

Racism in America, Part 2 Class Syllabus 3-3-2021

When: Thursday mornings, March 18-May 20 (10 weeks). 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

NOTE: We will keep the Zoom meeting open until 12:30 for any members who would like to continue discussion. Participation is optional.

Where: Zoom; a link will be furnished to class participants the day before each class session.

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Course description: This course will discuss important events and leaders of the American civil rights and social justice movements in our lifetimes to provide the historical context that we need to more fully understand the reality and impact of racism in our country today. Guided by readings and guest speakers, we'll explore what Ibram X. Kendi has called America's "dual and dueling history of racial progress and the simultaneous progression of racism . . . the antiracist force of equality and the racist force of inequality marching forward, progressing in rhetoric, in tactics, in policies."¹ By framing questions, promoting discussion, and suggesting resources, the course has been designed to serve as a starting point for LLC members who want to learn more about this subject. It will build on the Winter 2021 LLC class Racism in America, Part 1, but attendance in the Winter course is not required or necessary to participate fully in the Spring course.

Goals:

- To try to develop a fuller understanding of the development and pervasiveness of systemic racism over the course of US history and through today
- To try to develop a fuller understanding of the impacts of systemic racism
- To increase our knowledge about some of the Black leaders who led and are leading their communities in fighting racist laws/practices
- To hear about the Black experience through the words of Black voices

Format: The classes themselves will consist of presentations by class members and, in some cases, by outside speakers, followed by class discussions. As indicated on the attached detailed Course Calendar, some classes will have three presentations and some will have two. There will be a 10-minute break between the first and second halves of the class.

Unlike some history courses, this course covers events that took place after the advent of television. We therefore have the benefit of a rich visual record that brings events vividly to life and enables us to hear first-hand about the experiences of the participants, both well-known and little-known. Excellent documentary series and films are available, and we will be using those for background preparation for the classes. We will also provide a reasonably detailed timeline, including significant events and personages, for the years the course covers. **We ask all class participants to prepare for each class by watching the documentary material listed in the Course Calendar in advance and by reviewing the timeline.**

For some weeks, we will also provide links to suggested optional short articles that members may want to read. And, as described below in the section on the class website, we are also

¹ Ibram X. Kendi, *Stamped from the Beginning*, in the Preface to the paperback edition.

providing an extensive (but not exhaustive) bibliography. Many of the suggested materials are by American authors of color.

Guidelines for Member Presentations: On days when the class schedule provides for three presentations, we ask presenters to limit their presentation to 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion, i.e. a total of 30 minutes. On days when the class schedule provides for two presentations, presenters should limit their presentation to 25-30 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of discussion.

If you would like the other class members to read some material, think about some questions or do any other preparation before your presentation, please be sure to give them at least a week's advance notice.

Presentation Topics: The Course Calendar includes a number of suggestions for presentation topics. These suggestions are to give you ideas, but are not intended to be comprehensive; please choose a topic that is interesting to you. If you have an idea for a topic that we haven't suggested, let us know and we will find the most appropriate place to schedule it. **Please select a topic you are really interested in early to help us plan the sequence of presentations and discussions, and email us as soon as you know what you would like to do.**

Because the presentations will be shorter than usual for an LLC class, they are likely to be most appropriate for presentation by a single person; however, if you prefer to present with a partner, that is fine.

Class Website: The Class Website for Racism in America, Part 2, can be found on the LLC website (www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org). The class website includes a Timeline for the years covered by the course; a Bibliography; the most recent update of the Course Calendar, showing details about reading/viewing assignments, presentation topics and presenters for each class; a regularly updated list of upcoming webinar events that might be of interest to class members; and PDFs of class presentations.


Technology: We will accommodate screen sharing for members who want to use PowerPoint, Keynote or Google Slides or to show some images. If you'd like to practice screen sharing in advance, we're happy to set up a Zoom meeting a couple of days before the class so that you can do that. Also, if you do not feel comfortable with screen sharing, you can send us your presentation so that we can advance the slides for you.

If you need assistance with creating your PowerPoint, Keynote or Google Slides presentation, the LLC Technical Committee is ready to help you!

As noted above, we will send the Zoom link for the class the day before each session.

