HIST 4469 THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
Course Syllabus
Section 01
2:00-3:15 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday
Pafford #305
Spring 2019

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DESCRIPTION

In 1949, theologian Howard Thurman wrote the following description of racial segregation:

“It is obvious that segregation can be established only between two groups that are unequal in power and control. Two groups that are relatively equal in power in a society may enter into a voluntary arrangement of separateness. Segregation can apply only to a relationship involving the weak and the strong. For it means that limitations are arbitrarily set up, which, in the course of time, tend to become fixed and to seem normal in governing the etiquette between the two groups. A peculiar characteristic of segregation is the ability of the stronger to shuttle back and forth between the prescribed areas with complete immunity and a kind of mutually tacit sanction; while the position of the weaker, on the other hand, is quite definitely fixed and frozen.”

From 1955 to 1965, the classical Civil Rights Movement aimed to sound the final death knell for Jim Crow racial segregation, the legally-sanctioned system of black second-class citizenship. The movement focused, in large part, on securing unabridged enforcement of Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments protections for African Americans.

Some of the key questions for this course include: What did the Civil Rights Movement reveal about African American religion? How did the Civil Rights Movement engage the New Deal State? How did the movement affect election politics? How does the federal legislation passed in response to the movement affect American citizens, today? What are the comparisons and contrasts between the Civil Rights Movement and Black Power Movement? How did the Civil Rights Movement influence the equal rights struggles of women and lesbian/bisexual/gay/transgendered Americans?

The final and most important question for this course is: What types of social justice and political movements are needed in today’s United States?

GOALS

In this class, the instructor will work to help students develop and/or refine a number of skills. The first is the ability to follow major current events pertaining to social justice and recognize relevant historical antecedents in the Civil Rights Movement. The second is the ability to identify dichotomies between the history and memory of the Civil Right Movement. The third is the ability to read and understand the central arguments of scholarly books and articles.
COURSE TEXTS


GRADING

Classroom Participation (20%)

Attendance is mandatory. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and answer questions pertaining to the material. Students will also be evaluated through possible unannounced pop quizzes and in-class writing assignments.

Term Paper (20%)

Students will write a term paper that will test their reading comprehension skills, research skills, writing skills, and the ability to follow directions. The instructor will provide more details.

Exam #1 (30%)

Exam #2 (30%)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory. A student who has more than two unexcused absences during the semester will fail the course. Examples of acceptable excuses include a coach’s letter or a doctor’s note.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Students who engage in disruptive conduct, including but not limited to talking without being recognized by the instructor, will be asked to leave the classroom and will be marked as “absent” for that class meeting.

MAKE-UP TESTS

Make-up tests will consist entirely of essay writing and will only be granted if the student provides an excuse approved by the instructor. Examples of acceptable excuses include a coach’s letter or a doctor’s note.
EMAIL COMMUNICATION RULES

Check your westga.edu email address on a regular basis for information from the instructor. Additionally, use your westga.edu address for all email communication with the instructor. When initiating an email conversation with the instructor, provide your course and section number.

Please note that the instructor will not provide student grade information through email.

FORMAT FOR WRITTEN WORK

Write your full name, course number, section number, and the date on ALL written work you submit to the instructor.

All homework assignments must be typed. Use 12-point font and double-spacing.

HONOR CODE EXPECTATIONS

Students should make sure to understand and strictly follow the standards of the university’s Honor Code as outlined in the Student Handbook. Cheating and plagiarism constitute violations of the Honor Code.

The Student Handbook defines cheating as: “using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids.” It defines plagiarism as “representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Direct quotations must be indicated and ideas of another must be appropriately acknowledged.”

Violations of the Honor Code will be grounds for a failing grade in the course.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Please submit an official Student Accommodations Report (SAR) to the instructor if the Office of Accessibility Services has authorized you to receive special assistance during regular class meetings and/or test dates. For testing purposes, appropriate arrangements will be made in accordance with the following procedures outlined by the Office of Accessibility Services:

Most special needs students “are entitled to 1.5 time on all tests in classes in which they have presented their Student Accommodations Report (SAR) to their professor and made advance arrangements with their professor for this extra time per test…Students have two options for receiving testing accommodations. They can make arrangements directly with their professor or test at the Learning Support and Testing Center.”

