

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Hum 2  
 American Society and Politics  
 Section 1, T 2:30-4, Th 2:30-4, 127 Baxter  
 Section 2, T 7:30, F 2-3, 210 Baxter

Prof. Morgan Kousser  
[Kousser@hss.caltech.edu](mailto:Kousser@hss.caltech.edu)  
 Fall, 2007

**SYLLABUS**

Books to be bought ( in bookstore)

Joseph M. Williams, *Style* [9<sup>th</sup> edition] (hereafter referred to as Williams)  
 Kenneth Morgan, ed., *Slavery in America* (Morgan)  
 Bruce Laurie, *Beyond Garrison: Antislavery and Social Reform* (Laurie)  
 Brooks D. Simpson, *America's Civil War* (Simpson)  
 Eric Foner, *Forever Free* (Foner)

Assignments

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Tuesday (<i>Williams</i>)</b>	<b>Thursday/Friday</b>
Oct. 1		Morgan, 1-102
Oct. 8	ch. 1-3, ex. 3.4-3.6	Morgan, 103-204
Oct. 15	ch. 4, ex. 4.2, 4.4, 4.6	Morgan, 205-314
Oct 22	ch. 5, ex. 5.2-5.3	Morgan, 315-446
Oct. 29 [ <b>paper due</b> ]	ch. 6, ex. 6.1-6.2	Laurie, 1-152
Nov. 5	ch. 7, ex. 7.1, 7.3, 7.4	Laurie, 153-296
Nov. 12 (no Thursday or Friday classes)	ch. 8, ex. 8.1-8.2	Simpson, 1-129
Nov. 19 (no Thursday or Friday classes) [ <b>paper due</b> ]	ch. 10-11 (no exercises)	Simpson, 130-220
Nov. 26	ch. 12, ex. 12-1, 12-2	Foner, foreward & 1-127
Dec. 3	Appendix, ex. A-3	Foner, 128-238

## Course Requirements, Hum 2

This course has three objects:

- ☞ to give you a sense of how historians think;
- ☞ to improve your writing style through practice with comments;
- ☞ and to deepen your knowledge about issues of race, section, ideology, and politics during the central formative period of American history.

There will be two papers and a three-hour, closed-book, closed-notes, final exam. In addition, there will be weekly writing assignments from Williams. Each of the four tasks will count equally in your grade, with the proviso that anyone who fails *any* of them *badly* will fail the course. You will be given opportunities to rewrite papers if you fail. Since you will be responsible for everything in the reading, lectures, and classes on the final, I encourage you to **attend classes** and to take good notes.

The two papers and the assignments in Williams should be **typed**, double-spaced, with 1.5" margins.

I'm serious about writing, and unless you are, I encourage you to take some other course. Accordingly, we will discuss the weekly writing exercises in Williams for approximately one-half hour of each discussion class weekly. I will collect your versions of the assigned exercises **every Tuesday in class, before** we discuss them in the Thursday or Friday afternoon classes. If you fail to hand in more than two of the Williams assignments, you will fail the course, everything else to the contrary notwithstanding.

Williams isn't a grammar book, but a manual about effective writing. To get the most out of it, you must work hard at the exercises. Don't do the minimum. Feel free to rewrite, reorder, and prune sentences from the very beginning.

Writing is rewriting. Almost nobody gets it right at first, so leave yourself time to think about your sentences. Please don't look at the proposed sentences in the back of Williams until you have written and at least once rewritten your assignment.

Because of recent controversies at other universities, I should say a word about plagiarism. Plagiarism is borrowing others' words or thoughts without attribution. You may and should borrow from the books assigned, as well as from the lectures. But that's the limit. If I catch you in what seems a case of plagiarism, I will give you a chance to defend yourself. But if you don't do so satisfactorily, you will fail the course and a harsh note will be placed in your permanent Caltech file.

I should also say something about collaboration and the honor system. To get the most out of this class, you should NOT collaborate on anything. If you must get help on writing, please get in touch with the Hixon Writing Center, and please indicate on the assignment that you hand in the nature and extent of help you received from the Writing Center.

Because of a case of alleged cheating at Caltech that began last Spring, I have lost all confidence in the current Caltech honor system. It is arbitrary in its processes and unfair to students, and until it is completely reformed, I will not use it. Instead, regretfully, I will proctor the final exam and police the other assignments myself.

The longer papers will be due on Tuesday of the weeks noted on the syllabus.