

BERKELEY SUMMER SESSIONS

The Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

(African American Studies 124, Summer Session 2014)

About the Course

Course Description

The life of Martin Luther King, Jr., provides a rare opportunity to understand the crucial issues of an era that shaped a good deal of contemporary America. As that era's greatest leader, King's life helps us both focus history and humanize it. As a profound thinker, as well as an activist, King epitomizes the interdependence of academic excellence and social responsibility. By examining the forces that shaped King's life and his impact on society, we should gain some sense of history and historical possibility. By critically reviewing his political philosophy we should gain some appreciation of its depth and relevance for today. Recently, for example, protesters in Egypt were singing "We Shall Overcome."

Each student will be expected to fully participate in the course including daily reading, watching the multimedia lecture presentations, engaging in interaction with the graduate student instructors and professor, posting short essays to a discussion board, interacting with peers in study sections, writing a critical book review of the Tyson book, taking four quizzes, and completing the mid-term and final examinations. Each quiz will count ten points. The mid-term and final examinations will count 20 points each and the critical book review will count 20 points. Extensions and incompletes will only be granted in rare circumstances. Prof. Henry will hold virtual office hours on TBA. He will also be available on campus at those hours and will post these dates in the announcements on b space.

Course Materials / Requirements

Required Textbook

Hard Copy

Branch, Taylor. *Parting the Waters*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1988. Carson, Clayborne (ed.), *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* New York

Intellectual Properties Management in association with Warner Books, 1998.

Tyson, Timothy B. *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999.

Online Material in PDF format

Chapter 8: "Fighting Fire with Water" (PDF) Nagler, Michael. *The Search for a Nonviolent Future: A Promise of Peace for Ourselves Our Families, and Our World*. New World Library, 2004.

Holy Bible, "The Sermon on the Mount"*

Chapter 1: "Solo"-- The Mystery of Stanley Levison (PDF) Garrow, David. *The FBI and Martin Luther King, Jr.* Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England; New York, N.Y. Penguin Books, 1983, 1981.

Chapter 6: Enforcement and Effects: The Voting Rights Act and Black Political Participation in the South, 1965-1976 (PDF) Garrow, David. *Protest at Selma: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Voting Rights Act of 1965*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1978.

Chapter 5: Election Reform: Revisiting the Right to Vote (PDF) Ronald Walters, *Freedom is Not Enough: Black Voters, Black Candidates, and American Presidential Politics*. Lanham, Md.: Rowan & Littlefield, 2005.

Chapter 1: The Religion of the Slave (PDF) Wilmore, Gayraud. *Black Religion and Black Radicalism*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1972.

Chapter 1: Where Are We? (PDF) King, Jr., Martin Luther. *Where Do We Go From Here?* New York: Harper & Row, 1967.

Chapter 1: "I Am a Man" (PDF) Posner, Gerald. *Killing the Dream: James Earl Ray and the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.* New York: Random House, 1998.

Learning Activities

Each student will be expected to fully participate in the course including daily reading, watching the multimedia lecture presentations, engaging in interaction with the graduate student instructors and professor, posting short essays to a discussion board, interacting with peers in study sections, writing a critical book review of the Tyson book, taking four quizzes, and completing the mid-term and final examinations. Each quiz will count ten points. The mid-term and final

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VERY IMPORTANT

You won't be able to access your course material until you read and make your pledge to Academic Integrity. Go to the Modules page and click on the "START HERE" link. Click on the first link, "READ THIS", to learn about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, and false information. If you think you already know, think again! You'll be surprised by what you find out. As a UC Berkeley student, you are expected to abide by these rules. Once you've read the agreement, click "AGREE TO THIS". Once you've clicked "OK", you gain access to the course.

Reading Assignments

Read the assigned chapters for the Module. View the assigned multimedia presentations. The module learning objectives and multimedia lectures will provide an overview to assist students in focusing their study for quizzes, assignments, and research study. Readings and Multimedia are listed under each respective **Module #** button. Specific reading assignments are listed on the Course Schedule and in the specific Modules.

Multimedia Assignments

A list of PowerPoint lectures can be located on the Course Schedule and in the specific modules. Links to the PowerPoint lectures can be found within each Module. Note that for each narrated PowerPoint lecture, there is also a "PDF handout." This supplement is available for printing and note taking.

Discussions

The purpose of the online discussion board is to create a group knowledge base. Please share your experiences, thoughts, outside references, and any insights you have gained from our assigned readings. Comments should provide insight and encourage meaningful discussion. Comments such as "I agree" are not appropriate unless accompanied by statements that qualify the comment through personal experience or references. Post a response that uses proper

sentence structure, spelling and grammar; points will be deducted for misspelling and improper grammar. Acknowledge and show respect for the diversity of opinions presented by your classmates.

Post your response to each discussion question as a reply to the topic message. This way the Message Board will be properly threaded and easy to read. If you mispost a message, simply copy the content of the message, then delete the message and repost it.

Discussions are expected to be posted by the due date each week. If they are late, 5 points will be deducted from the final grade.

Questions and Answers Forum

Please use this forum to post questions about the course material, assignments, the learning management system or online homework. The instructor/GSIs will monitor this forum, but you should also feel free to post answers to help other students. This helps to create a general FAQ so that all students in the course may benefit from the exchange.

Student Lounge

The Student Lounge is your place for informal discussion among students, a place to create new topic threads and share common issues or experiences, class-related or not. This forum is not monitored by the instructors.

Drop Box

Submit your written assignments by attaching the document to its specified drop box. If attaching a Word-processed file, save it in rich text format (.rtf) or as a text file (.txt) before attaching. Keep copies of all your work.

Book Review

The Book Review will act as a measure of how well you can articulate your understanding of the material presented. It should be approximately 1500 to 2000 words in length. Adhere to the following guidelines to receive full credit for the review:

1. Follow directions.
2. Share thoughts, experiences, and insight on the chosen topic.

3. You may need to use other resources besides the required texts to present your views.
4. If applicable, display decision-making and problem-solving skills.
5. Write in complete sentences, using proper punctuation, grammar, and spelling rules.
6. Submit using the Drop Box by the due date.
7. Submit documents in Microsoft Word.
8. Cite all references using the APA format.

Additional Guidelines can be found in Module Eight.

Submitting Assignments

It is important to start the course soon and begin submitting work regularly. Your assignments will be submitted through the Drop Box or Discussion Boards.

Virtual Office Hours - Chats

The Course Instructor/Facilitator will set virtual office hours when students can communicate real time (synchronously). While these chats are optional they can be valuable for case study discussion, answering questions, or reviewing for quizzes. Faculty/Facilitator chats are optional; no points are awarded for participation. Days and times for Instructor/Facilitator Virtual Office Hours are posted on the course site.

Mid-term Examination

The mid-term examination will consist of multiple essay questions. Once you begin the exam, you will have 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete it. Students will be able to review their grade upon completion of the exam.

Final Examination

After you have completed all the other requirements, you will take a three-hour, proctored, closed-book final exam, on **Friday, August 15th, 2014, 1-4 p.m. in location TBA**. There will be no make-up exam. You must pass the final exam to receive credit for the course. **All examinations are closed book. Any violation of this closed**

book policy will result in failure of course and possible academic suspension. If you will not be on campus for the final, it might be possible to take a proctored final off campus; contact your Program Coordinator at summer_online_support@berkeley.edu (not the professor) to make arrangements. Proctor applications are due by July 15, 2014.

Quizzes

There will be 4 multiple-choice quizzes. Each quiz will consist of 10 to 20 questions. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 30 minutes to complete.

Students will be able to review their grade upon completion of the quiz.

All quizzes are closed book. Any violation of this closed book policy will result in failure of course and possible academic suspension.

Refer to Course Schedule for dates.

Berkeley Summer Sessions is committed to improving our online courses and instruction. Please take a few minutes to participate in our End of Course Evaluation to share your opinions about this course. We are interested in your online learning experience, and your candid feedback will help us plan for the future and make improvements. Please take the survey before your course End Date. You may only take the survey once.

The evaluation does not request any personal information, and your responses will remain strictly confidential.

To access the evaluation, please follow the link near the bottom of the Modules tab page.

Reminder: Your Course End Date

Your access to the online classroom will expire on the course End Date, which is indicated in the initial e-mail you received when you enrolled. As you work through the course, please keep the End Date in mind, and if you want to save any commentary or assignments for future reference, please make sure to print or copy/paste those materials before your access ends.

Credit Requirements

Although your grades for assignments are recorded in the course gradebook and are available for you to see, you should not count on seeing your final grade recorded there by the time your access to the course ends. Your final letter grade will be mailed to you by the Registrar's office.

Course Policies

Late Work

Late work will be accepted only after the student has received permission from the instructor to submit it past the due date. Permission will be granted on a case-by-case basis and only under exceptional circumstances.

Collaboration and Independence

Reviewing lecture and reading materials and studying for exams can be enjoyable and enriching things to do with fellow students. This is recommended. However, unless otherwise instructed, homework assignments are to be completed independently and materials submitted as homework should be the result of one's own independent work.

Cheating

A good lifetime strategy is always to act in such a way that no one would ever imagine that you would even consider cheating. Anyone caught cheating on a quiz or exam in this course will receive a failing grade in the course and will also be reported to the University Center for Student Conduct. In order to guarantee that you are not suspected of cheating, please keep your eyes on your own materials and do not converse with others during the quizzes and exams.

Plagiarism

To copy text or ideas from another source without appropriate reference is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for your assignment and usually further disciplinary action. For additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, see, for example: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html#Plagiarism>
<http://gsi.berkeley.edu/teachingguide/misconduct/prevent-plag.html>

Academic Integrity and Ethics

Cheating on exams and plagiarism are two common examples of

dishonest, unethical behavior. Honesty and integrity are of great importance in all facets of life. They help to build a sense of self-confidence, and are key to building trust within relationships, whether personal or professional. There is no tolerance for dishonesty in the academic world, for it undermines what we are dedicated to doing - furthering knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

Students with Disabilities

Any students requiring course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability must contact the Disabled Students' Program (DSP), <http://dsp.berkeley.edu/services.html>, at the beginning of the course with their request. The DSP will review all requests on an individual basis. Please have your Disabled Student Program Specialist send the instructor a formal request by email by July 26, 2013.

Grade Dispute

Any question or dispute over the earned points for a quiz, assignment, discussion, or extra credit should be addressed by first appealing in writing to the Course Faculty. An appeal of a negative decision may then be made to the Program Chair, who will follow the grade dispute policy of the University.

Course Outline

You'll find complete instructions for your assignments within the course modules.

Week I: Culture and the Black Experience in Historical Perspective. A. Theme: African Spirituality and Oral Traditions

Questions: 1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the oral tradition? 2. What African traditions survive in the New World?

Reading: Wilmore, Chapter 1 **B. Theme: "Black" Christianity versus "White" Christianity**

Questions:

1. How was Christianity used by the master to pacify slaves? 2. How was Christianity used by the slave to promote rebellion?

Reading: Wilmore, Chapter 1; Branch, Chapter 1 **C. Theme: A Family of Preachers**

Questions: 1. What was sharecropping and how could you avoid it? 2. How did African Americans develop a middle-class?

Reading: Branch, Chapter 2 **D. Theme: Youthful Rebellion**

Questions: 1. Who were King's role models? 2. Why does King rebel against his father's profession?

Reading: Carson, Chapters 1 & 2 **Quiz**

Week II. From Intellectual to Activist A. Theme: The Scholar Preacher

Questions: 1. Is emotion escapism or a route to God? 2. Are humans essentially good or essentially evil? 3. Is it possible to love a group?

Reading: Carson, Chapters 3 & 4; Branch, Chapters 3 & 4 **B. Theme: Gandhi and King Interview with Prof. Kusum Singh**

Questions

1. What are the differences between Gandhi and King?

C. Theme: The Hero in History

Questions: 1. Why did Coretta give up her career and move South?

2. Why King and not Vernon Johns? **Reading:** Branch, Chapters 5-9

D. Theme: The Montgomery Story

Questions: 1. What impact did the Brown decision have? 2. How was the law used to frustrate protest?

Reading: Carson, Chapters 6-9 **Quiz**

Week III. Building a Movement A. Theme: Institutionalizing Protest

Questions: 1. Why establish another civil rights organization? 2. What is Eisenhower's response to civil rights?

Reading: Branch, Chapters 10-13 **B. Theme: Charismatic v.**

Collective Leadership Interview with Prof.

