

Syllabus
History 332: Civil Rights
Fall Semester 2007

Instructor Information:

Dr. Justin Nystrom

Office: 2110 MHRA

Email: janystro@uncg.edu

Phone:

Office Hours: T/R 10:30-11:30, and by appointment.

AIM: drnystromvt

Course Objectives:

I have designed this course to expand the students' understanding of the Civil Rights Movement beyond the standard "Montgomery to Selma" narrative so often celebrated in popular memory. While paying attention to landmark developments in the history of civil rights in America, this course will also challenge students to embrace the complexity that characterized the struggle for equality. We will explore the events, themes, and philosophies that vied for dominance within the movement and examine the evolving dialogue of race in America in the twentieth century.

Required Texts:

- Manfred Berg, *"The Ticket to Freedom:" The NAACP and the Struggle for Black Political Integration.*
- Harvard Sitkoff, *The Struggle for Black Equality, 1954-1992*
- Timothy Tyson, *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power*
- Jason Sokol, *There Goes My Everything: White Southerners in the Age of Civil Rights, 1945-1975*

Note: the above books are all available at the campus bookstore. You should, however, be able to find less expensive used copies online (Amazon, Half, ABE books, etc.)

We will also view 2 films on an out-of-class basis. They will screen in the evening at specific points in the semester. (See schedule for details) If you are unable to view the films on the screening night, you may need to rent or purchase them individually.

- *A Soldier's Story**
- *Do the Right Thing**

* Both of these films are available from Netflix and Blockbuster Online. Plan ahead.

Attendance Policy

I will not take attendance, but I do pay attention to who participates in class, and that has a direct impact upon your discussion grade in this class. It is difficult to do well in discussion if you are not around. You do, however, need to pay special attention to my LATE policy.

A Special Note for Reservists and National Guardsmen: If you are called to active duty, I will do everything possible to ensure that you will be able to complete your semester's studies. Make an appointment to see me and bring a copy of your orders or a letter from your CO.

Why it is Bad News to be Late for Class

While I am not bothered by your not attending, I find lateness disruptive. *Habitually late* is rude and simply unacceptable. I will warn you only once if you are habitually late to class, and will at that point encourage you to arrive on time in the future. **Failure to mend one's ways will result in a non-negotiable letter grade**

reduction. What is “habitually late?” Showing up 5 or more minutes late, 4 or 5 times before the first essay would qualify. I do, however, understand that emergencies arise that may cause you to be late.

Testing and Grading Policy:

Your grade in this course will come from four equally-weighted essays assigned over the course of the semester plus 1 equally weighted discussion grade. (20% each.) See the course schedule for tentative essay due dates. You will write your essays outside of class, and they carry the expectation of being neatly typed, insightful, and well-written. *This is a reading and writing-intensive course.*

Computing your Discussion Grade:

You are responsible for signing up for and producing discussion questions for any three of our assignments. A list of assignments and the dates for discussion will appear on the course web site along with an electronic sign-up sheet. You will need to post your discussion question to Blackboard by 8:00 PM the evening before class meets to discuss that particular assignment. The quality of these questions along with the quality (not necessarily quantity) of your discussion will determine the 20% discussion grade.

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit in this class. It breeds begging, and begging is unattractive.

Academic Honesty:

All universities have an academic honesty policy. I suggest you reflect on UNCG’s at the university web site.

Electronic and Wireless Devices:

Need to be turned off in class, with the exception of laptops for note taking.

Blackboard and the Web (important!)

Your instructor will maintain most of his resources on his own website: <http://www.uncg.edu/~janystro>
Some static items (like this syllabus) will be on Blackboard. We will also use Blackboard as a place where you can post your discussion questions

Students with Disabilities:

Please contact me outside of class with any required paperwork and to discuss whatever special needs you may have so that we might address them satisfactorily. Please do this EARLY in the semester.

Contacting Me:

If you are struggling in this class, make an appointment to see either your TA or myself. Make sure it is sooner rather than later. The sooner you seek help, the better the outcome, generally speaking. Email is the #1 most preferable method of contact.

Office Hours:

I will have two types of office hours: 1 – Old Fashioned and 2 – I.M. or instant messenger.

My Old Fashioned office hours, when you can expect to find me are listed at the top of this syllabus.

I will be on I.M. at no particular set time, but often in the evenings. Add “dmnystromvt” to your AIM buddy list!