Universidade de São Paulo - FFLCH -

Departamento de História  
**History of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States**

**FLH0133**

1º/2016 Tuesday 19h30-22h30

Prof. Sean Purdy

Room 16

(Course Outline Subject to revision)

**Note: This course is for students with a minimum of upper-intermediate English listening, reading and oral skills. If you have any doubts, please speak to the professor before the course begins.**

* + 1. **I. overview and Objectives**

The civil rights movement was one of the most significant social movements in the history of the twentieth century with a continuing influence on American society and important impacts on a world scale. The study of the civil rights movements constitutes one of the most vibrant and innovative areas of current historiographical investigation. This course aims to introduce students to the principal themes and historiographical debates in the history of the civil rights movement. We pay close attention to wider historical contexts such as the legacy of slavery and the nature of American capitalism and racial formation, the roles of organizations, leadership, ideology, political culture, class relations and gender.

**II. CONTENT**

1. Contexts, Concepts and Contestations: Mapping the Field
2. Looking Backwards and Forwards in History: The Black Liberation Struggle Today
3. Origins I: Reconstruction to the Harlem Renaissance
4. Origins II: 1930s-1940s
5. Black Struggles and the Cold War
6. Brown vs Board, the Emmett Till case and the Montgomery Bus Boycott
7. Cities, Suburbs, and Ghettoes
8. Sit-Ins, Freedom Rides and the Emergence of a Mass Movement
9. Non-Violence Tested: Albany, Birmingham and Selma
10. Gendering the Movement
11. Movement Cultures
12. The Chicago Freedom Movement and the Poor People’s Campaign
13. Malcolm X and the Roots of Black Power
14. The Meanings of Black Power
15. The Forgotten Struggles in the North

**III. TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

Required readings. Lectures, films and discussion of texts.

* + 1. **IV. Student responsibilities**

Attendance, required readings, participation in discussions, completion of essay and final exam.

* + 1. **V. EValuation**

1. 70% minimum attendance. Use of the Moodle USP site for the course. Required readings in English. Participation in discussions in English. One essay (in English or Portuguese) to be discussed in the first weeks of class due on May 31, 2016 and a take home final exam (in Portuguese or English) due on June 14, 2016. It is necessary to hand in both the essay and final exam to pass in the course.
   * 1. **VI. Recuperation**
     2. According to the resolution COG 3583 of 29/09/89, students will have a right to recuperation if they attended a minimum of 70% of the classes and achieve a mark of 3,0 (three). The evaluation will be a written exam.
     4. **VII. office hours**

The professor will receive students in his office, J1, between 16:00-19:00 on the day of the class or on a day and time mutually agreed.

VIII. Schedule (All the readings are either in the Copiadora da Márcia or on the Moodle web site of the class ).

**Week 1: February 23 - Introduction to the Course and Mapping the Field**

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| Required Readings: 1) Discussion of the song *Keep Your Eyes on the Prize*; 2) HALL**, Jacquelyn Dowd. “The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past”. *The Journal of American History*. Vol.91, n.4, March 2005, pp.1233-1263.**  **Supplemental Readings: 1) CHA-JUA,** Sundiata Keita and LANG, Clarence. “The ‘Long Movement’ as Vampire: Temporal and Spatial Fallacies in Recent Black Freedom Studies”. Journal of African American History. Vol.92, n. 2, Spring 2007, pp. 265-288; 2) SINGH, Nikhil Pal. “Civil Rights, Civic Myths”. *Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004. |
| **Week 2: March 1 - Looking Backwards and Forwards in History: The Black Liberation Struggle Today**  Required Readings: 1) Alexander, Michelle. “The New Jim Crow”. *The Nation*. March 2010; 2) LONG, Heather. “We Should Be Talking About Class as Much as Race Issues in America”. *The Guardian*, 28 August 2013; 3) PETERSEN-SMITH, Khury. “Black Lives Matter:A new movement takes shape”. *International Socialist Review*. n.96, Spring 2015. |

**Week 3: March 8 – Origins I: Reconstruction to the Harlem Renaissance**

Required Readings: 1) FAIRCLOUGH, Adam. “The Failure of Reconstruction and the Triumph of White Supremacy”. *Better Day Coming: Blacks and Equality*. New York: Penguin, 2001 **(copiadora)**; 2) KELLY, Brian. “Labor, Race, and the Search for a Central Theme in the History of the Jim Crow South”. *Irish Journal of American Studies.* Vol. 10, Dec. 2001, pp. 55-73; 3) Document: Declaration of the Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World (1920).

