

Civil Rights Contextual Immersion

January 3 - 19, 2024



Course Information

January 2024

Format: Travel / Immersion

Instructor(s) Information:

Professors:

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Course Description:

This is an experience that invites students to connect with the God of freedom. The God who work through our ancestors to change a world and make it more free place. To connect with the sacred soil they walked, the places they met, prayed, preached and fought for justice. Where they stood on the side with God, the God of liberation and freedom. Students are invited to connect with the theology and action of the God who set the captives free.

Learning / Experience Outcomes:

1. This is a spiritual journey of freedom and liberation as you seek to find your place in the continuing ongoing struggle for justice and freedom for all of God's children.
2. Students feel tangibly connected to the continuing liberative work of God.
3. Students will understand how media works in God's justice work in the world for change.
4. Students will appreciate the sacrifice and cost their ancestor paid and they are called to pay in the struggle for justice and freedom.
5. Students will get in touch with their inner call and spiritual connectedness to the God of justice that lives on the inside of them.

Norms Civil Rights Contextual Immersion

1. Space, time, silence, listen. Make space for people, give them time to speak, time to listen and time to be silent.
2. Don't interpret for people. Let them speak for themselves.
3. Allow for emotion, emotional moments and emotional space. Let people feel and allow their emotions to comfort them.
4. Respect the diversity of response and ways of being, seeing and living through this experience.
5. Be on time, all the time. Respect each others time.
6. Do all the assignments so that we can engage in well founded conversation and learn from each other.
7. Give your roommate space to live, be flexible and respectful of space.

8. Use the lobby and common areas of hotel when you need space, alone space or to give space.
9. Be flexible and conscious of the emotional cost of this experience.
10. We will immerse ourselves in the time of the movement, we will do our best to experience the movement on its terms, in its era and not use a contemporary lens to critique but rather we seek to experience it in its historical context.

Reading:

The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader: Documents, Speeches, and Firsthand Accounts from the Black Freedom Struggle edited by Claiborne Carson

The Civil Rights Movement: A Photographic History, 1954 - 68 by Steve Kasher

Viewing:

Eyes on the Prize

From Montgomery to Memphis

Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin

Assignments:

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 by 8:00 am

1. Movie Reflection on Eyes on the Prize (six episodes / six individual reflections)
2. Movie Reflection on From Montgomery to Memphis
3. Reading - entire book The Civil Rights Movement: A Photographic History, 1954 - 68

Thursday, January 4, 2024 by 8:00 am

1. Reading Response for "The Civil Rights Movement: A Photographic History, 1954–68" (see Moodle for instructions).

2. Reading: The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader:

*Articles on Emmett Till Case p. 37-40

*A Letter from the Women's Political Council to the Mayor of Montgomery, Alabama p. 44

*Interview with Mrs. Rosa Parks p. 45-46

*"How Children Learn About Race" by Kenneth B. Clark p.74-81

Final Details READ CAREFULLY

Reading Response for "The Civil Rights Movement: A Photographic History, 1954–68"

Reading Period: Prior to January 3, 2024

Due Date: January 4, 2024

This assignment involves creating a three-page reading response to "The Civil Rights Movement: A Photographic History, 1954–68" by *Steven Kasher*, Myrlie Evers Williams (Foreword). Your response should offer a blend of critical analysis and personal reflection, focusing on the portrayal of the Civil Rights Movement through photography.

This assignment is an opportunity to engage deeply with a crucial era of American history, examining it through the lens of photographic evidence and personal reflection. Your response should demonstrate an advanced level of critical thinking, scholarly analysis, and personal engagement with the material.

Preparatory and Ongoing Engagement

- It's crucial that you acquire and bring this book to our initial face-to-face session.
- The book should also be brought along during our pilgrimage, as it will serve as a key resource for discussion and analysis throughout our journey.

Objectives

- To critically engage with and assess the primary themes and photographic narratives in the book.
- To articulate your understanding and personal viewpoint on the Civil Rights Movement as depicted in the text.

