



TV and the Civil Rights Movement – Digging Deeper

April 10, 2024 – May 8, 2024 CTC 338 Wed 1:30 – 3:30PM

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Course Description:

The civil rights movement eventually achieved equal rights legislation, but not without challenges. In the late 1960s complications arose as various groups confronted the enduring economic and social consequences of past oppression. These problems persisted in subsequent decades, and the idea of real equality remained elusive well into the 21st century. Continue this retrospective with the instructor born in the Jim Crow South through the medium of television.

Learning Objectives: *as a result of taking this course, students will:*

1. Discover stories of people's struggles for social justice, the Civil Rights Movement has the capacity to help students develop a critical analysis of United States history and strategies for change.
2. Explore how the instructor benefited from the social changes taking place and view (via news footage) Baseball breaking the Color Barrier in 1945.
3. Understand how television's ability to bring the civil rights movement to people's own living room shocked the American public.
4. Examine the events leading up to The Bakke Case and the Status of Affirmative Action.

Class Schedule: *Each week I will contrast major events within the Civil Rights Movement with how TV portrayed it – and how I, as a Black kid and then man, experienced it.*

Week One: 1947 – Breaking Baseball's Color Barrier; 1964 Lester Maddox

Jackie Robinson - April 15, 1947 Breaking Baseball's Color Barrier: Although African Americans had long excelled at baseball in the Negro leagues, no Major League Baseball team had ever signed a Black player to play professional ball with white players. In October 1945 Rickey signed Jackie Robinson of the Kansas City Monarchs.

Albany Movement - The Albany Movement began in fall 1961 and ended in summer 1962. It was the first mass movement in the modern civil rights era to have as its goal the desegregation of an entire community, and it resulted in the jailing of more than 1,000 African Americans in Albany and surrounding rural counties.

Ole Miss to Integrate - October 1, 1962 The Supreme Court Orders Ole Miss to Integrate: A federal appeals court ordered the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, an African-American student. Upon his arrival, a mob of more than 2,000 white people rioted; two people were killed.

Lester Maddox - July 3, 1964: Lester Maddox and a throng of supporters wielding axe handles forcibly turned away three black activists who tried to eat at Maddox's restaurant, the Pickrick. Maddox was elected Governor of Georgia in 1966.

Week 2 Three activists abducted and murdered; Watts Riots

Murders of Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner - Three activists were abducted and murdered in the city of Philadelphia, Mississippi, in June 1964 during the Civil Rights Movement. The victims James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. They had been working with the Freedom Summer campaign by attempting to register African Americans in Mississippi to vote.

Fannie Lou Hamer - August 1964 Fannie Lou Hamer: An American voting and women's rights activist, community organizer, and a leader in the civil rights movement, Fannie Lou Hamer was the vice-chair of the Freedom Democratic Party, which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

Watts Riots - The riots, sometimes referred to as the Watts Rebellion or Watts Uprising, took place in the Watts neighborhood and its surrounding areas of Los Angeles in the summer of 1965.

Chicago Freedom Movement - The Chicago Freedom Movement, also known as the Chicago open housing movement, was led by Martin Luther King Jr., James Bevel and Al Raby. It was supported by the Chicago-based Coordinating Council of Community Organizations and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Week 3 – Black Panther Party; Detroit Riots

Black Panther Party - Founded in October 15, 1966 in Oakland, California, the Black Panther Party for Self Defense was the era's most influential militant black power organization.

Thurgood Marshall - An American civil rights lawyer and jurist who was the Supreme Court's first African-American justice. A staunch liberal, he frequently dissented as the Court became increasingly conservative.

Loving V. Virginia - A landmark civil rights decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in which the Court ruled that laws banning interracial marriage violate the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Detroit Riot - The 1967 Detroit Riot, also known as the 12th Street Riot or Detroit Rebellion, was the bloodiest of the urban riots in the United States during the "Long, hot summer of 1967".

Week 4 – Four: The Kerner Report; Jackson State College Killings

The Kerner Commission Report - An 11-member Presidential Commission established in July 1967 by President Lyndon B. Johnson in Executive Order 11365 to investigate the causes of urban riots in the United States during the summer of 1967.

Poor People's Campaign - Also called Poor People's March, political campaign that culminated in a demonstration held in Washington, D.C., in which participants demanded that the

government formulate a plan to help redress the employment and housing problems of the poor throughout the United States.

Shirley Chisholm - The first black congresswoman, was elected by New York's Twelfth Congressional District.

Two young black Americans killed by Law Enforcement Officers: Mississippi law enforcement officers killed two young black Americans at Jackson State College, a historically black institution.

Week 5: Tuskegee Study; The Million Man March

The "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male" ended. Begun in 1932, the United States Public Health Service's 40-year experiment on 399 black men with syphilis was described by news anchor Harry Reasoner as an experiment that "used human beings as laboratory animals in a long and inefficient study of how long it takes syphilis to kill someone."

The National Black Political Convention (1972): The National Black Political Convention gathered around ten thousand African-Americans to discuss and advocate for black communities that undergo significant economic and social crisis.

Integration of Boston Schools - The Federal Court Order to Integrate Boston Schools: Judge Wendell Arthur Garrity Jr. required the system to desegregate its schools, busing white students to black schools and black students to white schools across the city.

The Bakke Case and the Status of Affirmative Action - The Supreme Court ruled that a university's use of racial "quotas" in its admissions process was unconstitutional, but a school's use of "affirmative action" to accept more minority applicants was constitutional in some circumstances.

The Million Man March -Thirty-two years after King's March on Washington, Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, organized the Million Man March in Washington, D.C., to promote African American unity and values and to bring about a spiritual renewal that would

instill a sense of personal responsibility in African American men for improving the condition of African Americans.

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Reading List: will be sent separately each week

Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your “junk mail,” but we can assure you it’s from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation please email continuingeducation@clark.edu or call 360.992.2939.