

Civil Disobedience

History 100

Fall 2000

Houston Roberson

Office: Walsh-Ellet 213A

Office Hrs. Tuesdays 10-12, Wednesdays 1-3 and by appointment

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Time: MWF 10-11

Place: Walsh-Ellet 308

Introduction

This course will explore how various acts of civil disobedience have affected the course of world history at different times and in different places, or in some instances it shall explore how an act of civil disobedience reflected the history of the times. It examines, as well, the many ways in which various historical figures: Sophocles' Antigone, Joan of Arc, Thomas Paine, Henry David Thoreau, Gandhi, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela affected the course of history by challenging laws and practices they believed to be immoral.

Required Readings: These may be purchased at the University Bookstore.

Richard Emil Braun, Sophocles Antigone

Joyce E. Salisbury Perpetua's Passion

Thomas Paine, Common Sense

Henry D. Thoreau, Civil Disobedience and other Essays

Gandhi, Gandhi and the Civil Disobedience Movement

Martin Luther King, Jr., Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story

Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom

Films

Theater in Ancient Greece

Thomas Paine and the American Revolution

Gandhi

"Eyes on the Prize" series 1, 3, 4

Cry the Beloved Country

Assignments and Grading

Grades are calculated on a ten point scale.

Class Participation and Quizzes(10%)

Your active, consistent, and informed participation is crucial to the success of this course. You will be expected to ask questions, answer questions and make comments on reading material as well as class lectures. Since you need to be present to participate, excessive

class absences will affect this part of your grade. If over the course of the semester, you have been particularly effective and consistent in your class participation, it may help your final grade, particularly if you are between two grade designations.

Over the course of the semester, you shall have a few unannounced reading quizzes. Also, there will be a few in-class short assignments working with primary documents.

Writing Assignments

1. In-class essay (15%)
2. Analytical essay (15%)

Group Discussion(10%)

Working in a group, you will select one of six topics related to our study of South Africa. Research this topic in-depth and present a twenty-minute report to the class. Your report should raise questions and issue that can be discussed. It should be more than just the presentation of undisciplined information. Be sure you have a point and theme that serve to give the information meaning.

Exams

- Midterm (20%)
Final Exam (30%)

A Word About Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes, and are responsible for all work that takes place during class. If you exceed more than three unexcused absences in the course of the semester, you will be placed on attendance warning. Please read the Class Attendance section of your Student Handbook (pp. 36-37).

Please make particular note that **any student absent from a class during which an examination is to be given or a paper is due will be given a zero. If you believe your absence can excused you must report to the Dean's office within 24 hrs. of the absence.**

About the Syllabus

You may be given some additional short readings (usually primary documents) and short assignments along the way.

Class Meetings

Part 1: The Ancient West

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| September 1 | Introductions
Information Cards
Civil Disobedience: What does it Mean? |
|-------------|--|

Ancient West/Ancient Greece
Read pp. 3-19 Sophocles Antigone

- 4 **The Emergence of Early Greece**
The Minoans and Myceneans
Read pp. 21-42 (line 646) Sophocles Antigone
- 6 **Classical and Hellenistic Greece/Family, Religion,
Women**
Read pp. 42 (line 647)- 63 (line 1267) Sophocles Antigone
- 8 **The Apex of Ancient Greek Civilization (late fourth and
fifth centuries)** Map of Ancient Greece
Read pp. 63 (line 1268)-94
"Pericles Funeral Oration" from Thucydides History of the
Peloponnesian War [to be handed out]
- 11 **Greek Values in Crisis/The Peloponnesian War**
Film-**Antigone**
"Ancient Authors on Periclean Democracy" [to be handed out]
- 13 **The Nomos Physis Controversy**
"The Melian Dialogues" from Thucydides History of the
Peloponnesian War [to be handed out]
- 15 **Civil Disobedience and the Greek State**
Writing instructions
- 18 **In-Class Essay**
Perpetua's Passion 5-58
- 20 **Ancient Rome**
Perpetua's Passion 59-98
- 22 **Carthage**
Perpetua's Passion 98-148
- 25 **The Christian Church at Rome**
Perpetua's Passion 149-166

