

ENGL 3404
Dr. Andrew Donnelly
MW 2:20-3:45pm

Studies in Popular Texts: Civil War Narratives

About the U.S. Civil War, Walt Whitman wrote, "the real war will never get into the books." And yet, for more than a century and a half, the events of the Civil War have captured the popular imagination: as an American epic for some, as a 'lost cause' for others, and, for still more, as the nation's great revolutionary struggle for equality. What the war meant and means remains contested in culture and politics. This course will examine the Civil War in popular imagination--in novels, stories, poetry, film, monuments, and other media--to consider how texts make meaning of the past and what the Civil War has meant and continues to mean today.