HI299A1/AA310A1: Civil Rights History
Spring 2019
CAS 214, Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15

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Overview:
The phrase “civil rights” often conjures up memories of the 1950s and 1960s: sit-ins, riots, massive demonstrations, Supreme Court decisions, and the interplay between protest groups and the Federal Government. This, however, is just one small (albeit important) part of the larger struggle for civil rights. Over the course of this semester, we will examine that struggle, starting with the Abolitionists and moving to Black Lives Matter, looking at both well-known and lesser-known protests and activists. We will also ask some important questions: how have different groups organized and fought for civil rights? How did individuals and groups conceive of the struggles they engaged in as well as their connection to a larger fight for civil rights? Has the concept of civil rights changed over time? In remembering these struggles, what becomes part of the “official history” and what is left out? Most importantly, what has changed and what hasn’t? We will also examine how various civil rights movements have intersected with other protest and advocacy movements over time.

Course Organization/Requirements:
Reading Response (10%) (Due in class, February 21)
Midterm Exam (20%) (In class, March 7)
Analytic Paper (25%) (Due in class, either April 25th or May 2)
Final Exam (30%) (In class, May 8)
Class Participation and Attendance (15%)

The prompt for the reading response will be posted on the Blackboard site on February 14th. The analytical paper prompt will be posted to the Blackboard site on April 1.

Attendance: Students are required to attend lectures and discussions, and attendance will be taken at each lecture via a sign in sheet. Missing more than two classes will lower your participation grade. Note that these absences need not be consecutive. If you have a special obligation that will require you to miss several classes (e.g., varsity athletics, religious observances), please talk with me at the beginning of the semester.
Exams: Students are expected to take the midterm and final on the days they are administered (March 7 and May 8). Make-up exams will only be given in the event of a medical emergency (with a note from a doctor) or a family emergency.

Technology: Use of laptops (and other digital devices) is not permitted in class. If you need to use a laptop for notetaking, please speak to me.

Readings
The following books are available at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in Kenmore Square:
- Tom Adam Davies, Mainstreaming Black Power
- Martin Luther King, Jr, Why We Can’t Wait
- Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi

In addition to these, other readings are posted to the class’ Blackboard site

Plagiarism: Below you will find the necessary boilerplate on plagiarism. The tl:dr is just don’t do it.

Plagiarism is the passing off of another’s words or ideas as your own, and it is a serious academic offense. Cases of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with the disciplinary procedures described in the College of Arts and Science Academic Conduct Code. All students are subject to the CAS code, which can be read online at: http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/

Penalties for plagiarism can range from failing an assignment or course to suspension or expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please speak with me.

Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Assignments

Tuesday, January 22-Intro to Class
Thursday, January 24-The Abolitionists: The First Civil Rights Movement
  Blackboard Readings:
    Chapter 5, The Slave’s Cause

Tuesday, January 29-Imagining Freedom: Civil Rights during the Civil War and Reconstruction
Thursday, January 31-What Does Freedom Mean?
  Blackboard Readings:
    Black Professionals and Race Consciousness, Journal of American History
    Chapter 10, Gender, Class, Race, and Reform in the Progressive Age
    Lynch Law in America, American Yawp Reader
    The Atlanta Compromise, History Matters

Tuesday, February 5-Civil Rights, War, and America Overseas
Thursday, February 7-1905: The Great Schism 1
  Readings:
    Coming of Age in Mississippi, Part 1
  Blackboard Readings:
On Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others, *The Writings of WEB Du Bois*
Agitation, *The Writings of WEB Du Bois*

Tuesday, February 12 - A New Identity and Garveyism
Thursday, February 14 - Discussion 1
   Readings:
   *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 2
   Blackboard Readings:
   Marcus Garvey, *The Writings of WEB Du Bois*
   A Lunatic or Traitor, *The Writings of WEB Du Bois*

Tuesday, February 19 - NO CLASS (Monday Schedule)
Thursday, February 21 - New Rights via the Law - *Reading Response Due at Start of Class*
   Blackboard Readings:
   A New Crowd Challenges the Old Guard in the NAACP, *American Historical Review*
   We Demand Our Rights: The Southern Negro Youth Conference 1937-1949, *Phylon*

Tuesday, February 26 - The Double V Campaign and the War at Home
Thursday, February 28 - Brown V. Board and the Early 1950s
   Readings:
   *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 3
   Blackboard Readings:
   A Call to Negro America, *Reporting on Civil Rights*
   A Blueprint for First Class Citizenship, *Reporting on Civil Rights*

Tuesday, March 5 - Discussion 2
Thursday, March 7 - MIDTERM
   No Readings: Study for Exam

March 12 and 14 - NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Tuesday, March 19 - The End of the 1950s: From Montgomery to Massive Resistance
Thursday, March 21 - Marching and Riding for Freedom
   Readings:
   *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 4, Chapters 22-25
   Blackboard Readings:
   A Bus Boycott, *Reporting on Civil Rights*
   Montgomery Morning, *Reporting on Civil Rights*
   A Good City Gone Ugly, *Reporting on Civil Rights*

Tuesday, March 26 - 1963
Thursday, March 28 - Freedom Summer
   Readings:
   *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 4, Chapters 26-30
Why We Can’t Wait, Chapter 1-4
Blackboard Readings
A Gentle Army, Reporting on Civil Rights

Tuesday, April 2-Selma and Voting Rights
Thursday, April 4-Discussion 3
Readings:
Why We Can’t Wait, Chapter 5-8
Blackboard Readings
The Conservative Militant, Reporting on Civil Rights
The Decision to March, Reporting on Civil Rights

Tuesday, April 9-1968: The Great Schism 2
Thursday, April 11-Arts and the Movement
Blackboard Readings
The Call of the Black Panthers, Reporting on Civil Rights
SNCC in Decline After 8 Years in the Lead, Reporting on Civil Rights
Ralph Abernathy, May 1968, Reporting on Civil Rights
After the Demonstrations, Reporting on Civil Rights

Tuesday, April 16-Civil Rights Out West: Caesar Chavez and the UFW
Thursday, April 18-Guest Lecture
Readings:
Mainstreaming Black Power, Intro, Chapter 1-2

Tuesday, April 23-Black Power 1
Thursday, April 25-Black Power 2
Readings:
Mainstreaming Black Power, Chapters 3-4, Conclusion, and Epilogue
Blackboard Readings
Video: “The Ballot or the Bullet”
Huey Newton, May 1968, Reporting on Civil Rights

Tuesday, April 30-Coalition Politics
Thursday, May 2-To Today
Blackboard Readings
The Other Student Activists, The Atlantic
Chapter 6, From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation

In Class Final: Wednesday, May 8, 12:30-2:30