

The Civil Rights Movement
Hist. 4469:01
Fall 2007

Professor: Dr. Stephanie Wright

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*Please note that all email communications must take place through campus email.

Office Hours: Tu/Th 9-9:30; 10:45-12; 12:30-2:00; 3:15-3:45; and by appointment

Class Meetings: Tu/Th, 2:00-3:15

Course Description and Learning Outcomes: This course explores the history of the modern Civil Rights Movement in the United States. In particular, it examines the need for such a movement; nineteenth and early twentieth century efforts to achieve first class citizenship; and the individuals and groups that made possible the activism of the 1950s and 1960s. Although the Black freedom struggle began when the first Africans were imported into the colonies in the 1600s, this course begins with African American efforts to gain full freedom after the Civil War. Through the use of examinations, oral participation, and essays, students will develop their critical thinking, presentation, and writing skills. In addition, they will gain a deeper understanding of the historical trends that necessitated the Civil Rights Movement. They will also be able to identify and assess the major individuals and organizations that led the movement.

For a description of the major outcomes for all history courses, please see the History Department's website at: <http://www.westga.edu/~history/>

Evaluation

Exams	20% each
Book Review	10%
Participation	15%
Research Paper	25%
Short Paper	10%

Exams: You will have two exams. Exams will cover material from your assigned readings, lectures, and films. The exams will consist of identifications, short essays and one long essay. You will need two large blue books. Please turn these into me no later than September 27th. They will be initialed by me and returned to you on test day. Any un-initialed blue books will be returned to you with a grade of zero (0). Make up exams will only be given in the case of documented medical emergencies. Exams must be made up within one week. All electronic devices should be turned off during exams.

Book Review: Students will write a book review of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. The book review should focus on analyzing the text for what it can tell us about the time period under study. Reviews that provide only a summary will not earn an A or B grade. Each review should be 3-4 pages. Please see the *Writing the Book Review* handout on WebCt for detailed instructions. The book review is **due October 9, 2007**. Students may receive 5 extra credit points for having a draft of the paper reviewed and initialed by an advisor at the Writing Center.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance will be taken during the first five minutes of class. Students who enter class after attendance has been taken or who leave prior to the end of class without an excuse will be counted as absent. Students who engage in inappropriate behavior (e.g. talking while others are talking, text messaging during class) will be asked to leave. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student with more than **four (4)** unexcused absences. Participation is an integral part of the learning process. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading. To aid you in process of analyzing the reading, there will be short un-announced response papers given on the day's readings. These will be factored into your participation grade.

Short Paper (Family History Paper): Each student will complete a 4-5 page family history paper that explores one of the major historical themes discussed in this class. Please see the *Family History Paper* handout on WebCt for detailed instructions. The family history paper is **due November 15, 2007**. Students may receive 5 extra credit points for having a draft of the paper reviewed and initialed by an advisor at the Writing Center. Attach the initialed draft to your final paper.

Research Paper: The research paper may be on a topic of your choosing, but must be related to one of the themes examined in the course. Submit your paper topic to me prior to **September 13th**. The length should be from 10-12 pages. As a part of the grade on the research paper, you are required to turn in an annotated bibliography. The annotated bibliography should consist of sources used for your research paper. You should have a minimum of three primary and three secondary sources. An annotation consists of a citation followed by an abstract of the source. The abstract should be written in your own words and should not be taken directly from the book jacket. The annotated bibliography is worth 5% of your paper grade. It is due **September 25, 2007**.

The research paper is due on December 4, 2007.

Students may receive 5 extra credit points for having a draft of the paper reviewed and initialed by an advisor at the Writing Center.

Academic Honesty: The work that you submit should be original. Evidence of cheating will result in a **failing grade for the course**. Please see the History Department's statement on plagiarism at: <http://www.westga.edu/~history>

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade a day beginning at the close of class on the assignment's due date.

Assigned Texts

Adam Fairclough, *Better Day Coming: Blacks and Equality, 1890-2000*. Penguin Books, 2001.

