

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY HIS 266 – MILITARY HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR (3 CR.)

Course Description

Analyzes military campaigns of the Civil War, including factors contributing to the defeat of the Confederacy and problems created by the war. May include field trips to Civil War sites in the region. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Provide a course of special interest to students and citizens of all ages.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Preferable, but not mandatory, that students complete History 121 prior to enrollment. Ability to use the English language correctly and effectively at the college level is expected.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Interpret the military history of the Civil War in the larger context of American and Military History
- b) Define the determinants of military activity: geography, technology, strategy and tactics.
- c) Examine and analyze the campaigns and battles and their outcomes
- d) Discuss why the North won and the South lost the war

Major Topics to be Included

- a) Changes in strategy, tactics and technology before the Civil War
- b) 1st Bull Run
- c) Struggle over strategic western rivers-Significance of the West
- d) Union efforts to capture Richmond
- e) The Valley Campaign of 1862
- f) The shift to Hard War, 1862
- g) The Antietam Campaign and Emancipation-the 1st Turning Point
- h) Gettysburg and Vicksburg, 1863
- i) Total War, 1864-65-the Overland Campaign, the March to the Sea & the Valley Campaign, 1864
- j) Endgame, 1865
- k) The War's impact on military strategy and history