

History 166: African-American History – The Modern Freedom Struggle
T, TH at 11 a.m. in Bldg. 200, room 219

<http://coursework.stanford.edu/>

Instructor: [Clayborne Carson](#)
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King Research and Education Institute, Cypress Hall D (725-8828)

Office hours: Mon. 1 pm & Tues. 4-5:15 Cypress Hall D

Teaching Assistants:

Tenisha Armstrong, <mailto:tenisha@stanford.edu>, King Institute (725-8833)

Julie Prieto, <mailto:jprieto@stanford.edu>

Awele Makeba, <mailto:amakeba@earthlink.net>

1. Course Goals: This four- or five-unit lecture course is designed to introduce students to African-American history, with particular emphasis on the political thought and protest movements of the period after 1930. The readings and lectures will focus on selected individuals who have shaped and been shaped by modern African-American struggles for freedom and justice. The lectures will utilize audio-visual materials extensively, and the exams will cover these materials as well as the traditional lectures. In addition to attending lectures, students are encouraged to undertake research projects (required for five units). Many of the research projects will involve the development of online educational materials related to the course content. Students are expected to participate in weekly discussion sections. C/NC option is available.

2. Discussion sections with Tenisha Armstrong and Julie Prieto will be held on Thursdays and Fridays in locations to be determined. Students who contribute to discussion sessions on a regular basis (no more than one missed section) will boost their grade at least one-third of a grade point (for example, a B+ would be raised to an A-).

3. Required Books:

- Clayborne Carson, Emma J. Lapsansky-Werner, and Gary B. Nash, *The Struggle for Freedom: A History of African Americans, Volume II* (2007), volume 2
- Juan Williams, *Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary* (1998)
- Martin Luther King, Jr., *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1998)
- Clayborne Carson, *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s* (1981)
- Peniel, Joseph E., *Waiting, 'Til the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America* (2006)
- Additional reading materials will be distributed in class

4. Course Requirements:

- **Midterm Examination:** All students must take a midterm examination, which will be given in class on Tuesday, October 23rd. This exam will account for 50% of the final grade. The exam will cover the topics covered in the lectures, photocopied readings distributed in class, and the first half of the required readings.
- **Final Examination.** The remainder of the requirements for the course may be fulfilled in several ways, including the following:
 - [4 units only] Take the final essay exam. The final exam will cover material in the lectures, the mid-term material, and the remaining required readings
 - [5 units] Take the final essay exam AND/OR complete one of the research options described below. The research paper or project may be submitted in place of the final exam; if submitted in addition to the final, only the two highest of the three scores will count.
- **Independent Research.** [5 units] Complete a major original research paper or project (such as a multi-media web site) on an approved topic to be determined through consultation with professor. If you choose this option, you must meet with the professor during office hours on or before Tuesday, October 10. This research paper or project, based mainly on primary sources, should be on a narrowly-defined topic related to the course lectures and readings. A preliminary one-page description of the topic (and the available primary sources) is due on October 11. The paper is due on December 6.
- **Directed Research.** [5 units]. Take final exam and complete a research assignment on a topic to be determined by October 10 through consultation with the instructor. During this quarter, many of the directed research assignments will involve digitizing the King Papers Project's audio-visual materials (such as historical recordings and photographs) for classroom or web presentations. Students interested in working in the project or with such materials are especially invited to select this option.

5. Reading Schedule

By September 27 (1940s):

Williams, *Thurgood Marshall*, chapters 5-15 (1-4 recommended)

Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, chapters 15-16

King, *Autobiography*, chapters 1-2

By October 3 (1950s):

Williams, *Thurgood Marshall*, chapters 16-23

Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, chapter 17

King, *Autobiography*, chapter 3-13

Joseph, *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour*, chapter 1

By October 10 (1960-63):

Williams, *Thurgood Marshall*, chapters 24-25

Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, chapter 18

King, *Autobiography*, chapters 14-21

Carson, *In Struggle*, chapters 1-9

Joseph, *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour*, chapters 2-4

By October 17 (1964-66):

Williams, *Thurgood Marshall*, chapters 26-27

King, *Autobiography*, chapter 22-26

Carson, *In Struggle*, chapters 10-14

Joseph, *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour*, chapters 5-6

By October 24 (1967-1970):

Williams, *Thurgood Marshall*, chapters 28-30

Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, chapter 19

King, *Autobiography*, chapters 27-32

Carson, *In Struggle*, chapters 15-18

Joseph, *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour*, 7-8

By October 31 (1971-1978)

Williams, *Thurgood Marshall*, chapters 31

Joseph, *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour*, 9-11 and Epilogue

By November 7 (1979-1991)

Williams, *Thurgood Marshall*, chapters 32-33

Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, chapter 20

Additional readings to be distributed in class

By November 14 (1992-present)

Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, chapter 21

NO CLASS WEEK OF 11/19-11/23

By November 28 (1992-present)

Additional readings to be distributed in class

December 6 Last Day of Class.

December 10 Final Exam (3:30-6:30 pm)

6. LECTURE SCHEDULE

- 1. September 25: Introduction/W. E. B. Du Bois – Biography of a Race**
- 2. September 27: Du Bois and the Great Depression**
- 3. October 2: Shirley Graham: Transformation of an Artist/Intellectual**
- 4. October 4: Paul Robeson – from Star to Outcast**
- 5. October 9: Bayard Rustin, the Radical Outsider**
- 6. October 11: Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Social Gospel**
- 7. October 16: Awele Makeba on the Women Who Made the Montgomery Movement (guest lecture)**
- 8. October 18: Ella Baker Inspires the Student Movement**
- 9. October 23: Bob Moses: Mississippi Organizer**
- 10. October 25: Vincent Harding on King (guest lecture)**
- 11. October 30: Midterm**
- 12. November 1: Clarence Jones on King (guest lecture)**
- 13. November 6: Malcolm X and his Ambiguous Legacy**
- 14. November 8: Stokely Carmichael Defines Black Power**
- 15. November 13: Erica Huggins on the Black Panther Party (guest lecture)**
- 16. November 15: Outlaw feminist Angela Davis**
- 17. November 27: Jesse Jackson Runs for President**
- 18. November 29: Tenisha Armstrong on Alice Walker**
- 19. December 4: Tupac Shakur’s “Thug Life”**
- 20. December 6: Barak Obama’s American Dream**