Raymond D'Angelo, *The American Civil Rights Movement: Readings and Interpretations*. McGraw-Hill Dushkin, 2001.

Taylor Branch, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63*. Simon & Schuster, 1988.

Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. Ballantine Books, 1964.

Suggested Reading: U.S. or African American History textbook from 1865 to the present.

Class Meetings

- Aug. 16 Intro. to class
- Aug. 21 19th Century Activism/Reconstruction
Fairclough, Preface, Ch. 1; D'Angelo, Intro.
- Aug. 23 19th Century Activism/The Development of Jim Crow
Fairclough, Ch. 2
- Aug. 28 Accommodation and Resistance
Fairclough, Chs. 3 and 4; D'Angelo, 1.1 and 1.2
- Aug. 30 Separatism: Marcus Garvey and the UNIA
Fairclough, Ch. 6
- Sept. 4 1930s Activism: The Scottsboro Case
Fairclough, Ch. 7
- Sept. 6 1930s Activism: The New Deal
D'Angelo, 1.4 and 1.9
- Sept. 11 WWII Era and the Legal Road to *Brown*
D'Angelo, 1.7 and 3.1
- Sept. 13 *Brown* and MLK's precursor at Dexter Ave.
D'Angelo, 3.2, Branch, pp. 6 (beginning w/ "Nesbitt and the Dexter Ave. deacons waited...") – 26
Paper Topic Due
- Sept. 18 The Montgomery Bus Boycott
Branch, pp. 120-123 (stop at paragraph ending, "Colvin would not do...");
pp. 124 (paragraph starts w/ "Restless, King decided...") – 142
- Sept. 20 The Montgomery Bus Boycott
Branch, Ch. 5
- Sept. 25 Little Rock
D'Angelo, 3.5, 3.6; Fairclough, 234 (beg. w/ section on SCLC) – 242
Annotated Bibliography Due
- Sept. 27 Sit-ins
Fairclough, pp. 241-247; Branch, Ch. 7
- Oct. 2 **Mid-Term**
- Oct. 4 **No class: Dr. Wright at ASALH conference**
Work on completing *Malcolm X*
- Oct. 8 is the last day to withdraw with a W**
- Oct. 9 *Malcolm X*
Discussion of *Malcolm X* – bring two passages from the book to discuss.
Book Review Due
- Oct. 11 **No Class: Fall Break**
- Oct. 16 The Student Movement: Freedom Rides
D'Angelo, 2.9, 4.1, 4.2
- Oct. 18 The Student Movement
Fairclough, pp. 256-266; Branch, 323-331; 334-350; 351-366; 389-397;

- 412-450; 451-491
- Oct. 23 The Albany Campaign
Fairclough, pp. 266-271; Branch, 524-558; begin Ch. 18 of Branch
- Oct. 25 Birmingham
Complete Ch. 18 of Branch
- Oct. 30 Birmingham
Branch, Ch. 19
- Nov. 1 The March on Washington
Branch, Ch. 22
- Nov. 6 The Civil Rights Act/The Voting Rights Campaign
Excerpt from Anne Moody's *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, available on
Reserve. Fairclough, 279-293,
- Nov. 8 Selma and the Voting Rights Act
D'Angelo, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8 and 5.1
- Nov. 13 The Black Power Movement
Fairclough, Ch. 8
- Nov. 15 The Black Power Movement
D'Angelo, 5.2, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8
- Nov. 20 **Family History Paper Due**
After King
Fairclough, Ch. 15
- Nov. 22 **No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday**
- Nov. 27 Affirmative Action/School Busing
Fairclough, pp. 256-266; Branch, 323-331; 334-350; 351-366; 389-397;
412-450; 451-491
- Nov. 29 What the CRM Left Undone
D'Angelo, 6.4 – 6.11
- Dec. 4 What did the CRM leave undone?
Bring in an article of your choice that answers the above question
Research Paper Due

Final Exam: Dec. 11, 2007, 2-4 pm