Hardy Frye

Questions: 1. What is charisma and who has it? 2. How does SNCC challenge King's leadership?

Reading: Carson, Chapters 10-15 **C. Theme: Birmingham: Civil Rights Comes of Age**

Questions: 1. What role did King play in Kennedy's election? 2. How can you justify breaking the law? 3. Why did the Albany movement fail?

Reading: Carson, Chapters 16-19 **D. Theme: The March on Washington**

Questions: 1. Why did John Lewis have to change his speech? 2. Why has King's address become iconic?

Reading: Branch, Chapter 22; Carson, Chapter 20 **Week IV. Legislating Change**

Mid-term Examination – July 10th A. Theme: A New Political Will

Questions:

1. Why is the 1964 Civil Rights bill more effective than earlier bills? 2. How did Kennedy's assassination effect the movement?

Reading: Carson, Chapters 21 & 22 **B. Theme: Reward and Punishment**

Questions:

1. How did the Nobel Prize affect King? 2. Why did the FBI want to silence King?

Reading: Carson, Chapter 24; Garrow, Chapter 1 **C. Theme: The Mississippi Challenge**

Film: "Freedom Summer"

Questions:

1. How did the involvement of Whites change SNCC? 2. How did the MFDP influence today's Democratic Party?

Reading: Carson, Chapter 23

Week V. Selma and Voting Rights A. Theme: Democracy

Questions:

1. Why weren't previous voting laws effective? 2. Did Malcolm go to Selma to challenge King?

Reading: Carson, Chapter 25 **B. Theme: Selma**

Questions:

1. How was Selma different from Birmingham? 2. How do media influence protest?

Reading: Carson, Chapter 26 **C. Theme: Implementation and Evasion**

Questions:

1. Why was the 1965 Voting Rights Act effective? 2. How has Black voting power been diluted?

Reading: Garrow, Chapter 6; Walters, Chapter 5 **Film:** "Fundi: The Ella Baker Story" **Quiz**

Week VI. The Northern Movement A. Theme: Watts

Questions:

1. Why did violence erupt in the North? 2. Why didn't the rioters respond to King?

Reading: Carson, Chapter 27 **B. Theme: The Chicago Campaign**

Questions:

1. Why did King pick Chicago? 2. How did the Daley machine defeat King?

Reading: Carson, Chapter 28 **C. Theme: Black Power**

Questions:

1. Why did SCLC, CORE and SNCC join the Meredith March? 2. Why did King oppose Black power?

Reading: Carson, Chapter 29 **D. Theme: The Rise of Identity Politics**

Questions:

1. How does the rise of Black power radicalize King? 2. What influence does Black power have on other groups?

Reading: King, Chapter 1 **Quiz**

Week VII. From Vietnam to Iraq A. Theme: Moving from Domestic to International Affairs

Questions:

1. What are King's objections to the War in Vietnam? 2. Why isn't King supported by other civil rights leaders?

Reading: Carson, Chapter 30

B. Theme: Lessons for Today Interview with Prof. Michael Nagler

Questions:

1. What are the similarities and differences between Vietnam & Iraq?
2. Is a non-violent foreign policy feasible?

Reading: Nagler, "Fighting Fire with Water" **C. Theme: The Poor People's Campaign**

Questions:

1. Is a multi-racial coalition possible? 2. How did King's tactics change from Montgomery to D.C.?

Reading: Carson, Chapter 31 **D. Theme: Memphis**

Questions:

1. Why did violence break out in Memphis Are economic rights as

important as civil rights?

Reading: Carson, Chapter 32

Week VIII. The Legacy A. Theme: Assassination

Questions:

1. Did Ray act alone? 2. Why did the King family support Ray?

Reading: Posner, Chapter 1 **B. Theme: Negroes with Guns**

Film: "Negroes with Guns"

Questions:

1. What is the legacy of picking up the gun? 2. What unites King with Malcolm and Williams?

Reading: Tyson, all Book Review due - August 12th **Book Review due – August 6th**

C. Theme: Black Leadership Today

Questions:

1. What happened to SCLC? 2. What are the similarities and differences between Jackson & King & Obama?

D. Final Examination – Friday, August 15th, 1-4 p.m. at TBA.

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