

PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

By Phillips Theological Seminary copyright policy, the syllabus is the intellectual property of the individual faculty member, with usage rights granted to PTS. Please contact the copyright owner if you seek to use the syllabus, for other than your personal enrichment.

**Religion and the Civil Rights Movement
Spring 2012**

Phillips Theological Seminary

Ray A. Owens, Ph.D.

Phone: 918-425-5402

rayowens@metropolitanbc.org

Course Description:

This course examines the ways in which religious beliefs, practices and institutions helped to form and inform the modern Civil Rights movement as well as the Anti-Civil Rights forces that resisted the movement. What role did religion play in igniting the quest for civil rights? How did religious identities of movement opponents factor into their segregationists ideology. How did the religious identities of movement leaders impact the content and contours of the civil rights project? Was the Black Church a source of support for or resistance to the ideals and practices of the movement? This course explores these broad questions through an interdisciplinary study of primary and secondary sources (speeches, sermons, video presentations, essays, songs, scholarly texts and articles) related to the modern Civil Rights movement.

Course Format:

The format of the course will include lectures, class discussions, student presentations, guest speakers and video presentations.

Course Objectives:

To provide students with a general knowledge of the modern Civil Rights Movement

To help students understand the perspectives of those who supported and those who resisted the movement

To explore the ways in which religious beliefs, practices and institutions helped to shape the movement

Course Requirements:

1. **Regular attendance and class participation.**
2. **Careful reading of required texts**
3. **Group Presentation—Dramatic Interpretation.**
4. **Term Paper.**

Grading Structure

Attendance	10%
Group Presentation	30%
Final Paper	60 %

Required Texts:

A Stone of Hope: Prophetic Religion and the Death of Jim Crow, by David L. Chappell.
University of North Carolina Press, 2006, ISBN:0807856606

God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights, by Charles Marsh, Princeton
University Press, 1999, ISBN: 0691029407

Witnessing and Testifying: Black Women, Religion and Civil Rights, by Rosetta Ross,
Fortress Press, 2003, ISBN: 0800636031

A Testament of Hope: the Essential Writing and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.,
edited by James M. Washington, Harper Collins 1st paperback edition, ISBN:
0060646918

Course Reading Schedule:

Pre-Reading (to be completed by March 26th)

Marsh, chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4

**King, ch. 25; "The Rising Tide of Racial Consciousness" p. 14

Post Reading (to be completed after concentrated course week)

Reading Assignments Due:

Chappell Chapters 3, 4 & 5

Harding, ch. 7 (Reading to be distributed by the professor)

Ross, chapters 4 & 5

King, ch. 46; "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," p. 289