

PSC 229: The Civil Rights Movement and Its Legacy

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-13:45
MOREY 525, Spring 2008

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Course description: The civil rights movement that unfolded in the 1950s unleashed cataclysmic changes in U.S. political, social, and cultural life. In this seminar, we'll draw on an exciting range of primary sources—films, organizational records, memoirs—as well as new histories of the “long 1960s” to chart the trajectory of the civil rights movement from the late 1940s to the 1970s. We'll explore the diversity of strategies and ideologies that comprised the civil rights movement. We'll also assess the movement's profound consequences for political organizing more generally, studying the process through which other movements—antiwar, feminism, gay and lesbian liberation, neighborhood rights, ethnic nationalism, and even grassroots conservatism—laid claim to the rhetoric and tactics of the civil rights movement. This seminar will meet twice weekly.

Required books (for purchase at the university bookstore):

Alexander Bloom and Wini Brienes, eds., *Takin' it to the Streets: A Sixties Reader* 2nd ed. (Oxford university Press, 2002)

John Dittmer, *Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi* (University of Illinois Press, 1994)

David Farber, *The 60s: From Memory to History* (University of North Carolina Press, 1994)

AnneLise Orleck, *Storming Caesar's Palace: How Black Mothers Fought their own War on Poverty* (Beacon, 2005)

Jeanne F. Theoharis and Komozi Woodard, eds., *Freedom North: Black Freedom Struggles outside the south, 1940-1980* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2003)

Other readings will be available on the course Blackboard site as indicated below.

Grading:

Course participation and preparation of discussion questions: Attend class regularly and make contributions to class discussions that reveal a thorough engagement with the reading assignments, lectures, and broad themes of the course. Every student will asked to prepare discussion questions for one class. 20%

Take-home mid-term: 30%

10-15 page research paper OR a take-home final exam: 50% [I will arrange a class library session on archival sources and research methods—time and date to be announced. Attendance at this session is required regardless of your choice of assignment.]

Wed., January 16: Repression and Resistance: Race and U.S. Social Movements from the Civil War to the Great Depression

FILM: *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow* at 7 pm, Tuesday Jan 22, Meliora 205

Mon., January 21: Observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wed., January 23: War and Migration: New Opportunities and Old Barriers

Blackboard: Robin D. G. Kelley, “We are Not What We Seem: Rethinking Black Working-Class Opposition in the Jim Crow South,” *Journal of American History* (1993): 75-112.

Beth T. Bates, “‘Double V for Victory’ Mobilizes Black Detroit, 1941-1946,” in *Freedom North*, pp. 17-40.

Orleck, Chapter 1, pp. 7-36.

Mon., January 28 Black Civic Life and Civil Rights Leadership in the South

Dittmer, Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-69

Wed., January 30: Civil Rights in the South from Montgomery to Birmingham

Dittmer, Chapters 4-5, pp. 70-115

Bloom and Brienes, “Keep on Walkin’, Keep on Talkin’: Civil Rights to 1965,” pp. 13-29

Mon., February 4: Research Paper Preparation

[Discussion of expectations for research papers, resources available at U of R, visit to Special Collections, topic brainstorming session.]

Wed., February 6: Gender and Civil Rights

Dittmer, Chapters 6-8, pp. 116-193

Blackboard: Charles Payne, “Ella Baker and Models of Social Change,” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, pp. 885-900.

Bloom and Brienes, "Keep on Walkin', Keep on Talkin': Civil Rights to 1965," pp. 29-48

Mon., February 11: Civil Rights and Campus Revolts

Bloom and Brienes, Chapters 2, "'My Generation': The Student Movement and the New Left," read the following sections: Beginnings, pp. 50-72; Community Organizing, pp. 73-80; The Free Speech Movement, pp. 81-91; New Left Thinking at Mid-Decade, 96-102

Wed., February 13: Regional Distinctions: Racial Codes of the North and West

Robert Self, "Negro Leadership and Negro Money:" African American Political Organizing in Oakland before the Panthers," in *Freedom North*, pp. 93-124

Orleck, Chapter 2, pp. 37-68

Blackboard: Victoria Wolcott, "Recreation and Race in the Postwar City: Buffalo's 1956 Crystal Beach Riot," *Journal of American History* (June 2006): 63-90.

Mon., February 18: Uncertain Victories: Civil Rights legislation and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

Dittmer, Chapters 10-12, pp. 215-302

Wed., February 20: Integration on whose terms?

Blackboard: Peter Levy, "Gloria Richardson and the Civil Rights Movement in Cambridge Maryland, in Woodard and Theoharis, *Groundwork: Local Black Freedom Movements in America*, 97-115

Mon., February 25: Civil Rights and the War on Poverty

Orleck, Chapters 3 and 4, pp. 69-130

Announcement of page assignments for the next class.

Wed., February 27: The Antiwar Movement

Bloom and Brienes, Chapter 4 "'Hey, Hey LBJ': Vietnam and the Antiwar Movement," pp. 174-221 [Please take a look at each document in this collection, but feel free to skim.]

Mon., March 3: Uprisings

Film: *July '64*

Dittmer, Chapters 16-18, pp. 363-430

Wed., March 5: The Urban Crisis and the Limits of Liberalism

Bloom and Brienes, Chapter 6 “Conservative Responses to 1960s Issues,” pp. 290-321

Chapter 7 “The Kerner Report,” pp. 364-366.

