

Wesley Theological Seminary

Pilgrimage to the Alabama of the Civil Rights Movement

A Doctoral Immersion Experience of the Civil Rights Movement (Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, Alabama) August 2-7, 2015

COURSE SYLLABUS AND GUIDELINES

Professor: Rev. C. Anthony Hunt, D.Min., Ph.D.,
ph. 410-588-5620; e. cahunt@msn.com; chunt@wesleyseminary.edu

Course Description: An historical, theological and socio-cultural analysis of some of the major people, places and events of the Civil Rights movement, with particular focus on the implications of the movement on the contemporary church and society. During this academic immersion experience we will visit some of the significant venues of the Civil Rights movement in Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, Alabama.

A. Course Context

This course provides a foundation for the academic study of the Civil Rights movement, with particular focus on the historical and contemporary implications of the movement within the context of congregational leadership, social justice and community-building.

B. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will:

1. Have a foundational understanding of the major people, places and events of the Civil Rights movement.
2. Be able to discuss the Civil Rights movement within the context of other socio-political, theological and historical concerns.
3. Be familiar with major writings related to the Civil Rights movement and their historical significance within the context of the academy and the broader society.
4. Be able to assess the significance of the Civil Rights movement in contemporary perspective particularly in relation to the church and broader community.

C. Course Methodology

This course will employ various learning/teaching methodologies including immersion, audio and video presentation, student presentation, small group discussion and reflective/critical analysis.

Course Schedule/Itinerary

Sunday, August 2

- 3-5 PM Arrive in Birmingham/Check into Comfort Inn
- 6:30 PM Dinner (Meet in Hotel Lobby for Group Meal)

Monday August 3

Birmingham (Comfort Inn Conference Room)

- 9:00-3:00 PM
 - Participant Introductions
 - Introduction/Overview of the Civil Rights Movement
 - Begin Sharing/Review of Reflection Papers on Civil Rights (First Assignment)

Tuesday August 4

Montgomery (Study Tour of Civil Rights Sites)

- 8:00-9:45 AM Travel to Montgomery
- 10:00-10:45 First White House of the Confederacy/State Capitol
- 11:00-12:00 Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch (Troy University or Chris's Hot Dogs)
- 1:00-2:45 Dexter Avenue Parsonage Museum
- 3:00-4:30 Civil Rights Memorial
Southern Poverty Law Center
- 5:00 Dinner
- 8:00 Arrive Birmingham

Wednesday August 5

Selma (Study Tour of Civil Rights Sites)

- 8:00-10:30 AM Travel to Selma
- 10:30-12:30 Lowndes County Interpretive Center
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch
- 2:30-4:00 National Voting Rights Museum
Edmund Pettis Bridge
Brown Memorial AME Church
- 4:00-7:00 Dinner/Return to Birmingham

Thursday August 6

Birmingham (Study Tour of Civil Rights Sites)

- 10:00 AM 16th Street Baptist Church
- 12:00 Noon Lunch
- 1:30-4:30 Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
Kelley Ingram Park
- 5:00 Dinner/Return
- 6:30 Debrief at Hotel

Friday August 7

- 9:00-11:00 AM Birmingham
Debrief
- 11:00 Depart

Course Requirements:

◆ **First Assignment (Reflection Paper Due on August 3, 2015)**

You are to prepare a personal reflection paper (4-6 pages; not to exceed 1,500 words) on the relevance of the Civil Rights movement in your life. Some of the questions that you may wish to address/explore include:

- What are your impressions of the movement as an historical era?
- What are some of the memories that you have of that period?
- What significance does the Civil Rights movement have in contemporary context for the church and society?
- How has the movement impacted your ministry?

Each student is to be prepared to discuss your reflection paper during the immersion week.

◆ **Second Assignment (Research Paper Due on October 1, 2015)**

You are to prepare a research paper (12-15 pages; not to exceed 3750 words) on some aspect of the Civil Rights movement. You may choose to write on any specific person(s), place, or event related to the movement, or on another related topic/area as agreed upon with the professor.

Required Texts:

1. *Blessed are the Peacemakers: Martin Luther King, Jr., Eight White Religious Leaders, and the "Letter from Birmingham Jail"*
S. Jonathan Bass, ISBN: 0-8071-2800-7
2. *Witnessing and Testifying: Black Women, Religion and Civil Rights*
Rosetta Ross, ISBN: 0-8006-3603-1

3. *The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice, From the Civil Rights Movement to Today*

Charles Marsh, ISBN: 0-465-04415-8

4. *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*

Martin Luther King, Jr. ISBN: 0-0625-0490-8

Evaluation/Grading

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Attendance/Participation | 25% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Assignment | 30% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Second/Final Assignment | 45% |