Assigned Readings for In-depth Analysis

- **Foreword by Myrlie Evers-Williams (Page 6):** Investigate the contextual foundation set in this section.
- **Introduction - "Imprisoned in a Luminous Glare" (Page 8):** Assess how the introduction establishes the tone and framework for the photographic narratives.
- **The Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955 - "My Soul Is Rested" (Page 30):** Explore the visual and historical importance of this critical event.
- **Sit-Ins and Freedom Rides, 1960-62 - "This Was the Answer" (Page 66):** Examine the portrayal and impact of these landmark events.
- **The Birmingham Movement, 1963 - "I Don't Mind Being Bitten by a Dog" (Page 88):** Analyze the combination of photography and historical narrative.
- **Selma, 1965 - "We Must Go to Montgomery and See the King" (Page 162):** Discuss the visual representation and its historical context.
- **Black Power and the March Against Fear, 1966 - "The Oppressed Against the Oppressor" (Page 192):** Critique the depiction of the movement's evolving dynamics.

Assignment Details

Length: 3 pages (approximately 750 to 900 words)

Format: 12pt font, Times New Roman or Arial, 1-inch margins, double-spaced).

Be sure to:

Summarize the key themes and arguments.

Highlight impactful chapters or aspects.

Personal Analysis and Reflection

Respond to specific elements that resonated with you.

Discuss your interpretation and insights.

Submission Guidelines:

- Citations, if any, should follow the [MLA] format.
- Submit your assignment through Moodle by the due date.

This assignment is an opportunity to engage deeply with a crucial era of American history, examining it through the lens of photographic evidence and personal reflection. Your response should demonstrate an advanced level of critical thinking, scholarly analysis, and personal engagement with the material.

Assignment: Daily Journal & Photographs

Objective: Document your journey through photography and reflective writing, capturing your personal experiences and connections to each site visited during the Civil Rights Pilgrimage, with a particular focus on historic photographs.

Structure for Each Daily Entry:

Daily Entries

Header: Date and Location

- Daily Entry Length: 250-400 words
- Photographic Documentation: Include at least 20 photos per day with detailed AP (Associated Press) style captions.

Photographic Documentation (20 Photos Minimum)

Capture various moments, sites, or experiences that stood out to you each day. Include detailed AP style captions for each photograph, providing context and background.

Descriptive Overview (approx. 100-150 words)

Detail the day's activities and sites visited.

Note specific elements like the atmosphere, interactions, and significant observations.

Personal Reflection (approx. 100-150 words)

Share your personal reactions, emotions, and thoughts about the day's experiences. Reflect on any impactful or memorable moments from a theological perspective.

Connection to the Civil Rights Movement (approx. 50-100 words)

Discuss how the day's visit connects to the broader narrative of the Civil Rights Movement.

Explore your understanding of the historical significance and ongoing legacy of the sites visited and their religious, and spiritual power.

Insights and Learnings (approx. 50-100 words)

Articulate new insights, perspectives, or learnings gained from the day.

Reflect on how the experience is influencing your views on civil rights and social justice as a person of faith.

Historic Photographs Observation (approx. 50-100 words)

Describe any historic photographs encountered during the day and how it might relate to a connection with the ancestors.

Discuss why these photographs were significant and how they contributed to your understanding of the Civil Rights Movement and the continuing legacy of this work.

PDF Formatting Guide

Document Type: PDF

File Name:

Use the following convention: [LastName]_[FirstName]_CivilRightsJournal_[Date].pdf

Example: Doe_Jane_CivilRightsJournal_Jan3.pdf

Font and Size: Times New Roman, 12pt

Margins: 1 inch on all sides

Line Spacing: Double

Alignment: Justified

Page Numbers: Bottom right corner

Content Structure

Each PDF should consist of the following elements, in order:

Cover Page

Title: "Civil Rights Pilgrimage: Daily Documentary Photo Journal"

Your Name

Course Name

Professor Names

Date of Entry

Daily Entries

Header: Date and Location(s)

- Daily Entry Length: 250-400 words
- Photographic Documentation: Include at least 20 photos per day with detailed AP (Associated Press) style captions.

Photographic Documentation: Photos should be placed throughout the entry, relevant to the text they accompany.

Photo and Caption Formatting

Photos: Inserted within the text, aligned center, throughout the journal entry.

Captions: Directly below each photo, italicized, font size 10pt.

Photo Size: Ensure photos are high quality but do not exceed 1MB each to keep the file size manageable.

Submission Guidelines

Submission Method:

Deadline: Due every morning of the pilgrimage by 8AM

Organizing and Storing Photographs

In addition to including photographs in your daily PDF journal entries, it is crucial to maintain a separate, organized folder of all selected photographs. This will allow for easy reference and compilation at the end of the course.

