

# 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) July 31-August 4, 2017

#### *COURSE SYLLABUS AND GUIDELINES (WORKING, 1/11/17)*

**Professor:** Rev. C. Anthony Hunt, D.Min., Ph.D.,  
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**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, July 30**

3-5 PM

Arrive in Birmingham/Check into Hotel

6:30 PM

Dinner (Meet in Hotel Lobby for Group Meal)

### **Monday July 31**

#### **Birmingham (Hotel)**

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)

11:30-12:30 PM Lunch

1:00-3:00 PM Bethel Baptist Church, Collegeville, AL

3:00 PM Return to Hotel, Free Time and Dinner

### **Tuesday August 1**

#### **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 2**

#### **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 3**

#### **Birmingham (Study Tour of Civil Rights Sites)**

- 10:00 AM 16<sup>th</sup> 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 4**

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

### **Course Requirements:**

#### ◆ **First Assignment (Reflection Paper Due on July 31, 2017)**

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, 2017)**

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% |

## **Independent Study on the Life and Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. (Optional-Additional Three Credits)**

### **Additional Required Texts**

1. *There Is a Balm: The Cultural Roots of Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
Lewis V. Baldwin, ISBN: 0-8006-2457-2
2. *To Make the Wounded Whole: The Cultural Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
Lewis V. Baldwin, ISBN: 0-8006-2543-9
3. *Search for Beloved Community: The Thinking of Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
Kenneth Smith and Ira Zepp, Jr., ISBN: 0-8170-1282-6
4. *I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
Michael Eric Dyson, ISBN: 0-684-96776-1
5. *Blessed are the Peacemakers: A Theological Analysis of the Thought of Howard Thurman and Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
C. Anthony Hunt, ISBN: 1-55605-381-9

### **Assignments**

1. You are to complete all required readings for the Independent Study, and upon completion, schedule a time to meet with Professor C. Anthony Hunt to discuss your readings, learnings and insights with regard to the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. This meeting may be conducted in person or by phone.

#### **2. Integrative Theological Reflection Paper (Due October 1, 2017)**

You are to prepare an integrative reflection paper (15-18 pages; not to exceed 4500 words) on either: (1) the required readings for the Independent Study, or (2) some specific aspect or topic related to the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. For the second option, you may choose to write on any specific person(s), place, or event related to King. The topic is to be agreed upon with the professor.

**Some Suggested Research Themes Include:**

- ❖ King and the Civil Rights Movement
- ❖ The Preaching of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ❖ Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Development of the SCLC
- ❖ Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Jewish Community
- ❖ Martin Luther King's Contemporary Significance
- ❖ Martin Luther King's Views on Nonviolence
- ❖ King, Benjamin Mays and Morehouse College
- ❖ Martin Luther King and Christian Liberalism (e.g. Walter. Rauschenbusch)
- ❖ Martin Luther King and Personalism (Bowne, Brightman, DeWolf)
- ❖ Martin Luther King and Christian Realism (Reinhold Niebuhr)
- ❖ The Influence of Paul Tillich's Thinking on King
- ❖ The Preaching Tradition in King's Family
- ❖ King and the Dialectical Method of G. F. W. Hegel
- ❖ Joseph H. Jackson and the National Baptist Convention
- ❖ Rosa Parks
- ❖ Coretta Scott King
- ❖ Septima Clark and the Highlander Citizenship School
- ❖ Andrew Young
- ❖ Wyatt T. Walker
- ❖ John Lewis
- ❖ Howard Thurman
- ❖ Mohandas Gandhi (King and Gandhism/Hindu Philosophy)
- ❖ Contemporary Developments at the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change
- ❖ Philip Randolph
- ❖ Roy Wilkins and the NAACP
- ❖ Stanley Levison
- ❖ Bayard Rustin
- ❖ Ralph Abernathy
- ❖ Ella Baker and the Role of Women in the Civil Rights Movement
- ❖ Vernon Johns and Dexter Avenue Baptist Church (Montgomery)
- ❖ James Lawson
- ❖ Mordecai Johnson
- ❖ J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI