

SoSe 2013

Advanced American Cultural Studies:

Civil Rights in the United States

Fr. May 10; May 31; June 21; 14-17:30;

Sa. May 11; June 01; June 22; 9:15-12:30

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Medienraum

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## Schedule

**General information:** I strongly advise you to purchase our coursebook: Robert P. Green/Harold E. Cheatham, *The American Civil Rights Movement: A Documentary History* (2009). For general use, the book is on reserve in the departmental library (Schrank bei der Aufsicht)

### Requirements for modules:

**Please note:** the reading assignments are mandatory for all students; please come to all our meetings well prepared.

**M.EP.01:** regular attendance, reading assignments, and presentation with handout. The final exam of this module will be written in the accompanying lecture course.

**M.AS.01:** regular attendance, reading assignments, presentation, 8-10-page research paper.

**SK modules:** regular attendance, reading assignments, presentation with handout.

### BLOCK I:

**Topics: civil rights and the Constitution of the United States: the Bill of Rights; the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments. Segregation and disenfranchisement: "separate but equal"; Jim Crow legislation in the South; elements of resistance.**

May 10/

May 11

**Reading assignments:**

1.) Green/Cheatham, Chs. 1 and 2 (to p. 48)

2.) the following entries in Paul Boyer, *Oxford Companion to United States History* (see American Studies reserve shelf in dept. library): "African Americans;" "civil rights;" "civil rights cases (1883);" "civil rights legislation;" "civil rights movement;" "segregation, racial"

3.) **The Bill of Rights; The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments** at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

4.) *Plessy v. Ferguson* at <http://usinfo.org/docs/democracy/33.htm>

### BLOCK II:

**Topics: The Civil Rights Movement: organizations, activists and their personal narratives; freedom rides, sit-ins, and other protests, Martin Luther King; Southern white violence; political, social and legal changes: landmark Supreme Court decisions, civil rights acts**

May 31/

June 01

**Reading assignments:**

1.) Green/Cheatham, Chs. 3, 4, 5, 6 (pp 49-147)

2.) *Brown v. Board of Education* (excerpts) at <http://usinfo.org/docs/democracy/36.htm>

3.) *Loving v. Virginia* (majority opinion) at <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts>

**BLOCK III:**       **Topics: affirmative action. Contemporary expressions: civil rights tourism; civil rights photography. Native Americans and civil rights; women’s rights; gay rights**

**June 21/  
June 22**

**Reading assignments:**

- 1.) Green/Cheatham, Chs 7, 8 (pp. 148-210)
- 2.) *Roe v. Wade* (key excerpts from majority opinion) at [http://www.landmarkcases.org/roe/opinion1\\_majority.html](http://www.landmarkcases.org/roe/opinion1_majority.html)
- 3.) *Lawrence v. Texas* (syllabus) at <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html>

## **Topics for Presentations and Written Papers**

**Please sign up for a topic as soon as possible. Please consult me for texts, background and other details. Deadline for term papers: August 30, 2013**

- 1.) Jim Crow” legislation in the South
- 2.) Disenfranchising African Americans: literacy tests and the poll tax
- 3.) “Separate but equal”: history and context of Plessy v. Ferguson
- 4.) civil rights organizations: The NAACP and CORE
- 5.) Martin Luther King and the SCLC
- 6.) Southern white violence against civil rights activists
- 7.) a color-blind Constitution: history and context of Brown v. Board of Education I and II
- 8.) marriage rights: history and context of Loving v. Virginia
- 9.) civil rights legislation in the 1960s: voting rights, fair housing, employment
- 10.) African Americans and educational rights: affirmative action cases
- 11.) civil rights sites, civil rights tourism
- 12.) civil rights photography
- 13.) civil rights and the Cold War: international responses to American race discrimination
- 14.) civil rights for Native Americans: the AIM, Wounded Knee II, legal battles
- 15.) women’s rights: organizations, issues, the Roe v. Wade controversy
- 16.) gay rights: Lawrence v. Texas and the same-sex marriage controversy

## Selected Bibliography

Please note: The following list is meant to help students begin with research on their presentations and papers. All the books are available in the SUB.

- Brook**, Thomas, ed. *Plessy v. Ferguson: A Brief History with Documents*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1997.
- Carson**, Clayborne et al. *The Struggle for Freedom: A History of African Americans*. 2 Vols. New York: Pearson Longman, 2007.
- Dierenfield**, Bruce J. *The Civil Rights Movement*. Harlow: Longman, 2008.
- Dudziak**, Mary L. *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2000.
- Ezra**, Michael. *Civil Rights Movement: People and Perspectives*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC Clio, 2009
- Green**, Robert P., and Harold E. Cheatham. *The American Civil Rights Movement: A Documentary History*. Manchester and New York: Manchester UP, 2009.
- Hall**, Kermit, ed. *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*. New York: OUP, 2005 (1992 ed. in SUB).
- Kellen**, Leslie G., et al., eds. *This Light of Ours: Activist Photographers of the Civil Rights Movement*. Jackson: U of Mississippi P, 2011.
- Klarman**, Michael J. *From Jim Crow to Civil Rights: The Supreme Court and the Struggle for Racial Equality*. Oxford: OUP, 2004.
- Kluger**, Richard. *Simple Justice: The History of Brown v. Board of Education and Black America's Struggle for Equality*. New York, NY: Knopf, 2004.
- Lefever**, Harry, and Michael Page. *Sacred Places: A Guide to the Civil Rights Sites in Atlanta, Georgia*. Macon, GA: Mercer UP, 2008.
- Levine**, Michael L. *African Americans and Civil Rights: From 1619 to the Present*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx P, 1996.
- Loevy**, Robert D. *The Civil Rights Act of 1964: The Passage of the Law that Ended Racial Segregation*. Albany, NY: State U of New York P, 1997.
- Newman**, Mark. *The Civil Rights Movement*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2004.
- Patterson**, James T. *Brown v. Board of Education: A Civil Rights Milestone and its Troubled Legacy*. New York: OUP, 2001.
- Tsesis**, Alexander. *The Thirteenth Amendment and American Freedom: A Legal History*. New York: New York UP. 2004.
- Tucker**, Ronnie Bernard. *Affirmative Action, The Supreme Court, and Political Power in the Old Confederacy*. Lanham: UP of America, 2000.
- Williams**, Juan. *My Soul looks back in Wonder: Voices of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Sterling, 2004.