

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD TAKOMA PARK

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER: HIST 240

COURSE TITLE: CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A survey of the civil rights movement in America from post-Reconstruction to the present. Designed to show how the civil rights movement transformed America and how the struggle for rights in America has become a struggle of communities and individuals trying to weave civil rights into a tapestry of social and economic reality. (HUMD[M]) Assessment levels: EN 101/101A, RD 120. Three hours each week.

REQUIRED TEXT(S):

*Running For Freedom, Civil Rights and Black Politics in America Since 1941*, by Steven F. Lawson (4th edition, Latest), Wiley-Blackwell 2014.

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course draws on recent research to present the American civil rights movement, as it was arguably the most important reform in American history. This course recounts the extraordinary and often bloody story of how tens of thousands of ordinary African-Americans overcame long odds to dethrone segregation, to exercise the right to vote and to improve their economic standing. Organized in a clear chronological fashion, the course text shows how concerted pressure in a variety of forms ultimately carried the day in realizing a more just society for African-Americans. It will provide students of American history with an invaluable, comprehensive introduction to the Civil Rights Movement.

II. TEACHING APPROACH

I promote discussion and participation during the class period as it will improve your understanding of the materials in this course. It is important that all folks feel comfortable in freely expressing their opinions and comments so long as they are constructive and conducive to the academic environment. Also, it is important to understand, however, that developing an appreciation for the many different lenses through which persons can see things is critical to the development of a keen mind

and critical thought process. It is my responsibility as the professor in this course to present the course materials to you in an understandable form. I will do this, and I will also address questions and concerns regarding the material covered in this course as they arise. It is the student's responsibility to complete the readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss the material assigned for each particular day.

### III. BIBLIOGRAPHY / SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

- A. Running For Freedom, by Steven F. Lawson (4<sup>th</sup> edition, Latest), Wiley-Blackwell 2014.
- B. Additional assigned reading with relevance to the topic under discussion, including magazines and newspaper articles
- C. Reference books and periodicals

### IV. STATEMENT AND POLICY ON CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Students are required to perform all work specified by the faculty, and they are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted. A violation of academic integrity will occur if a student: (1) knowingly represents work of others as one's own, (2) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in any academic work, (3) gives fraudulent assistance to another student, or (4) furnishes false information or other misuse of college documents.

In cases of suspected violation of academic integrity, the incident is to be reported to the Office of the Dean of Academic Services, and an investigation will be conducted as appropriate. A student found guilty of violating the rules of academic integrity by a committee composed of the Dean of Student Services and the Dean of Academic Services (or their designees) shall be considered failed in personal obligation to the College; such failure will be subject to disciplinary action by the College. Unless otherwise notified, the instructor will allow students who are pending disciplinary to attend class.

### V. MISSED EXAM POLICY

Any student who misses an exam will contact the professor within one day and explain why he/she missed the exam. If the excuse is sufficient, the student will have an opportunity to make up the exam. The makeup exam need not be the same exam given on the original scheduled date.

### VI. LATE WORK POLICY

A written assignment that is turned in late will be subject to grade deduction.

### VII. ATTENDANCE POLICY

**Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in all class discussions. Attendance and participation will be part of the grading system.**

**VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE:** The course will follow the listed chapters in the required exams. Chapter 1 World War II and the Origins of the Freedom Struggle. Chapter 2 Ballots, Boycotts, and the Building of a National Agenda. Chapter 3 Surging Protest, Shifting Politics. Chapter 4 Reenfranchisement and Racial Consciousness. Chapter 5 The New Black Politicians: From Protest to Empowerment. **MIDTERM EXAM**

Chapter 6	Progress and Poverty: Politics in a Conservative Era.	Chapter 7	In Search of Legitimacy.
Chapter 8	Hope and Despair: the 1990s.	Chapter 9	Still Running for Freedom
FINAL EXAM			

**The above schedule is to be considered a guide and may be modified or adjusted as deemed necessary by the instructor.**

**IX. GRADING (90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; and 59 and below = F)** Midterm 30% Final Exam 40% Class

Participation (30%)

Total 100%