

University of Texas at El Paso
African American Studies Program
Summer I Term
May 13, 2024 through June 28, 2024
The Modern Civil Rights Movement
Course Numbers: AFST 3301-001

I. Professor's Information

Name: Dr. Michael Vinson Williams

Session: Summer I (2024)

Course Location: **Online**

Virtual Office hours: I will be reading Blackboard and email messages daily and will respond within a 24-hour period.

Phone number: 915-747-7822

E-mail: mvwilliams@utep.edu

UTEP Technology Support: <https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>

II. Course Description:

The objective of this course is to provide students with not only an understanding of the modern Civil Rights movement but the meaning of civil rights struggle in the United States during the 20th century. The course will also examine the antecedents leading to the modern civil rights period and examine the role of African Americans in the struggle for equality and the resistance movements, both political and covert, they engendered. Although many scholars mark the beginning of the modern Civil Rights movement with the advent of the *Brown* decision or with the lynching of Emmett Till, this course pays close attention to events happening prior to the 1950s that laid the groundwork for what transpired from *Brown* forward. Throughout the course specific attention will be placed upon the varied tactics/strategies African Americans implemented in the struggle for civil rights and the role/reaction of federal and state agents or agencies during the movement from the perspective of political and social history. Much of the focus will be on the two prongs of the Civil Rights movement: the top-down reaction of the federal government and its policies concerning civil rights and grassroots mobilization that exerted pressure on the federal government to act. **This course utilizes a variety of mediums (video and documentary clips, period music, oral expressions, speeches and first-person accounts and recollections, etc.) to get at the heart of the Civil Rights movement through the lives of those most at its center.**

By the end of the course, students will have a sound grasp of the social, cultural, and political impact and meaning of the Civil Rights movement during the 20th century and be able to think critically about significant historical issues regarding African Americans' social, economic and political struggle.

Academic Objectives:

- a.) Gain basic knowledge of the time period and the life experiences of those involved.
- b.) Enhance critical thinking skills and its application towards dissecting and understanding the significance and impact of historical issues, movements and leaders.

III. Required Readings:

Students should purchase the required readings at the very start of the term to avoid difficulties resulting from availability issues. Any student who has trouble locating the material must notify the professor immediately. Lack of a book, however, does not make for a legitimate excuse for incomplete work.

Required Readings:

- Harvard Sitkoff, *The Struggle for Black Equality*, 25th Anniversary edition, 2008
- Clayborne Carson, et al. *The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader: Documents, Speeches, and Firsthand Accounts from the Black Freedom Struggle*, 1991
- Chana Kai Lee, *For Freedom's Sake: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*, 1999
- Hasan Kwame Jeffries, *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt*, 2009
- **Supplemental Viewings:** Video clips listed on the course map are available on YouTube.

Supplemental Readings: Articles listed on the course map are available via JSTOR

For references purposes, please see images of the book covers at the end of the syllabus.

The required books above are available at the UTEP Bookstore. If you are unable to acquire your textbooks through UTEP, feel free to consult an internet provider such as Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Make sure, however, that the editions are the same as those listed above.

- Please visit [UTEP Bookstore](#)

Course Requirements:

Students are required to log on each day, read all assignments with a critical eye and complete and submit all assigned work by the given deadline. Students who do not log in can expect such an absence to negatively affect their overall grade. If a student **has** a problem with logging in for whatever reason, she or he must contact the professor immediately to explain the issue.

“The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide

them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.” See, [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#).

Submission of and participation in group discussions via Blackboard are required to pass this course. Assignments include **book exams, course quizzes, discussion boards, exams and a critical analysis paper.**

Grades:

There will be a total of two major essay exams: a Midterm and a Final worth 100 points each. Each student will complete a two-part book exam on Chana Kai Lee’s *The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer* worth 50 points each (100 points total) and a 5-7 page critical analysis paper (cover and reference pages not included in the required page count) on Hasan K. Jeffries book *Bloody Lowndes* (85 points). There will also be five quizzes comprised of identification/short answer and fill in the blank questions from the readings worth 50 points total and discussion forum submissions worth (15 points total). Students have a total of 450 possible points over the semester.

Total Points earned:

405-450
360-404
315-359
270-314
269-0

Final Grade:

A
B
C
D
F

Evaluation Values:

Midterm Exam: 100 points

Book Exam #1: 50 points

Final Exam: 100 points

Book Exam # 2: 50 points

Critical Analysis Paper: 85 points

Discussion Board Submissions (15 points)

Five quizzes: 10 points each (50 points)

The grading scale used for this course reflects the standard A through F scale: 100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; 59 and below = **F**. To calculate your final grade I will add the total number of points scored on all assignments and divide that number by the total number of points possible. I will not percentage anything as everything is weighted the same.

It is highly recommended that students visit Blackboard on a daily basis. Students will find their grades, be able to post messages, participate in discussion groups and find test and assignment

reminders. Blackboard provides you access to course materials and allow you to engage with the professor and your classmates.