Supplemental Reading: KELLEY, Robin D.G. “’We are Not What We Seem’: Rethinking Black Opposition in the Jim Crow South”. *The Journal of American History*. Vol.80, n.1, June 1993, pp. 75-112.

**Week 4: March 15 – Origins II: 1930s-1940s**

Required Readings: 1) TROTTER, Jr. Joe William. “From Raw Deal to a New Deal? 1929-1945”. KELLEY, Robin D.G and LEWIS, Earl (eds.) *To Make Our World Anew: A History of African-Americans*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000 **(copiadora)**; 2) SUGRUE, Thomas. *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North*. New York: Random House, 2008 **(copiadora); 3)** Film: The Negro Leagues: Baseball, America and Segregation.

Supplemental Readings: 1) KELLEY, Robin D.G. *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists during the Great Depression*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1990; 2) DALFIUME, Richard. “The "Forgotten Years" of the Negro Revolution”. *Journal of American History*. Vol. 55, No. 1, Jun., 1968, pp. 90-106.

**March 22 – No Class – Semana Santa**

**Week 5: March 29 - Black Struggles and the Cold War**

Required Readings: 1) FAIRCLOUGH, Adam. “Two Steps Forward and One Step Back, 1946-1955”. *Better Day Coming: Blacks and Equality*. New York: Penguin, 2001 **(copiadora)**; 2) DUDZIAK, Mary. “Josephine Baker, Racial Protest and the Cold War”. *The Journal of American History*. Vol. 81, September 1994, pp.543-570.

Supplemental Reading: BERG, Manfred. “Black Civil Rights and Liberal Anticommunism: The NAACP in the Early Cold War”. *The Journal of American History*. Vol.94, n.1, 2007, pp.75-96.

**Week 6: April 5 - Brown vs Board, the Emmett Till case and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1950s**

Required Readings: 1) FAIRCLOUGH, Adam. “The Non-Violent Revolution”. *Better Day Coming: Blacks and Equality*. New York: Penguin, 2001 **(copiadora)**;Documents: “Interview with Rosa Parks” and “At Holt Street Baptist Church”. In: CARSON, Clayborne et. al. (eds.) *The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader*. New York: Penguin, 1990 **(copiadora).**

**Week 7: April 12 - Cities, Suburbs, and Ghettoes, 1940s-1960s**

Required Readings: 1) SUGRUE, Thomas. “Crabgrass-Roots Politics: Race, Rights, and the Reaction against Liberalism in the Urban North, 1940-1964”. *The Journal of American History*. Vol.82, n.2, September 1995, pp.551-578; 2) HIRSCH, Arnold. “Massive Resistance in the Urban North: Trumbull Park, Chicago, 1953-1966”. *The Journal of American History*. Vol.82, n.2, September 1995, pp.522-550; 3) Maps of Redlining and Housing Discrimination.

**Week 8: April 19 - Sit-Ins, Freedom Rides and the Emergence of a Mass Movement, 1960-1963**

Required Readings: 1) FAIRCLOUGH, Adam. “The Civil Rights Movement, 1960-1963”. *Better Day Coming: Blacks and Equality*. New York: Penguin, 2001 **(copiadora)**; 2) BAKER, Ella. “Bigger Than a Hamaburger”. In: CARSON, Clayborne et. al. (eds.) *The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader*. New York: Penguin, 1990, pp.120-122. **(copiadora);** 3) Film: *Freedom Riders*

**Week 9: April 26 - Non-Violence Tested: Albany, Birmingham and Selma Campaigns, 1961-1963**

Required Readings: 1) FAIRCLOUGH, Adam. “Birmingham, the Freedom Summer, and Selma”. *Better Day Coming: Blacks and Equality*. New York: Penguin, 2001 **(copiadora)**; 2) “Interview with Bernice Reagon”. In: CARSON, Clayborne et. al. (eds.) *The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader*. New York: Penguin, 1990, pp.143-145 **(copiadora); 3)** Film: *Selma*.

