Description:
This course examines African American social movements from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Our central concern is with the dialectic between mass movements, their leaderships, and specific historical conditions. At the end of the course, students should have a better understanding of the multiple ways in which social movements can be defined as well as an appreciation for the wide range of local, regional, national, and international struggles waged by peoples of African descent in the modern world.

Requirements:
Students are expected to attend class and participate in discussions on a regular basis. Only two unexcused absences are allowed after which your grade will be penalized. There will be four take-home written assignments each worth one fourth of your grade. All papers must be handed in on time. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Readings:
The four books listed below are required readings and are listed in order of usage.
Those readings marked with an asterisk* are on reserve reading at Jackson library. Readings should be done before class meets. It helps to read the texts, especially the documents, s-l-o-w-l-y. Bring the weekly reading materials to class.

Class meetings:

READ:  Kerr Ritchie, “Introduction to Social Movements,”*
Jan. 10, 12  Introduction

READ:  Harding, “Ferment of Fugitives,”*; Kerr-Ritchie, “Pulpit to the Street,”*
Jan. 17  Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 19  Fugitives & Abolitionists
Jan. 24, 26
The Great American Slave Rebellion

Jan. 31, Feb. 2
Black Republicans

Feb. 2 FIRST PAPER DUE

Feb. 7, 9
Southern Struggles

Feb. 14, 16
Shoeleather Plebiscite

Feb. 21, 23
The “New Negro”

Feb. 28
Depression & War

Mar. 2
SECOND PAPER DUE

Mar. 7, 9
SPRING BREAK

READ: Meriwether, “Ghana,”*; James, “Proof in Pudding,”*
Mar. 14, 16
“Africa for Africans”

READ: “Round Table on King,” JAH 74:2 (Sept. 1987), 436-481
Mar. 21, 23
Black Freedom Movement 1

Mar 28, 30
Black Freedom Movement 2

READ: Tyson, Radio Free Dixie
Apr. 4, 6
Black Freedom in North Carolina
Apr. 6  THIRD PAPER DUE

READ:  “Combahee River Collective,”*; Shaw, “Feminists in Zimbabwe,”*

Apr. 11, 13  **Black Feminists**

READ:  Kitwana, “Hip Hop Generation,”*; Muhammed, “Black Workers,”*

Apr. 18, 20  **Social Movements Today**

RESEARCH:  
Apr. 25, 27  **Your Social Movement**

May 2  **Conclusions**

May 2  FOURTH PAPER DUE