

## History 390S

### The Civil Rights Movement in America

Professor William H. Chafe

234 Carr

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Home phone (before 9:30), 942-8245

Office Hours, 1:30-3, Wednesday or by appointment

This class will seek to understand how and why social movements come into existence. We will use the emergence of the civil rights movement, and its evolution into the Black Power movement as an intensive case study enabling us to explore how social movements emerge, then develop. What is the nature of the interaction between social movements and the state, between collective groups and individuals? Do movements begin from the bottom up or from the top down? What is the role of individual leaders? How do we define the success or failure of a social movement? What is the role of institutions? In what social space do social movements begin and what do we mean by "democratic social space?" By the end of the semester, our goal is to have the basis for understanding better the nature of social change and social control in American society, and to be able to compare the process here with that in South Africa in the anti-apartheid struggle.

Readings for this course will average 250 pages per week.

The requirements for the course are simple. Each person will be responsible for leading one class discussion. There will be a 5-8 page paper -- a critical analysis, not a book review -- required for the week when you will lead the discussion. The paper should be turned in before the discussion. There will also be a take-home examination at the end of the semester. It will consist of one question, addressing the issues listed above. I will ask for a 15-20 page essay in response, using the readings and discussions in the course as illustrative material in support of your argument.

The books for the course have been ordered at the Regulator Bookshop on 9th St. in Durham.

Week One, January 17: Introductory discussion.

Week Two, January 24: Richard Kluger, Simple Justice, Chs 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 12-13, 15, 19, 22-27, and William Chafe, introduction to Remembering Jim Crow, distributed as an e-mail attachment.

Week Three, January 31: Robert Korstad, Civil Rights Unionism

Week Four, February 7: Charles Payne, I've Got the Light of Freedom, and Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi, select chapters. Discussion leader, Trey Walk

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Week Five, February 14: William H. Chafe, Civilities and Civil Rights. Evan Bell will lead the discussion and I will not be there for the first half of the class. I will come for the second half to answer questions.

Week Six, February 21: Danielle McGuire, At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape and Resistance – A New History of the Civil Rights Movement Kristina Smith will lead the discussion

Week Seven, February 28: Taylor Branch, Parting the Waters, part 1, pp. xi-xii, 1-26, 105-233, 272-311 Julia Leuchtenburg will lead the discussion.

Week Eight, March 28: Branch, part 2, pp. 323-335, 340-378, 492-504, 633-922. Sam Korol will lead the discussion.

Week Nine, April 4: Alice Walker, Meridian. Madelyn Winchester will lead the discussion.

Week Ten, April 11: Hassan Jeffries, Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt. Symonne Singleton will lead the discussion. Catherine Flowers, a prominent figure at the end of Jeffries' book and an activist for environmental justice in Alabama, will be with us for the last part of the class.

Week Eleven, April 18: Penile Joseph, Dark Days, Bright Nights: From Black Power to Barack Obama. Tiana Horn will lead the discussion

Week Twelve, April 25: Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow. Seline Yalcin will lead the discussion

There will be a dinner at my house a few days later, the date to be determined after mutual consultation.