**Week 10: May 3 - Gendering the Movement**

Required Readings: 1) ROBNETT, Belinda. “African-American Women in the Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1965: Gender, Leadership and Micromobilization”. *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol.101, n.6, May 1996, pp.1661-1693; 2) Document 1: Position Paper, SNCC, Women in the Movement; 3) Document 2: Interview with SNCC activist Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons.

**Week 11: May 10 – Movement Cultures**

Required Readings: 1) STEWART, James. B. “Message in the Music: Political Commentary in Black Popular Music from Rhythm and Blues to Early Hip Hop”. The Journal of African American History. Vol. 90, No. 3, Summer 2005, pp.196-225; 2) SALAAM, Kaluma Ya.“Black Arts Movement”. *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature*. New York: Oxford UP, 1997; 3) MARTIN, Reginald. “Black Arts Movement”. *The Oxford Companion to Women’s Writing in the United States*. New York: Oxford UP, 1995. 4) Film: *Soundtrack for a Revolution*.

**Week 12: May 17 - The Chicago Freedom Movement and the Poor People’s Campaign, 1965-1969**

Required Readings: 1) HARDING, Vincent, KELLEY, Robin D.G. and LEWIS, Earl. “We Changed the World: 1945-1970”. In: KELLEY, Robin D.G and LEWIS, Earl (eds.) *To Make Our World Anew: A History of African-Americans*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, pp.236-251. **(copiadora);** 2) DANNS, Diane. “Black Student Empowerment and Chicago: School Reform Efforts in 1968”. *Urban Education*. Vol.37, 2002, pp.631-655; 3) RALPH, James. “Assessing the Chicago Freedom Movement”. *Poverty and Race*. May-June 2006; 4) Film: Eyes on the Prize “Two Societies”.

**Week 13: May 24 – Malcolm X and the Roots of Black Power**

Required Readings: 1) KELLEY, Robin D.G. “’Roaring from the East’: Third World Dreaming”. In: KELLEY, Robin D.G. *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2002, pp.60-109; 2) Malcolm X. “The Black Revolution”. In: BREITMAN, George, ed. *Malcolm Speaks*. New York: Grove Press, 1965, pp.45-57; 3) Film: *X*.

**Week 14: May 31 - The Meanings of Black Power**

**Essay Deadline May 31**

Required Readings: 1) JOSEPH, Peniel. “The Black Power Movement: A State of the Field”. *The Journal of American History*. December 2009, pp.751-776; 2) WILLIAMS, Yohuru. “’Some Abstract Thing Called Freedom’: Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Legacy of the Black Panther Party. *OAH Magazine of History*. July 2008, pp.16-21; 3) WILLIAMS, Rhonda Y. “Black Women and Black Power”. *OAH Magazine of History*. July 2008, pp.22-26; 4) Film: *The Black Power Mixtape*.

**Week 15: June 7 – The Forgotten Struggles in the North**

Required Readings: 1) SUGRUE, Thomas. “Northern Lights: The Black Freedom Struggle Outside the South”. *OAH Magazine of History*. Vol.26, n.1, 2012, pp.9-15; 2) THEOHARIS, Jeanne.“’The northern promised land that wasn’t’: Rosa Parks and the Black Freedom Struggle in Detroit’. *OAH Magazine of History*. Vol.26, n.1, 2012, pp.23-27; 3) WILLIAMS, Rhonda Y. “’We're tired of being treated like dogs’: Poor Women and Power Politics in Black Baltimore”. *The Black Scholar*. Vol.31, n.-3-4, 2001, pp.31-41.

**Deadline: Final Exam June 14 – Leave in the Secretária de Graduação, Departamento de História**