# **Coffee & Conversation Presents**

# **“The Civil War: A Military History”**

Spring 2021 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30



*“As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.”
 –* Abraham Lincoln

***SYLLABUS***

Session 1: 1861: Fort Sumter, Bull Run, Strategies

 Reading: Lincoln’s First Inaugural Address

 Reading: Sullivan Ballou’s “Dear Sarah” letter

Session 2: 1862: Shiloh, Peninsula, Hampton Roads, Antietam, Fredericksburg

 Reading: Lincoln’s message to George B. McClellan,” April 9, 1862
 Reading: Lincoln's reply to Horace Greeley, August 22, 1862

Session 3: 1863: Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chattanooga

Reading: Emancipation Proclamation

Reading: Gettysburg Address

Session 4: 1864/5: The Wilderness, Overland, Atlanta, Sherman’s March, War’s end

Reading: Grant’s Memoirs
 Reading: “Sherman’s Letter to Atlanta,” September 12, 1864

 Reading: Sherman’s Memoirs
 Reading: Lincoln’s Second Inaugural

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS: This series aims to educate participants on the military science of the American Civil War through a selection of primary texts from US history. Topics of discussion will include secession, the inner-workings of the Lincoln administration, emancipation, Union and Confederate military strategies, Civil War era weapons and technologies, and a selection of the war’s major battles and campaigns. Participants will walk away from this program more familiar with the American Civil War and empowered to learn more about US military history on their own.

Audience participation is both welcome and encouraged! Please feel free to bring questions for open discussion.

SELECT TEXT: (for in-class readings)

All the documents listed on this syllabus are available online via Google and Google Books.

RECOMMENDED: (for supplemental/further research)

*Grant*, by Ron Chernow

*The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*

*An American Iliad: The Story of the Civil War*, by Charles P. Roland

*The Killer Angels*, by Jeff Shaara

*Memoirs of General William T. Sherman*

*The Civil War Diary of Gideon Welles, Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy*

*The Bonfire: The Siege and Burning of Atlanta*, by Marc Wortman

INSTRUCTOR:

Name: Giacomo Calabria

Email: GJCalabria@gmail.com

PUBLISHED WORKS (under the pen-name “Jacopo della Quercia”):

*License to Quill* (St. Martin’s Griffin, 2015)

*The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy* (St. Martin’s Griffin, 2014)

“Abraham Lincoln’s Steampunk Presidency” (Slate Magazine, 2014)