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student Disabilities Services website at www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds for more information, or call the office at 470-578-6443.

Readings and Assignments:

Week 1: Jan. 9 & 11 The Rules of History
Read Venet, Prologue; Clinton & Silber, Foreword
Intro/Discussion on Writing
Week 2:  
Jan. 16  
No Class—Holiday  
Jan. 18  
Secession and Mobilization: Society in the Context of War  
Read Venet, Chs. 1-3; Clinton & Silber, Part I; Wills, Ch. 1

Week 3:  
Jan. 23 & 25  
The Front Comes Home  
Venet, Chs. 3-4; Wills, Chs. 2-3

Week 4:  
Jan. 30 &  
Feb. 1  
Enduring the War  
Venet, remainder; Clinton & Silber, II-V; Wills, remainder

MID-TERM ASSIGNMENT MADE

Week 5:  
Feb. 6  
The Front Comes Home  
Venet, Chs. 3-4; Wills, Chs. 2-3

CONSIDER TOPIC POSSIBILITIES  
Reading period—IDENTIFY TOPICS*

Week 6:  
Feb. 13 & 15  
Reading period—DEVELOP TOPICS—WORK ON MID-TERM*

Week 7:  
Feb. 20  
& 22  
Reading period—DEVELOP TOPICS—WORK ON MID-TERM*

MID-TERM ASSIGNMENT DUE/DISCUSSION

Week 8:  
Feb. 27 &  
Mar. 1  
PAPER TOPIC—INITIAL OUTLINE DUE/DISCUSSION  
WORK ON REVISED OUTLINE/ANOTATED BIB.*

REVISED OUTLINE/ANOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE  
DISCUSSION OF PAPERS/RESEARCH

Week 9:  
Mar. 6 & 8  
REVISED OUTLINE/ANOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

DISCUSSION OF PAPERS/RESEARCH

Week 10:  
Mar. 13 & 15  
Individual Sessions as Needed*

Week 11:  
Mar. 20 & 22  
Individual Sessions as Needed*

Week 12:  
Mar. 27 & 29  
Individual Sessions as Needed*

Week 13:  
Apr. 1-7  
Spring Break

Week 14:  
Apr. 10 & 12  
ROUGH DRAFT DUE (OFFICE)*

Week 15:  
Apr. 17 & 19  
RETURN OF ROUGH DRAFTS—ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Week 16:  
Apr. 24 & 26  
Individual Sessions as Needed*  
WORK ON POLISHING THAT FINAL DRAFT!

Week 17:  
May 1  
Wrap-up as Needed—FINAL PAPER DUE!!

Unless specified otherwise, all deadlines are by the start of the class (9:30 PM) on the given day noted above. All work is to be made in person, not through surrogates or electronically. If you cannot attend class on that day, make other arrangements with the instructor ahead of time.

*There will be no formal classroom session in this day/week.