

**HI412 – The Civil Rights Movement
Spring 2021**

Zoom Meeting Times: Tuesday, Thursday, 2:30-3:45

Zoom Link for Class Sessions: <https://bac.zoom.us/j/94249403377>



The March from Selma to Montgomery, March 1965. Photographed by James Karales.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Hutchinson

Office Telephone: 704-461-5019

Scheduling Office Hour Appointments: <http://bit.ly/hutchinson-appointments>

Email address: danielhutchinson@bac.edu

TEXTS:

Charles Marsh, *God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights* (Princeton University Press, 2008)

Assigned readings, videos, and other media will also be placed on the Canvas course website.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the impact of the Civil Rights Movement in American history. In particular, the course explores the origins of this movement, the movement's leadership and organization, the movement's successes and shortcomings, and how the movement influenced other aspects of American society. This course will focus on the notable icons of the civil rights era, as well as the experiences of ordinary citizens advocating for social change.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- For students to acquire an understanding of the notable personalities, ideas, and events that characterize the history of the Civil Rights Movement.
- For students to improve their ability to critically interpret and analyze the past, and to comprehend how past events influence contemporary and future events.
- For students to improve their rhetorical skills through written exercises that critically examine historical sources and media.
- To fulfill the [educational mission](#) of Belmont Abbey College: to enable students to "lead lives of integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to be a blessing to themselves and to others."

COURSE POLICIES:

Substantial alterations to typical course policies have been made in response to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Future adjustments may be required over the course of the semester in response to unfolding events. Please know the instructor will attempt to work with you to ensure both your health and your academic success. Regardless of these altered circumstances, success in this class requires your active participation and full engagement.

Class Format: This class will be taught entirely online this semester. Announcements, instructional materials, and assessment will be facilitated by Canvas, and live class sessions will occur weekly via Zoom. This is not my preference, as I understand it may not be yours. Nonetheless, I am confident we will enjoy a stimulating and fulfilling experience this semester.

Belmont Abbey College Attendance Policy: While measuring attendance and regular class participation remains important, obviously the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic require flexibility and imagination. When conditions are optimal, you are expected to regularly participate in class sessions, both in-person and via Zoom. However, the present circumstances have enormously complicated the dynamics of every facet of life. If you believe you will be absent for a future class, please alert the instructor so proper arrangements can be made. Prolonged absences from class sessions or failure to turn in assignments (three consecutive absences/missed assignments; more than four total absences/missed assignments) will result in communication from the instructor, and if continued, penalties to the student's final grade.

In addition to the present circumstances, excused absences also include: deaths or serious illness in the family, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official college activities. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Reading: This course is a reading intensive course. Students are expected to have read each assignment by the announced assigned time. Students are especially encouraged to

start early on the texts that require written assignments, particularly the text *God's Long Summer*. Other readings will be assigned through the course of the semester.

Late Assignments: For each written assignment, there will be a one-week window in which assignments can be uploaded to Canvas. After that window is closed, late papers will not be accepted. The only exception to this policy is for students with valid, documented reasons. Papers must be turned in digitally to Canvas; hard copies or copies submitted via email will not be accepted.

Politeness and decorum: because the content of this course deals with controversial material, both the student and the instructor are expected to act in a civil manner when engaging in classroom discussion. In addition, students are asked to refrain from actions that distract others during class, including but not limited to: talking, sleeping, eating, and texting.

Zoom Etiquette: When logged into Zoom, when appropriate please keep webcam activated so to facilitate greater engagement and class participation. Muting your webcam for brief periods as needed is acceptable.

GRADING/EVALUATION:

The course grade is based on the following scale and assignments:

- **Eyes on the Prize Annotations (Tuesdays)** – 25% of course grade
- **Readings and Primary Source Annotations (Thursdays)** - 25% of course grade
- **God's Long Summer Paper – March 30** - 25% of course grade
- **Mapping the Civil Rights Movement Project** – May 11 - 25% of course grade
- **Extra Credit** – Up to an additional 5% of course grade

Grade Scale

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|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| • A: 100-92 | • B-: 81-80 | • D+:69-68 |
| • A-: 91-90 | • C+: 79-78 | • D: 67-62 |
| • B+: 89-88 | • C: 77-72 | • D-: 61-60 |
| • B: 87-82 | • C-: 71-70 | • F: 60-0 |

- **Eyes on the Prize Episode Annotations:** Most weeks you'll be assigned to watch an episode of the *Eyes on the Prize* documentary series. Accompanying that episode will be a transcript of the episode. Using an app called Hypothesis, you and your classmates will collectively annotate the transcript with comments, analysis, questions, explications, or media. You'll share with your classmates your impressions of the source's message, audience, intent, and the larger historical context. Then we'll discuss in class our collective analysis of the episode and its depiction of the Civil Rights Movement.
- **Readings & Primary Source Annotations:** Every week students will examine readings and primary sources on particular aspects of the Civil Rights Movement. In reading these sources, the class will collectively annotate the document using an app called Hypothesis.

