

History of the Civil Rights Movement

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If ANYTHING arises that presents a challenge to you, please contact me. I want to help you! If you email me, I will be sure to respond to your email within 24 hours. If you need more immediate assistance with the course, feel free to call or text me between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (CST) between Monday and Friday, during the term. If I am not able to answer, leave a message and I will return your call ASAP.

ALL TIMES ON THE SYLLABUS ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME (CST)

Course Description

This seminar offers you an opportunity to research and write about the Civil Rights era. We will analyze recent scholarship that challenges fundamental aspects of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States: when it took place, who participated, what it was over, and how the Civil Rights Movement continues to inform modern life in the United States. By the end of the term, you will have produced a 10-15 page research paper focused on an individual of your choice. The paper will be based on a combination of primary and secondary sources. The paper is not solely a biographical sketch. Rather, it focus on one person's experiences to shed light on a research question about the Civil Rights Movement.

Format

Seminars demand that students complete the bulk of the course work independently. However, I am available for one-on-one appointments via Webex or telephone, even during the weekends. We will meet for one live class session each week. If you miss one, you are welcome to attend the other section. The live sessions will always meet in my virtual Webex room:

<https://grinnellcollege.webex.com/meet/lacson>

Required Books

Jeanne Theoharis, *A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History*

Danielle L. McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street*

Research Journal entries due every Tuesday by 11:59 p.m. Each entry should be at least 300 words in length. Use the link on PWeb called “Journal” for your weekly journal entries. Some weeks, I will provide a prompt. Other weeks, you can simply provide me with an update on whatever you want. This is intended to be an informal writing opportunity to facilitate your progress. By hitting the 300 word mark you will earn full credit for the assignment.

Thur., Apr. 1/Fri., Apr. 2
Introduction

Thur., Apr. 8/Fri., Apr. 9
Reading:

- 1) Jeanne Theoharis, *A More Beautiful and Terrible History*, Preface - Chapter 4
- 2) Anne Lamott, “Shitty First Drafts” (PWeb Documents)

Mon., Apr. 12: Preliminary statement of interest. One page. Due by 11:59 p.m.

Thur., Apr. 15/Fri., Apr. 16
Reading:

- 1) Theoharis, *A More Beautiful and Terrible History*, Chapter 5 – Afterword
- 2) Patrick Rael, “What Happened and Why?” (PWeb Documents)

Mon., Apr. 19: Preliminary Research Question due by 11:59 p.m.

Thur., Apr. 22/Fri., Apr. 23
Reading:

- 1) Danielle McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street*, Prologue – Chapter 4
- 2) Megan Kate Nelson, Historista blog entry, Introducing James Carleton:
<http://www.megankatenelson.com/introducing-james-carleton/>

Thur., Apr. 29/Fri., Apr. 30

Reading: McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street*, Chapter 5 - Epilogue

Mon., May 3: Annotated Bibliography due by 11:59 p.m.

Thur., May 6/Fri., May 7
Student Presentations

Mon., May 10: Biographical Sketch due by 11:59 p.m.

Thur., May 13/Fri., May 14
Student Presentations

Tue., May 25: FINAL PAPER DUE, 11:59 p.m.