History 469
The Black Civil Rights Movement
Fall 2012

MWF 12:30 – 1:20 PM
University Hall, Room 301

Instructor: Cornelius L. Bynum, Ph.D.  Email Address: bynum@purdue.edu
Office: University Hall, Room 024  Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

This course examines the origins, dynamics, and consequences of the modern black civil rights movement by exploring how African Americans’ struggle for racial equality and full citizenship worked to dismantle entrenched systems of segregation, repression, and discrimination in American society and culture in the twentieth century.

Assigned Texts & Articles:

Cagin, Seth and Philip Dray, We Are Not Afraid: The Story of Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney and the Civil Rights Campaign for Mississippi (New York, 2006).
Fairclough, Adam, To Redeem the Soul of America: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Martin Luther King, Jr. (Athens, GA, 2001).


**All articles have been posted on Vista but are also available through J-STOR, a searchable online database of scholarly journal articles accessible through Purdue Libraries**

Films on Reserve:

- *Cases in Controversy: The 14th Amendment*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Ain’t Scared of Your Jails, 1960-1961*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Awakenings, 1954-1956*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Bridge to Freedom, 1965*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Fighting Back, 1957-1962*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Mississippi: Is This America?, 1962-1964*
- *Eyes on the Prize: No Easy Walk, 1961-1963*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Power!, 1966-1968*
- *Eyes on the Prize: The Promised Land, 1967-1968*
- *Eyes on the Prize: The Time Has Come, 1964-1966*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Two Societies, 1965-1968*
- *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice*
- *The Road to Brown*
- *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*
- *With All Deliberate Speed*

**All reserve materials for this course can be checked out at Hicks Reserve desk**

Course Requirements and Policies:

Attendance:

*Attendance is required* and will be taken at the beginning of each class. Any student that accumulates more than four (4) unexcused absences will automatically fail the class. Absences will be excused on a case by case basis and only when sufficient documentation is provided by the student. Death of a family member, family emergency, serious illness, or officially sponsored university events (e.g. basketball, football, or softball game) are examples of excusable absences; absence due to travel plans for the October break or Thanksgiving will not be excused. If a student anticipates being absent from class, s/he should contact me in advance. If such advance notice is not possible, then s/he should contact me as soon as possible. In dire cases or cases of extended absence due to illness or other serious family circumstances, students should seek immediate assistance from the Dean of Students Office in Schleman Hall, room 207.

Class Participation:

Students should come to class having done all the assigned reading and prepared to offer insights and comments on course material. Students will be separated into groups that will meet with me on a rotating basis to discuss class readings. Individual group meetings will take place on Wednesdays during scheduled class time. Also, each group will be responsible for helping to lead class discussion on the Friday following their Wednesday group meeting with me. Class participation grades will be determined by students’ preparedness and involvement in group discussions with instructor, effectiveness in helping to lead class discussions when required, and overall participation in class discussions.
Writing Assignments:

Students will write a fifteen (15) page essay for this class. Essays will focus on a specific book, its associated readings, and films and should address the key interpretive, historical, and analytical issues or themes raised therein. Students should draw on all of the assigned course material (book, articles, and films) to convey a clear point of view. Essays should be submitted electronically through Blackboard by 5:00 PM on the assigned due date. Essay questions will be assigned by the instructor. Please note that, in addition to content, style and grammar will affect the overall essay grade. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of resources and assistance offered through the Purdue Writing Lab, Heavilon Hall, room 226. Appointments can be made by calling 494-3723.

In addition to the long paper, each student will write a short essay (1500 words) summarizing the central thesis of one of the books assigned for this course. The books for this essay will be assigned by group by the instructor. Again, essays should be submitted electronically through Blackboard by 5:00 PM on the assigned due date.

All essays should be written in Microsoft Word or an equivalent word-processing program. It is the students’ responsibility to insure that all assignments are submitted in a suitable format. Also, please consult the latest edition of the Chicago Manuel of Style for guidelines on formatting citations and references.

Final Exam:

There will be an in-class essay exam given during the scheduled exam period. The time, date, and location of the final exam will be announced at a later date.

Grading:

Final grades will be determined by class participation, essay, and final exam grades. Class participation will constitute ten percent (10%) of the final grade; the long essay will count for forty percent (40%); the short essay counts for twenty percent (20%); and the final exam counts for the final thirty percent (30%) of the final grade.

Lastly, this syllabus maybe subject to change as dictated by class needs and at the instructor’s discretion.