You'll share your impressions of the source's message, audience, intent, and the larger historical context. Then we'll discuss in class our collection analysis of the source.

- **Mapping the Civil Rights Movement Digital Project:** to conclude the semester students will craft a geographic narrative of a Civil Rights Movement topic of their choice, using the application StoryMap.JS. This narrative will allow students to craft in-depth projects employing primary source research. Training and instructions on using StoryMap.JS will be included in class lectures. More details will be posted on Canvas.
- **Extra Credit:** A variety of extra credit activities are available for up to 5% of the course grade. Such activities include self-guided "virtual" field trips and museum tours, and contributing to the course news discussion board.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES MINOR DESIGNATION:

This course is designated as an approved course for the Digital Humanities minor. This designation is fulfilled by meeting the following requirements:

- Students will utilize a digital humanities method to further their comprehension of a humanities discipline.
- Supervising faculty will complete a Digital Humanities Project Report describing the methods and approach used in the approved course.

Academic Dishonesty & Belmont Abbey College Policy:

In accordance with the moral and academic standards of Belmont Abbey College, academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism (the appropriation of passages from the writing of another as one's own), collusion (improper collaboration with another in preparation of notes, term papers, or other written work), cheating (giving or receiving, offering or soliciting information, or using illicit material in an examination or quiz), or fabrication of sources used in a paper and included in its bibliography. It also includes appropriating another's ideas, theories, or interpretation as one's own without proper attribution. Stern disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty, with penalties ranging from a failing grade for a course assignment or a failing grade for the course.

Services For Students With Special Learning Needs:

Belmont Abbey College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may refer you to Mrs. Kimberly Stallings, Accessibility Services Coordinator. If any accommodations are approved by her office, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible to ensure that they are implemented in a timely fashion.

Contact information for Mrs. Kimberly Stallings, Accessibility Services Coordinator – KimberlyStallings@bac.edu; 704-461-6228.

Office location – Abbott Vincent Taylor Library, Lower Level, Room L1

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice. All changes will be announced, either in class or via the course website.

COURSE CONTENT AND OUTLINE:

This is a general outline that is subject to change.

Date	Topic
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Week 1:

01/19	Introduction/Syllabus
01/21	Reconstruction & the Rise of Jim Crow (1865-1900)

Week 2:

01/26	Reconstruction & the Rise of Jim Crow (1865-1900)
01/28	Reconstruction & the Rise of Jim Crow (1865-1900)

Week 3:

02/02	The Foundations of the Civil Rights Movement (1900-1945)
02/04	The Foundations of the Civil Rights Movement (1900-1945)

Week 4:

02/09	Awakenings: Topeka, Emmett Till, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1954-1956)
02/11	Awakenings: Topeka, Emmett Till, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1954-1956)

Week 5:

02/16	Fighting Back: Little Rock, Mississippi, and Massive Resistance (1956-1957)
02/18	Fighting Back: Little Rock, Mississippi, and Massive Resistance (1956-1957)

Week 6:

02/23	Ain't Scared of Your Jails: Sit-In's, Freedom Rides, and SNCC (1960-1961)
02/25	Ain't Scared of Your Jails: Sit-In's, Freedom Rides, and SNCC (1960-1961)

Week 7:

03/02	No Easy Walk: Martin Luther King, Birmingham, and Washington D.C. (1961-1963)
03/04	No Easy Walk: Martin Luther King, Birmingham, and Washington D.C. (1961-1963)

Week 8:

03/09 Mississippi, Is This America?: Freedom Summer, Medgar Evers, MDP (1963-1964)
03/11 Mississippi, Is This America?: Freedom Summer, Medgar Evers, MDP (1963-1964)

Week 9:

03/16 Bridge to Freedom: Martin Luther King, Selma, and the Voting Rights Act (1964)
03/18 Bridge to Freedom: Martin Luther King, Selma, and the Voting Rights Act (1964)

Week 10:

03/23 The Time Has Come: Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael, and Black Power (1964-1966)
03/25 The Time Has Come: Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael, and Black Power (1964-1966)

Week 11:

03/30 *** NO CLASS – GOD’S LONG SUMMER PAPER DUE ***
04/01 *** NO CLASS – EASTER BREAK ***

Week 12:

04/06 Two Societies: The Chicago Movement and the 1967 Detroit Riot
04/08 Two Societies: The Chicago Movement and the 1967 Detroit Riot

Week 13:

04/13 The Promised Land: Martin Luther King, Resurrection City, and Memphis (1967-1968)
04/15 The Promised Land: Martin Luther King, Resurrection City, and Memphis (1967-1968)

Week 14:

04/20 Legacies of the Civil Rights Movement (1968-1980)
04/22 Legacies of the Civil Rights Movement (1968-1980)

Week 15:

04/27 From the Civil Rights Movement to #Black Lives Matter (1980-2021)
04/29 From the Civil Rights Movement to #Black Lives Matter (1980-2021)

05/11 *** MAPPING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT PROJECT DUE ***