

THE CAVALRY IN THE CIVIL WAR
SYLLABUS SPRING 2023

LESSON	SUBJECT MATTER & READING
1	Introduction: A description of Union and Confederate cavalry, the missions of the cavalry, mounted tactics and dismounted tactics. Organization of cavalry regiments Stories of two enlisted cavalymen: Union and Confederate
2	Training the Cavalryman: Teaching the cavalryman to ride a horse Basic infantry tactics, firearms training, saber drill and mounted tactics Basic horse care for the cavalryman Training the cavalry horse Remounts
3	Arms and equipment of Cavalrymen. Study of weapons used by cavalry from both sides and how choice of weapons affected tactics. Union Cavalry: armed with carbines and saber, types of carbines, Spencer and Henry repeaters Confederate Cavalry: variety of long weapons, eastern Cavalry carried sabers, western cavalry no sabers, revolvers
4	Union Cavalry Leaders. Brief biographical sketches of the more important cavalry commanders in the Army of the Potomac and the Shenandoah. Philip Sheridan Hugh Judson Kilpatrick George Stoneman David S. Stanley Alfred Pleasanton Benjamin Grierson John Buford James H. Wilson David McM Gregg George Custer Wesley Merritt
5	Confederate Cavalry Leaders. Brief biographical sketches of the Confederate cavalry leaders in the Army of Northern Virginia J.E.B. Stuart Nathan Bedford Forrest Wade Hampton Joseph Wheeler Fitzhugh Lee Earl Van Dorn Tom Rosser John Hunt Morgan John McCausland

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6	<p>The Battle of Brandy Station June 1863. Jeb Stuart's cavalry surprised by a dawn attack on his camp that nearly led to Stuart's defeat by Union forces</p> <p>The preliminary movements of the Union cavalry</p> <p>Surprising Stuart's cavalry, Stuart finally stabilizes his forces to prevent defeat</p> <p>Outcome of the Battle</p> <p>Importance of Brandy Station</p>
7	<p>The Cavalry Battle at Gettysburg July 3, 1863</p> <p>Preliminary event: Stuart's ride through Maryland, Westminster and Hanover</p> <p>The Third Day: Stuart attacks Union cavalry and is repulsed</p> <p>Importance of the Cavalry battle at Gettysburg</p>
8	<p>Trevillian Station, June, 1864</p> <p>Hampton steals a march on Sheridan</p> <p>Custer breaks Confederate lines between Fitzhugh Lee and main body</p> <p>Hampton retaliates by attacking Custer</p> <p>Sheridan's rescue of Custer</p> <p>Importance of Trevillian Station</p>
9	<p>Brice's Cross Roads June 10, 1864</p> <p>Sturgis's expedition</p> <p>Forrest recalled from raid on Sherman's communications to repel Sturgis</p> <p>The cavalry battle, morning of June 10, 1864</p> <p>Cavalry v. infantry, afternoon of June 10, 1864</p> <p>Forrest's double envelopment</p> <p>Sturgis's command retires is routed at Hatchie Bottoms</p>
10	<p>Wilson's Selma Raid, March-April 1865</p> <p>Wilson's cavalry organization at Nashville, defeat of Hood's army</p> <p>Cavalry Corps reorganized, eastern officers brought in</p> <p>Campaign plan-raid south through Alabama, destroy Confederate industry at Selma, then swing east to enter Georgia near Rome</p> <p>Wilson defeats Forrest at Selma</p> <p>Ride to Rome successful</p> <p>Capture of Jeff Davis May 1865</p>
11	<p>Analysis and Conclusions. Discussion of the military value of Union and Confederate cavalry, effectiveness of fighting dismounted, and comments on the chief commanders of Union and Confederate cavalry.</p>