- **Folder Creation:** Create a dedicated folder in a cloud storage service of your choice (e.g., Google Drive, iCloud, Dropbox).
- **Folder Name:** Use the following convention for naming your folder: [LastName]_[FirstName]_CivilRightsPhotos, Example: Doe_Jane_CivilRightsPhotos
- **Photo Storage:** Upload all photographs selected for your journal entries into this folder.
- **File Naming:** Name each photo file clearly to indicate the date and subject. Example: Jan3_DexterAvenueChurch.jpg
- **Access:** Ensure that your folder is set to private, but be prepared to share access with the course instructor at the end of the seminar.

End-of-Course Reference

- At the conclusion of the experience, you will be asked to refer back to this folder.
- Keeping your photos well-organized and easily accessible will facilitate this process.

Submission Guidelines

Tips for a Successful Submission

- In addition to compiling your daily PDF journal, regularly update your photo folder to ensure all selected images are backed up and organized.
- Check your cloud storage settings to confirm that your photos are being saved and that you have enough space for the duration of the course.

Final Notes / Travel Details:

1. Packing and Travel:

1. Pack light. We will have access to washing machines at the hotels, and if we don't we will go to a laundry mat during our trip. Pack light, we have to get all our luggage in the van. We will be traveling in a twelve passenger van and take the backseat our for luggage. Limit yourself to one small suitcase and a small backpack. Packing suggestions:
2. Pack for one week with the plan to wash your clothes in the hotel. (I am packing two black shirts, one pair of black jeans, workout clothes, undergarments, pajamas, one pair of running shoes, and toiletries). I am wearing long sleeve black shirt, jeans, boots, and winter cap.
3. Bring casual, comfortable clothes. There are no occasions where you will need dress clothes. When we go to worship at Dexter Avenue Baptist church you do not need to dress up.

4. Wear comfortable shoes.
 5. The weather will change and get colder on our trip. Bring layers, light sweater, winter coat, gloves, scarf and hat.
 6. Bring earbuds or headphones. The van music will be jazz, hip hop, gospel or whatever helps the driver enjoy the work of driving.
 7. The trips aren't long but if you plan to sleep in the van a neck pillow might be something to consider. No big pillows, because we will not have a lot of room.
 8. Snacks and water will be in the van at all times.
2. You will have to keep a daily journal, bring your laptop or other portable writing device. You will have to capture photos to accompany your journal you are encouraged to use your phone for this, but you are welcomed to bring a digital camera. *See assignment in Moodle.*
 3. Bring the two books for the course. We will use those books everyday!!! There will be daily readings assigned along the journey.

Course Schedule

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Columbia Seminary BLC E201 & BLC E202

10:00 am to 5:00 pm Lunch Only

Thursday, January 4, 2024

Columbia Seminary BLC E201 & BLC E202

10:00 am to 5:00 pm Lunch Only

Friday, January 5, 2024

Meet on campus at 9:00 a.m.

Leave for Montgomery Alabama

2:30 Civil Rights Memorial Center

Saturday, January 6, 2024

10:00 am Parsonage of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church

11:00 am Dexter Avenue Baptist Church

2:00 pm First Baptist Church

Sunday, January 7, 2024

10:30 am Worship Dexter Avenue Baptist Church

Monday, January 8, 2024

10:00 am State Capital Tour

1:00 pm Holt Street Baptist Church

3:00 pm Alabama State University, Student Movement Interpretative Center

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

11:00 am Freedom Riders Museum

Travel to Selma

3:00 pm Selma Voting Rights Museum

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

10:00 am Mrs. Joanne Bland, Selma Freedom Remembrance Journey

Thursday, January 11, 2024

10:00 am Travel to Birmingham

Friday, January 12, 2024

10:00 am Dr. Carolyn McKinstry / Birmingham Civil Rights Center

11:00 am Birmingham Civil Rights Center / AG Gaston Motel / Kelly Ingram Park

3:00 pm 16th Street Baptist Church

Saturday, January 13, 2024

11:00 am Historic Bethel Church

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Travel to Memphis

2:00 pm

National Civil Rights Museum

Monday, January 15, 2024

10:00 am King Day at Museum - Main Stage

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

11:00 am Stax Museum

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Travel back to Atlanta

2:00 pm Columbia Seminary BLC E201 & BLC E202

Thursday, January 18, 2024

10:00 am Columbia Seminary BLC E201 & BLC E202

1:00 pm MLK Center / Auburn Avenue Walking Tour

Friday, January 19, 2024

10:00 am Columbia Seminary BLC E201 & BLC E202

2:00 pm National Civil and Human Rights Museum

6:00 pm Closing Dinner