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading policies are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. In the event of such an emergency, I will notify you of key schedule or policy changes by email and/or through Blackboard.
Syllabus:

**Week One: Legal Challenges to Separate but Equal**

**Related Films:**  *Cases in Controversy: The 14th Amendment*  
*The Road to Brown*  
*With All Deliberate Speed*

**Monday, August 20, 2012**

Course Introduction

Lecture: “The 15th Amendment and the First Reconstruction”

**Wednesday, August 22, 2012**

Reading Assignment:  

**Group 1**

**Friday, August 24, 2012 (Group 1)**

Reading Assignment:  

Class Discussion

**Week Two: Legal Challenges to Separate but Equal** (continued)

**Related Films:**  *Cases in Controversy: The 14th Amendment*  
*The Road to Brown*  
*With All Deliberate Speed*

**Monday, August 27, 2012**

Lecture: “Jim Crow Entrenched”

Reading Assignment:  

**Wednesday, August 29, 2012**

Reading Assignment:  

**Group 2**
Friday, August 31, 2012 (Group 2)

Reading Assignment:

Class Discussion

**Week Three: Legal Challenges to Separate but Equal** (continued)

Related Films:  *Cases in Controversy: The 14th Amendment*
*The Road to Brown*
*With All Deliberate Speed*

Monday, September 3, 2012

*Labor Day (No Classes)*

Reading Assignment:

Wednesday, September 5, 2012

Reading Assignment:

**Group 3**

Friday, September 7, 2012 (Group 3)

Reading Assignment:

Class Discussion

**Week Four: Legal Challenges to Separate but Equal** (continued)

Related Films:  *Cases in Controversy: The 14th Amendment*
*The Road to Brown*
*With All Deliberate Speed*

Monday, September 10, 2012

Lecture:  “Black Civil Rights in the Progressive Era and World War I”

Reading Assignment:
Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Reading Assignment:

**Group 4**

Friday, September 14, 2012 (Group 4)

Reading Assignment:

Class Discussion

**Week Five: Equal Opportunity and the National Urban League**

Related Films:  
*Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice*  
*Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*

Monday, September 17, 2012

Lecture: “African Americans and the Great Depression”

Reading Assignment:

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

**Essay Due: Groups 1 and 4**

Reading Assignment:

**Group 5**

Friday, Sept 21, 2012 (Group 5)

Reading Assignment:
Reed, Touré F., *Not Alms but Opportunity*, pp. 27 – 79.

Class Discussion
Week Six: Equal Opportunity and the National Urban League (continued)

Related Films:  
- *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice*  
- *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*

Monday, September 24, 2012

Lecture: “A New Deal for African Americans”

Reading Assignment:
Reed, Touré F., *Not Alms but Opportunity*, pp. 81 – 137.

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Reading Assignment:

Group 1

Friday, September 28, 2012 (Group 1)

Reading Assignment:

Class Discussion

Week Seven: Equal Opportunity and the National Urban League (continued)

Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Related Films:  
- *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice*  
- *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*

Monday, October 1, 2012

Lecture: “Civil Rights and the Second World War”

Reading Assignment:

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Reading Assignment:

Group 2

Friday, October 5, 2012 (Group 2)

Reading Assignment:
Faireclough, Adam, *To Redeem the Soul of America*, pp. 1 – 84.

Class Discussion
Week Eight: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
(continued)

Related Films:  *Eyes on the Prize: Awakenings, 1954-1956*
                   *Eyes on the Prize: Fighting Back, 1957-1962*

Monday, October 8, 2012

Lecture:  “The Cold War and Black Americans”

Reading Assignment:
Faireclough, Adam, *To Redeem the Soul of America*, pp. 85 – 162.

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

**Essay Due: Group 2 and 5**

Reading Assignment:

**Group 3**

Friday, October 12, 2012 (Group 3)

Reading Assignment:
Faireclough, Adam, *To Redeem the Soul of America*, pp. 163 – 252.

Class Discussion

Week Nine: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
(continued)

Related Films:  *Eyes on the Prize: Awakenings, 1954-1956*
                   *Eyes on the Prize: Fighting Back, 1957-1962*

Monday, October 15, 2012

Lecture:  “Building on the Brown Breakthrough”

Reading Assignment:
Faireclough, Adam, *To Redeem the Soul of America*, pp. 253 – 332.

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Reading Assignment:

**Group 4**
Friday, October 19, 2012 (Group 4)

Reading Assignment:
Faireclough, Adam, *To Redeem the Soul of America*, pp. 333 – 422.