Part 2: The Medieval West

- 27 **Relationship between Church and State, Popes and Kings**
 "Instructions to the Subjects of Charlemagne's Empire," "War and Conversion Under Charlemagne," "Disorder and Destruction"
- 29 **The Age of Institutions: Absolutism and Divine Right**
 Bossuet, "The Theory of Absolutism" Zaccour, "Feudalism" in Introduction to Medieval Institutions [handouts]
- Sept. 27 **Rise of the Nation State**
 Montesquieu, "Man and State in the Age of Reason" from The Spirit of the Laws
- Part 3: The Modern World: Modernity and Modernism**
- Sept. 29 **The Enlightenment and the Age of Reason: Locke**
 Read Rousseau's "An Inquiry into the Nature of the Social Contract"
- October 2 **Rousseau**
The Coming of the American Revolution
 Read pp. 7-40 Thomas Paine Common Sense
- October 4 **The Anatomy of Western Revolutions**
- October 6 **The Nature of the American Revolution**
 Read pp. 40-57 Thomas Paine Common Sense
- October 9 **The American Revolution and Republican Enlightenment**
 Read pp. 63-100 Thomas Paine Common Sense
 Read Thomas Jefferson The Declaration of Independence
- October 11 **The American Revolution and Republican Enlightenment**
 Read pp. 100-28 Thomas Paine Common Sense
 Read John Adams "A Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law"
 Read Irving Kristol "The Most Successful Revolution"
- October 13 **The American Revolution: Thomas Paine, Irving Kristol and Civil Disobedience**
- October 16 **Mid-term Exam**
- October 18 **Nineteenth Century America "Lafayette's Observation"**
 Read Frederick Douglass "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July"
 Read Alex de Tocqueville "Equality Loved More Than Liberty"

Fall Break

- October 25 **The Moral Question: American Slavery, American Freedom**
- October 27 **The Individualization of American Conscience**
Read pp. 75-90 "Life Without Principle" in Civil Disobedience
- October 30 **U. S. Expansion and Morality: The Mexican War**
Read pp. 1-18 "Civil Disobedience" in Civil Disobedience
- November 1 **Thoreau's concept of Civil Disobedience Considered**
Assignment of Paper II: Writing Workshop II
- 3 **European Colonialism/Imperialism in the 19th century**
Kipling "The White Man's Burden"
Josiah Strong "Race and Christianity" from Our Country
Read pp. 7-40 Gandhi: His Life and Message for the World
- 6 **Overview of British Rule in Colonial India**
Read pp. 40-153 Gandhi: His Life and Message for the World
- 8 **Rise of Gandhi in India**
Read pp. 154-190
- 10 **Gandhi: His Ideas and his Influence**
- 13 **Racial Segregation from Plessy to Brown**
Paper II due by 5 PM
Read pp. 9-43 Stride Toward Freedom
- 15 **The Montgomery Bus Boycott: Robinson, King, Parks, Nixon**
Read pp. 43-108 Stride Toward Freedom
- 17 **Changing the Laws: The Little Rock Crisis, the 1957 Civil Rights Bill**
Read pp. 108-181 Stride Toward Freedom
- 20 **Passage of the 1964 and 1965 Civil Rights Bills**
Read pp. 181-225 Stride Toward Freedom
Read Letter from a Birmingham Jail
- 22 **King's Idea of the Beloved Community**
Read pp. 53-122 Long Walk to Freedom

- 27 **The History of South Africa: An Overview**
Read pp. 123-170 Long Walk to Freedom
- 29 **Colonialism and the Boer Wars**
Read pp. 171-269 Long Walk to Freedom
- December 1 **The System of Apartheid**
Read pp. 269-331 Long Walk to Freedom
- 4 **The Rise of Nelson Mandela**
Read pp. 331-391 Long Walk to Freedom
Film **Cry the Beloved Country**
Group Reports
- 6 **The End of Apartheid**
Film **Cry the Beloved Country**
Read 445-487 Long Walk to Freedom
Group Reports
- 8 **Discussion of Post Modernity and Civil Rights**
Nord "Post Modernism"
Group Reports
- 11 **Course Retrospective and Review**
Group Reports