Late work policy:

Late work will not be accepted unless the professor is provided a legitimate excuse; it is the right of the professor to accept or reject presented excuses. Once assessments windows open, daily assignments must be posted through Blackboard on or before stated deadlines. **The Critical Analysis Paper, however, must be submitted to the professor via email.** **All time-based submission deadlines are on Mountain Daylight Time (MDT).** Thus, I strongly recommend that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network and/or your computer. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

Below please find computer lab hours for the Liberal Arts Center for Instructional Technology (LACIT) and additional computer labs (**Due to possible increases in coronavirus cases, computer lab hours may be altered**):

[LACIT](#)

[Additional Labs and Facilities](#)

Expectations for Examinations and Additional Assessments:

Blackboard forums (15 points):

Forums are sites where the entire group meets for conversations on topics related to the readings. Read the instructions and prompts for each forum discussion before posting your reflection. The original posting must indicate (with citations when applicable) the sources of any information that supports your perspective. Write your posting in a word document before pasting it into the forum. After posting a reflection of at least 300 words, students will reply to two classmates (preferably two students without two or more replies so as to expand the conversation) in at least 150 words. Students must submit their original text before reading their peers' assignments.

Opening the forum before posting your first entry will result in a cancellation of your grade. You must read the instructions provided for each discussion and respond directly to the prompt.

All answers must integrate the knowledge acquired through the readings. Pay close attention to any feedback provided by the professor so that you can improve future forum reflections. Late postings will not be factored into the final discussion board grade. **Failure to participate in five forums, or recurrent late submissions, will result in an F in this course.** Earned discussion board points will be added to your grade point total at the conclusion of the term.

Midterm Exam: 100 points

The Midterm Exam will be comprised of identification where the student is expected to answer (who or what, when, where and why important) for five identifications out of 15 presented. The

second part of the exam will be an essay. **Exam date: May 27th.** Students will submit their completed exam by **11:59 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT).**

Final Exam: 100 points

The Final Exam will not be comprehensive but rather will cover the material from the first exam forward and will follow the same format as the midterm. **Exam date: June 28th.** Students will submit their completed exam by **11:59 p.m. (MDT).**

Book Exams: 100 points

Each student will complete a two-part book exam on the book listed in this syllabus (Fannie Lou Hamer). The exam will consist of four questions: first three questions worth 12 points each with the final question worth 14 points each for a total of 50 points per exam. Questions will be of a wholistic nature rather than narrowly specific allowing students to effectively demonstrate their understanding of the book in its entirety. Students who actively engage the readings will be best prepared for the reading exams.

Bloody Lowndes Paper Assignment: Due June 14, 2024

Based on your reading of Hasan Jeffries's *Bloody Lowndes*, incorporate into your critical analysis answers to the following: Why did the author choose this title? What is the purpose of this work and its strengths and weaknesses? What was the struggle like and who were the key leaders and their contributions to the Civil Rights struggle? Finally, what were your reactions to the book? This paper, although only 5-7 pages in length, should be well-thought out and presented. **I do not want a book report;** you should provide a critical analysis of the work along with a clear and supported thesis. Avoid generalizations and support your position with a liberal use of examples (documented) to support any conclusions made. All papers must be typed double spaced, clearly written, and use **12 point font and Times New Roman Script.** Grammatical errors and misspelled words will hurt your overall grade. Be sure to look over your work and correct any mistakes before turning in the final paper. **All papers must contain a coversheet with the student's name clearly visible, as well as a statement acknowledging it as the student's work or it will not be accepted.** By providing a statement of verification, each student is acknowledging that the work is his or her own and that they have not engaged in any unethical practices concerning the writing of the work. Please feel free to consult with the professor at any point during the term. I also encourage students to take advantage of the services offered by the writing center regarding this assignment if so available.

Plagiarism and Citation: In this course, **you are required to cite sources for any material quoted or paraphrased in any written work or assignment.** **Please use the citation style relevant to your academic major.** Those using footnotes, please use the Chicago style manual for citations. **Again, this course operates under an established and ENFORCED system of**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. Please feel free to contact the professor if you have any questions. For further discussions regarding the Chicago style citation methods, see [Chicago Style Citation Quick Guide](#).

Examination Makeup Policy:

If you miss completing an assignment because of a legitimate excuse (supported by documentation) you must contact the professor immediately to schedule a makeup test. **Students have one day after the day of the missed exam to make it up**, after that he or she will earn a zero on the assignment unless an extended rescheduling period has been agreed upon. **If a student has a problem with an earned grade on an assignment, she or he must wait 24 hours before contacting the professor.**

Again, if you have a disability and need course-related accommodations, please contact **The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915-747-5148**, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#).

IV. Course Behavior:

Absences:

When you enroll in this course you are, in effect, agreeing to log in and fully participate. Although this is an online class, your attendance and participation is expected in the same manner as would be in a Face-to-Face course. Be forewarned that individual logins will be monitored as will participation and a lack of either will negatively impact your overall grade.

COVID-19 Protocols:

Any student who contracts COVID-19, or who must care for someone who has contracted the COVID-19 virus, must let the professor know immediately so that he can plan with the impacted student regarding the class and coursework. As a means of protecting your privacy, and that of your family, please do not email any health-related information. Instead, students should send the professor an email with a viable phone number and request a call back.

