

The Civil War in the East –
The Campaigns and Battles of the Army of the Potomac vs Army of Northern Valley

The Civil War was the most traumatic upheaval in American history, separating North and South in 4 years of bloody warfare. Once begun, it could only be settled on the battlefield. Both sides raised large armies. The war was fought in the East and what was then the West (Mississippi Valley), and on the coasts. However, the war would be decided by the two armies raised in the East: The Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern, VA. They engaged against each other in a number of campaigns that included the Battles of Antietam and Gettysburg, and many others. It ended w. US Grant's prolonged siege of Richmond/Petersburg in 1865. Once Lee surrendered to Grant, followed by Sherman's victory in North Carolina all other Southern fronts quickly collapsed.

While focusing on the East, the course will summarize the campaigns in the West, including the Union's important campaign to control the Mississippi River. This campaign was culminated by Grant's Capture of Vicksburg on the same day(s) of the Union's Victory at Gettysburg, and within six months Grant becoming the overall commander of all Union forces. While he commanded ALL Union forces, he always kept his HQ near the Army Of the Potomac. The course will also summarize social issues/political issues effecting both sides.

The course will also at least briefly discuss influences in warfare that the Civil war would preview for futures wars including:

- Trench warfare
- Chamber loaded vs mussel loaded rifles
- Railroads as a major source of movement and supply
- Iron clad & steam powered warships that ended the age of sail
- First use of "aircraft" hot air balloons for battlefield observation (not particularly successful)
- Use of telegraphy to communicate military orders/results and extensive newspaper correspondence.

The content will primarily be provided in the chronological order of the campaigns. I do not have a detailed syllabus at this time. I have an extensive collection of Civil War books which I will review in the developing the course. Shelby Foote's 3 volume: The Civil War, a Narrative will be the primary reference.

To summarize notes mentioned on the form. I am open to in-person, on-line, or combo. If in-person I would do it in Sussex county, as I live in Ocean View. As to times. I prefer mornings but can do afternoons. I can do any day Tuesday through Thursday. My wife and I babysit our young grandson 1 weekend a month which includes travel on Mondays and Fridays.

I previously taught WW2 in the Pacific in the Fall or 2021 to about 40 students in zoom format. I repeated the course in Spring 2021 on-line, but with some in person viewers at Lewes campus. Yes I would like a Zoom administrator.

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