Class Discussion

**Week Ten: The Student Movement and SNCC**

Related Films:
- *Eyes on the Prize: Ain’t Scared of Your Jails, 1960-1961*
- *Eyes on the Prize: No Easy Walk, 1961-1963*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Mississippi: Is This America?, 1962-1964*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Bridge to Freedom, 1965*

Monday, October 22, 2012

Lecture: “Marching Toward Freedom”

Reading Assignment:

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

Reading Assignment:

**Group 2**

Friday, October 26, 2012 (Group 2)

Reading Assignment:

Class Discussion

**Week Eleven: The Student Movement and SNCC**

Related Films:
- *Eyes on the Prize: Ain’t Scared of Your Jails, 1960-1961*
- *Eyes on the Prize: No Easy Walk, 1961-1963*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Mississippi: Is This America?, 1962-1964*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Bridge to Freedom, 1965*

Monday, October 29, 2012

Lecture: “Freedom Summer”

Reading Assignment:
Cagin, Seth and Philip Dray, *We Are Not Afraid*, pp. 162 – 244.
Wednesday, October 31, 2012

**Essay Due: Group 1 and 3**

Reading Assignment:

**Group 5**

Friday, November 2, 2012 (Group 5)

Reading Assignment:
Cagin, Seth and Philip Dray, *We Are Not Afraid*, pp. 245 – 335.

Class Discussion

**Week Twelve: The Student Movement and SNCC**

Related Films:  
*Eyes on the Prize: Ain’t Scared of Your Jails, 1960-1961*  
*Eyes on the Prize: No Easy Walk, 1961-1963*  
*Eyes on the Prize: Mississippi: Is This America?, 1962-1964*  
*Eyes on the Prize: Bridge to Freedom, 1965*

Monday, November 5, 2012

Lecture: “Voting Rights to Violence”

Reading Assignment:

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

Reading Assignment:

**Group 1**

Friday, November 9, 2012 (Group 1)

Reading Assignment:
Cagin, Seth and Philip Dray, *We Are Not Afraid*, pp. 403 – 457.

Class Discussion
Week Thirteen: Black Power

Related Films:
- Eyes on the Prize: The Time Has Come, 1964-1966
- Eyes on the Prize: Two Societies, 1965-1968
- Eyes on the Prize: Power!, 1966-1968
- Eyes on the Prize: The Promised Land, 1967-1968

Monday, November 12, 2012

Lecture: “Black Power”

Reading Assignment:

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

**Essay Due: Group 2 and 4**

Reading Assignment:

Group 3

Friday, November 16, 2012 (Group 3)

Reading Assignment:
Van Deburg, A New Day in Babylon, pp. 29 – 62.

Class Discussion

Week Fourteen: Black Power

Related Films:
- Eyes on the Prize: The Time Has Come, 1964-1966
- Eyes on the Prize: Two Societies, 1965-1968
- Eyes on the Prize: Power!, 1966-1968
- Eyes on the Prize: The Promised Land, 1967-1968

Monday, November 19, 2012

Lecture: “Determining a New Racial Consciousness”

Reading Assignment:
Van Deburg, A New Day in Babylon, pp. 63 – 111.

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

**Thanksgiving Break** (No Classes)

Reading Assignment:
Friday, November 23, 2012

*Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)*

Reading Assignment:

**Week Fifteen: Black Power**

Related Films:
- *Eyes on the Prize: The Time Has Come, 1964-1966*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Two Societies, 1965-1968*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Power!, 1966-1968*
- *Eyes on the Prize: The Promised Land, 1967-1968*

Monday, November 26, 2012

Lecture: “The Rise and Fall of Black Power Militancy”

Reading Assignment:

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Reading Assignment:

**Group 4**

Friday, November 30, 2012 (Group 4)

Reading Assignment:

Class Discussion

**Week Sixteen: Black Power**

Related Films:
- *Eyes on the Prize: The Time Has Come, 1964-1966*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Two Societies, 1965-1968*
- *Eyes on the Prize: Power!, 1966-1968*
- *Eyes on the Prize: The Promised Land, 1967-1968*

Monday, December 3, 2012

Reading Assignment:

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Reading Assignment:

**Group 5**
Friday, December 7, 2012 (Group 5)

Reading Assignment:

Class Discussion

Wednesday, December 14, 2012

**Essay Due:** Groups 3 and 5

**Final Exam:** TBA