

**Prof. Daniel Meaders  
History Department**

**HIST 2910-80 History of Civil Rights, 1955-1970**

**1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Drawing on interviews, speeches, autobiographies, film and monographs, this course examines the history of the Civil Rights movement in the United States. Attention is given to African Americans and Whites who fought to dismantle segregation in the South and the North as well as to the masses of Whites and their leaders who fought to reassert segregationist policies and practices. The course examines the role of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, and other Civil Rights leaders. Finally, the course examines the policies and practices of the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of the federal and local governments as they impacted African Americans and the Civil Rights Movement.

**1. Week 1**

1. Background: the Legacy of Slavery
2. Popular Action and Consciousness-Raising
3. Brown v. Board of Education, 1954 and its Significance
4. Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955–1956
5. Little Rock, Arkansas 1957
6. The Freedom Rides, 1961
7. Voter Registration Drives
8. Integration Battles in Higher Education: Mississippi, 1956–1965

**2. Week 2**

9. The Birmingham Campaign, 1963–1964
10. The March on Washington, 1963
11. The Freedom Summer, Mississippi 1964
12. The Civil Rights Act of 1964
13. Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, 1964

### 3. Week 3

14. Global Recognition: Dr. King's Nobel Peace Prize
15. Selma and the Voting Rights Act, 1965
16. King's Assassination and the Poor People's March, 1968
17. The American Jewish community and the Civil Rights movement
18. The Race Riots, 1963–1970
19. Black Power, 1966
20. The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement

### 4. SUGGESTED READINGS AND TEXTS

Taylor Branch, *Parting of the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63*, Simon and Schuster, 1988.

Rosa Parks and Jim Haskins, *Rosa Parks: My Story*. Puffin Books, 1999.

Martin Luther King, Jr., *Why We Can't Wait*. Signet Classic, 2000.

Malcolm X. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. New York: Random House, 1965.

Mamie Till Mobley, *Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime that Changed America*. Ballantine Books, 2003.

Patterson, James T. *Brown V. Board of Education, A Civil Rights Milestone and its Troubled Legacy*. Oxford University Press, 2002.

*Eyes on the Prize Series*.