You must **STAY AT HOME** and let your Professor know if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID- 19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. UTEP also requires that any student who reports a positive COVID-19 test must report this via covidaction@utep.edu. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

Cheating:

University of Texas at El PASO has an approved Academic Integrity Policy that applies to all students. The policy states: “Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person without giving sufficient credit, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.”

Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the *Handbook of Operating Procedures* (HOP) [[Scholastic Dishonesty](#)], can result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing a grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or expulsion, among others.

Under no circumstance will cheating of any kind be tolerated. Cheating on an assignment will result in an automatic **F** and may result in university actions, so refrain from engaging in any unethical behavior as your work will be monitored. For further information regarding UTEP'S Academic Integrity policy. Again, please see [UTEP's Handbook of Operating Procedures](#). Students please be aware that **ALL** suspected violations of academic integrity will be addressed and may also be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#).

Copyright and Fair Use:

Regarding research and written work, students must avoid infringing upon the rights of others by violating the use and presentation of copyrighted materials. Please view the following from Stanford University Libraries regarding issues of Copyright and Fair Use to avoid plagiarism: [Copyright and Fair Use](#)

Classroom Etiquette and Expectations:

1. Each student **MUST** demonstrate respect for their classmates at all time. One does not have to agree with all points presented, but students are expected to refrain from personal attacks or harsh language designed to degrade, denigrate or hurt any person. Criticizing the ideas of an individual by way of personal attacks will not be tolerated. See, [10 rules of netiquette for students](#).
2. Participate fully in course discussions.
3. Engage in discussions and analyze different perspectives and ideas.
4. Submit your assignments on time, participate in forums and complete your assessments before all deadlines.

Students should know that the syllabus is subject to changes or modifications but students will always be notified before any changes. **Keep in mind that failure to submit more than five assignments (including forums and quizzes) may result in a failing grade.**

Procedures for Dropping a Course:

I will not drop you from the course. However, if a student feels the need to drop this course, please follow the instructions provided by the links below. The two sites cover students who are enrolled in UTEP Connect's fully online program as well as those who are not:

[Course Drop Procedures for Fully Online Students](#)

[Course Drop Procedures](#)

Office Hours: Stay in contact with your professor via e-mail or Blackboard. Use the Help Forum to ask questions and get feedback. Make sure you have all software needed on your computer to

use the chat feature. If the chat feature does not work, contact your professor by e-mail. All software related to UTEP sites for online courses will be provided by UTEP; contact the helpdesk/IT office if you have any problems using any Blackboard feature.

UTEP Library Room 300 (Helpdesk/IT technicians can assist you during person-to-person meetings.) Phone: 915-747-4357 or email: Helpdesk@utep.edu **Be sure to call for hours due to the coronavirus pandemic as available times or the ability to visit offices may be affected.**

How to use Blackboard:

https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/BB_Students.html

Available Student Resources: UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Familiarize yourself with the Blackboard student portal (visible before entering into a course) as well as the resources below.

- **UTEP Library** (<https://www.utep.edu/library/>): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- **Chicago Style Citation Quick Guide.** A bibliographic citation tool.
- **University Writing Center** (<https://www.utep.edu/uwc/>): Please use this resource for your research paper assignment and for assistance with writing style and formatting.
- **The History Tutoring Center (HTC) @ <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/history/resources/student-resource/history-tutoring-center.html>:** Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history-based resources. **Due to the ongoing pandemic, please check to see if this service is available during this term.**

Discussion of Classroom Topics: Due to the nature of this course, student participation is paramount. As a result, the course is structured to initiate student participation and to provide opportunities to engage in meaningful dialog regarding specific historical circumstances and events related to African American history and activism. The overall objective is to create and connect an online environment conducive to the expansion of ideas, arguments and to the development of individual perspectives regarding the period outlined. Thus, students who actively read all materials and participate in course discussion boards and discussion groups will benefit the most from this course.

Important Dates:

Book Exam # 1 (Hamer).....	May 29, 2024
Exam # 1.....	May 27, 2024
Book Exam # 2 (Hamer).....	June 17, 2024
Critical Analysis Paper	June 14, 2024
Final Exam.....	June 28, 2024

V. Class Schedule for Required Readings and Assignments: (Schedule subject to changes.)

The class course map is also located in Blackboard which outlines the completion dates for each reading assignment so that students are prepared to participate in course discussions and complete all assignments when due. Please consult the accompanied course schedule frequently.

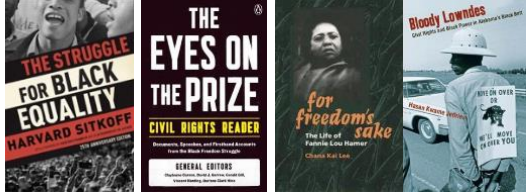


Figure 1 Book Cover for The Struggle for Black Equality

Figure 2 Book Cover for The Eyes on the Prize Reader

Figure 3 Book Cover for For Freedom's Sake

Figure 4 Book Cover for Bloody Lowndes