LECTURE RECORDING POLICY

Students are NOT permitted to record the instructor’s lectures. Exceptions will be made for students who submit a Student Accommodations Report (SAR) that explicitly requests permission to create recordings.
EXTRA CREDIT

Periodic extra credit opportunities might be available. They could include written reports on academic events/activities approved by the instructor.

CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSIONS

At the beginning of each class meeting, there will be a discussion period during which the class will work to compare and contrast historical events related to the course topic with current events.

Please come prepared to share at least one current event every class meeting. Acceptable current events topics include: politics, sports, entertainment, business, technology/science, and international affairs.

Your current event must come from a news report aired or published by a credible, professional news organization (e.g.: PBS NewsHour, New York Times, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, or Times-Georgian). For guidance in assessing the credibility of a news story, consult the UWG Library’s “News Literacy Toolkit” at: http://libguides.westga.edu/newsliteracy

Each current events discussion will begin with the stories shared by volunteers. After that, the instructor might begin “cold-calling” students from the roll. Be prepared for the instructor to ask you follow-up questions about the current events you share. Your fellow classmates might have some follow-up questions for you, as well.

Make sure you watch the news, read newspapers, read online news articles, and come to class ready to talk. Your performance during the current events discussion will be part of your participation grade.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES*

*Note: Students are expected to complete the assigned reading during the week BEFORE it appears on the class schedule. Please come to class ready to discuss the chapters and answer questions about them in pop quiz, short answer, or essay format.

INTRODUCTION
January 8

THE RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS
January 10

THURGOOD MARSHALL
January 15
Collier-Thomas and Franklin, 1-20.
Isserman and Kazin, 1-20.

THE DUAL AGENDA
January 17, January 22
Collier-Thomas and Franklin, 21-41.

NOTE: Roster verification will take place January 16-18.

AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGION AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
January 24
Carson, 1-33.
Collier-Thomas and Franklin, 42-57.
Isserman and Kazin, 229-246.

THE POLITICS OF RESPECTABILITY
January 29, January 31
Carson, 50-99.
Collier-Thomas and Franklin, 61-74.
Isserman and Kazin, 21-42.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965
February 5, February 7
Carson, 239-245, 270-289.
Collier-Thomas and Franklin, 75-82, 95-138.
Isserman and Kazin, 97-131.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY AND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MOVEMENT
February 12
Carson, 13-33.

MID-SEMESTER SUMMARY/REVIEW
February 14, February 19

EXAM #1
February 21

NOTE: *Wednesday, February 27th is the last day to withdraw with a grade of “W.”*

JAMES HUDSON AND THE TALLAHASSEE BUS BOYCOTT
February 26
Carson, 100-110.

SOUL MUSIC
February 28
Brian Ward, “‘People Get Ready’: Music and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s,” History Now, 8 (June 2006), The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

“The Godfather of Soul, R&B, and Civil Rights,” Freedom on Film: Civil Rights in Georgia, University of Georgia
http://www.civilrights.uga.edu/cities/augusta/rhythm_and_blues.htm

BAYARD RUSTIN
March 5, March 7
Collier-Thomas and Franklin, 83-91.
Isserman and Kazin, 43-61.

MALCOLM AND MARTIN
March 12
Carson, 265-269.
Collier-Thomas and Franklin, 214-229.

Carson, “The Unfinished Dialogue of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.”


BLACK POWER
March 14
Carson, 314-332.
Collier-Thomas and Franklin, 197-213, 230-256.
Isserman and Kazin, 166-171.

SPRING BREAK
March 18-23

“RAP AND RELIGION”
March 26
http://www.rapandreligion.com/excerpt/

FROM THE CIVIL RIGHTS GENERATION TO THE HIP HOP GENERATION
March 28
Carson, 356-366.
Collier-Thomas and Franklin, 306-331.
Isserman and Kazin, 279-288.

UWG SCHOLARS’ DAY
April 2
Classes will not meet between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

THE MEMORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
April 4

END-OF-THE SEMESTER SUMMARY/REVIEW
April 9, April 11

EXAM #2
April 16

PREPARATION FOR IN-CLASS WRITING ACTIVITY
April 18, April 23, April 25

IN-CLASS WRITING ACTIVITY: Tuesday, May 7, 2:00-4:00 p.m.