Racism in
America,
Part 2
COURSE
CALENDAR
UPDATED
AS OF
5/23/2021

CLASS	DATE	SUBJECT MATTER	PREPARATORY READING/VIEWING	SPECIFIC CLASS CONTENT
1	Mar 18	This first class will set the stage for our study of what Ibrahīm Kendi has called America's "... duel and dueling history ... the antiracist force of equality and the racist force of inequality marching forward, progressing in rhetoric, in tactics, in policies."	<i>Eyes on The Prize Part 1: Awakenings</i> <i>Series is available to stream free of charge with Kanopy, a free service available with your RI public library card. Go to Kanopy.com and use the number on your CLAN card to create an account.</i>	FIRST HOUR Introductions/ Group discussion of overall themes and selection of topics for weeks 7-10. SECOND HOUR Coordinators: Brown II; State and local responses to school desegregation across the South; Little Rock
2	Mar 25	1955-1963: Desegregation battles continue after Brown v. Board of Education. The movement gains strength through community organization, boycotts, sit-ins and marches. The movement meets with violent racist opposition. The Federal and state governments clash. This time period will be discussed this week and next week.	<i>Eyes on The Prize Part 2: Fighting Back 1957-1962</i> <i>Part 3: Ain't Scared of Your Jails 1960-1961</i> <i>Part 4: No Easy Walk 1961-1963</i>	FIRST HOUR Jackie Wheelock – Montgomery Bus Boycott SECOND HOUR Nondas Voll -- SNCC
3	Apr 1	1955-1963 (continued)	(see above)	FIRST MEMBER PRESENTATION Deborah DeCoteau - -- Fannie Lou Hamer and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party SECOND MEMBER PRESENTATION Susan Norrie – St. Augustine

4	April 8	The Second Reconstruction: Civil Rights Legislation 1960s	<i>Eyes on The Prize:</i> <i>Part 5: Mississippi – Is This America 1962-1964</i> <i>Part 6: Bridge to Freedom 1965</i>	FIRST MEMBER PRESENTATION Bruce Winter – Civil Rights Act of 1964 SECOND MEMBER PRESENTATION Phil Wheelock Voting Rights Act of 1965 THIRD MEMBER PRESENTATION Presenter and topic TBD.
5	Apr 15	1964-1968: King's non-violence principle is challenged. The Black Power Movement. The end of the Civil Rights Movement. Civil Rights & Politics 1970s	<i>Eyes on The Prize</i> <i>Part 7: The Time Has Come: 1964-1966</i> <i>Part 8: Two Societies 1965-1968</i> <i>Part 9: Power! 1967-1968</i> <i>Part 10: The Promised Land</i> <i>Part 11: Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More</i> <i>Part 12: A Nation of Law?</i> <i>Part 13: The Keys to The Kingdom</i>	FIRST MEMBER PRESENTATION Vicky McGrath-Black Panthers SECOND MEMBER PRESENTATION Gail Conte Wall – Malcolm X THIRD MEMBER PRESENTATION Sam Shamoon – COINTELPRO: The FBI's spying and disinformation campaign against King, Malcolm X and the Black Panthers
6	Apr 22		<i>Eyes on The Prize</i> <i>Part 14: Back to the Movement</i>	FULL CLASS  Class member Arthur Richter has invited Clifford Montiero for a conversation with the class. Cliff will share his reflections on growing up in Rhode Island, serving as the first black police officer in Providence, fighting for civil rights in RI and beyond, and heading the NAACP Providence Chapter.

7	Apr 29	Civil Rights & Politics 1980s-2000s	Preparatory reading/viewing will be provided once topics are finalized.	FIRST MEMBER PRESENTATION Linda Rexford – Boston Busing Crisis SECOND MEMBER PRESENTATION Sarah Weed – Shirley Chisholm THIRD MEMBER PRESENTATION Hugh Oechler – The Republican Southern Strategy and use of racism
	May 6	The last three weeks will move from a chronological history to discussions of specific examples of institutional racism, looking at both their history, the situation today, and efforts to address.	Preparatory reading/viewing will be provided once topics are finalized.	FIRST HOUR Jim Vincent, Chair, Providence Chapter NAACP SECOND HOUR Keith Stokes, Mayor Elorza’s Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Project
9	May 13		Preparatory reading/viewing will be provided once topics are finalized.	FIRST HOUR Maureen Johansson – Reparations SECOND HOUR Captain Henry Remolina, Providence Police Dept. and Cedric Huntley, Executive Director, NonViolence Institute
10	May 20		Preparatory reading/viewing will be provided once topics are finalized.	FIRST HOUR Discussion about voting rights with Representative David Cicilline SECOND HOUR Angela Ankoma, VP and Executive Director of Equity Leadership, RI Foundation. The Foundation’s 3-year plan to promote equity and inclusion and the Equity Leadership Initiative