Blackboard: Wadhvani, R. D. G. “Kodak, FIGHT, and the Definition of Civil Rights in Rochester, New York: 1966-1967,” *Historian* 60, no. 1 (Fall 1997): 59-72.

Take-home mid-term distributed in class.

FRI., MARCH 7: MID-TERM TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE BY 5PM.

March 8-16 SPRING BREAK

Mon. March 17: Black Power in Theory and Practice

Blackboard: Kwame Ture and Charles V. Hamilton, *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation* (Vintage Books, 1992), Chapter 2, pp. 34-57

Bloom and Brienes, Chapter 3 “Black Nationalism and Black Pride,” 105-124

Wed. March 19: Black Power around the U.S.

From *Freedom North*, read:

Chapter 6, Angela D. Dillard, “Religion and Radicalism” The Reverend Albert B. Cleage, Jr. and the Rise of Black Christian Nationalism in Detroit,” pp. 153-176

Chapter 11, Komozi Woodard, “It’s Nation Time in NewArk: Amiri Baraka and the Black Power Experiments in Newark, New Jersey,” pp. 287-312

In-class primary source analysis: Articles from *Unity and Struggle*

ONE-PAGE RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSALS DUE FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE CHOSEN THAT OPTION.

Mon., March 24: The Black Panthers

Bloom and Brienes, “The Black Panthers,” pp. 125-134

Wed., March 26: Nationalism’s Many Faces

Chapter 10, Johanna Fernandez, “Between Social Service Reform and Revolutionary Politics: The Young Lords, Late Sixties Radicalism, and Community Organizing in New York City,” pp. 255-286 in *Freedom North*

Bloom and Brienes, Chapter 3, “Latinos,” “Asian Americans,” and “American Indians,” pp. 135-152

Blackboard: Jeffrey Ogbar, “Rainbow Radicalism: The Rise of Radical Ethnic Nationalism,” in Peniel E. Joseph, editor, *The Black Power Movement: Rethinking the Civil Rights-Black Power Era* (Routledge, 2006), pp. 193-228

In-class primary source analysis: The *Italian Tribune* of Newark, NJ responds to the black power movement.

Mon., March 31: The Women’s Movement

Bloom and Brienes, “‘She’s Leaving Home’: The Women’s Liberation Movement,” pp. 388-464 [Please take a look at each document in this collection, but feel free to skim.]

Alice Echols, “Nothing Distant About it: Women’s Liberation and 60s radicalism” in Farber, *The 60s*, pp. 149-174

Wed., April 2: Women and the Black Power Movement: Gender Revolution or Separate Spheres?

Blackboard:

Rhonda Y. Williams, “Black Women, Urban Politics, and Engendering Black Power,” in Joseph, *Black Power Movement*, pp. 79-104

Kimberly Springer, “Black Feminists Respond to Black Power Masculinism,” in Joseph, *Black Power Movement*, pp. 105-118

Mon., April 7: Institutionalizing the Movement I: Electoral Victories and Community Development

Orleck, Chapter 6-7, pp. 168-244

Wed., April 9: Remaking the Social Safety Net: Women and Welfare Rights

Orleck, Chapters 8-9 pp. 244-278

Mon., April 14: Institutionalizing the Movement II: Black Power in the Academy

Blackboard: Peniel E. Joseph, “Black Studies, Student Activism, and the Black Power Movement” in Joseph, pp. 251-278.

Wed., April 16: Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Roar of the “Silent Majority”

The 60s: From Memory to History:

David R. Colburn and George Pozzetta, "Race, Ethnicity and the Evolution of Political Legitimacy," pp. 119-148

David Farber, "The Silent Majority and Talk about Revolution," pp. 291-316

Mon., April 21: Schools, Housing, Jobs, and the New "Colorblindness"

Blackboard:

Dennis A. Deslippe, "'Do Whites Have Rights?': White Detroit Policemen and 'Reverse Discrimination' Protests in the 1970s," *Journal of American History* 91 (2004): 932-960

Kevin M. Kruse, "The Politics of Race and Public Space: Desegregation, Privatization, and the Tax Revolt in Atlanta," *Journal of Urban History* 31 (2005): 610-633

Wed., April 23: New Social Movements of the 1970s

Bloom and Brienes, "'When the Music's Over': Endings and Beginnings," pp. 476-528 [i.e. you can skip the People's Park section]

Film: *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984); Screening time TBA

Mon., April 28: From Katrina to Jena: The "color line" in the 21st Century

All on Blackboard:

Robin D. G. Kelley, "Kickin' Reality, Kickin' Ballistics, 'Gangsta Rap' and postindustrial Los Angeles" from *Race Rebels, Culture, Politics and the Black Working Class*, pp. 183-228

Michael B. Katz, Mark J. Stern, and Jamie J. Fader, "The New African American Inequality," *Journal of American History*, June 2005, 75-108.

Adolf Reed, "Liberal Bad Faith in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina," *Znet*, May 4, 2006

Andrew Sullivan, "Why Obama Matters," *Atlantic Monthly*, November 13, 2007

Wed., April 30: LAST DAY OF CLASS—Catching up, reviewing, bringing it all together

Tue., May 6: Take-Home exam questions will be distributed.

TAKE-HOME EXAMS AND RESEARCH PAPERS DUE FRIDAY MAY 9 BY 5 PM.